



Middle School Newsblatt

Innovative education of the whole child through German immersion.

Der 2. Oktober 2022

Liebe TCGIS Gemeinschaft,

We had a busy couple of weeks in the Middle School with our exchange students visiting from Nordrhein-Westfalen. They returned to their schools on Thursday with tons of American chocolate and hopefully, a lot of great memories. For those of you new to the Middle School or maybe TCGIS, our Capstone exchange is one of the unique experiences students participate in. In summer, our 8th-grade students are matched with a partner in Germany and begin to get to know each other virtually. In September, the German students and their teachers visit Minnesota and stay with our students and families. We then spend the next few months preparing our students for visiting their homes and their schools in spring. This program is through GAPP—German American Partnership Program, a long-running joint venture between our two governments to promote the important relationship between our two countries. We are proud to be continuing it after a covid hiatus. Thanks to the families who planned community picnics and family outings, packed extra lunches, parented an additional child, and were great Minnesotan ambassadors. Herzlichen Dank!

mit freundlichen Grüßen,

~Elizabeth Zehnpfennig, Middle School Dean

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What's Happening in our Middle School



Social-Emotional Feature

To celebrate National Bullying Prevention Month, middle school students will be diving into different anti-bullying curricula this month during advisory classes. Different grade levels will have different goals, but among them are defining bullying, what to do if bullied, how to be an upstander, and why we should not bully. We encourage conversations with your children about this topic.

One thing that I do when a student comes to me for an incident of bullying is listen. Then together we use a flow chart to determine if it was bullying or maybe just a mean moment. These conversations are documented and I look for patterns forming. We will continue to use our Wheel of Decisions/Conflict Resolutions tool this year to help manage difficult peer relationships. But when an incident of behavior appears to be bullying, there is a process that is initiated. I am attaching our [school's policy](#) and within the document is the form that can be used for reporting bullying. This policy can be accessed on our school website as well. The administration team at TCGIS takes bullying very seriously. We are using this month to build skills to help prevent it. Tackling bullying is something that families and schools need to partner together on. It takes a village.

Here are some [resources](#) that our Social Worker, Diana Erwin, put together for families to have these talks at home.

Sportecke

Here is this month's [sports update](#). With questions, please contact [Athletic Coordinator Tabisz](#)



Capstone Corner



Class of 2022: Thanks to those that helped staff the fundraiser at the Fun Run. Stay tuned for information about the PTOs Halloween event.

Class of 2023: First meeting is coming up on November 3rd from 7 pm to 8 pm virtually. The [Link](#) has been emailed to you and will be in our external calendar.

Family Handbook September Feature

The purpose of this section is to point out poignant expectations from our Family Handbook. Family Handbook is linked to our website under [Family Resources](#). Our handbook states:

Cell Phones/Electronic Devices

*Students must not use personal electronic devices such as cell phones, smartphones, tablets, game devices, or MP3 players during the school day without permission from a teacher** or administration. If a student brings such an electronic device to school, the device must remain in the student's locker or backpack for the entire day. Teachers have the authority to confiscate a personal electronic device from a student if they see or hear it and may return it to the student at the end of the hour, or at the end of the school day. Further device-related disruptions may result in disciplinary action. Exceptions for medical reasons should go through the health office and Health Service Associate. Students may not contact parents on their cell phones to come to pick them up for illness. Students must check in with the Health Office and the Health Service Associate will determine if a phone call needs to be made to parents.*

When students have cell phone infractions, we look at this procedure together. Please discuss cell phones with your student and help us enforce our policies and keep academics the focus.

Every Offense	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Fill Out Misuse Form
1st Offense	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Teacher's discretion. Verbal reminder or teacher will take away for the hour and/or bring to Dean's office ● Fill out misuse form
2nd Offense	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Phone goes to Dean's office until the end of the day. The student will pick it up at 3:15 and discuss further expectations with Dean. ● Fill out misuse form—same as Chromebook Misuse
3rd Offense	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Dean will conference with the student and call Home/Parent must come to school to pick up Phone. ● Fill out the misuse form.
4th offense	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Cell phone lives in the Dean's office for 3 days. ● Phone will be released to parents after 3rd day.
5th Offense	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Parent Conference ● Cell Phone is kept in the office for 5 school days. ● Phone is released to the parent on the fifth day. ● The student must check their phone at the beginning of every lesson with the teacher or it should be left at home.
Further offenses	Administration will consider further consequences.