

Middle School

Oktober Newsblatt

Innovative education of the whole child through German immersion.



Der 29. Oktober 2021

Liebe TCGIS Gemeinschaft,

It was so great to see so many costumes today and so much joy in school. These traditions, which help add fun and diversity to our days, were truly missed last year. Today felt like one step closer to normalcy and I am grateful for that.

This was a busy month at the Middle School. We've had screeners, soccer games, track meets, band practice and Girl Scouts. I've been around to see kids play Dungeons and Dragons, code with robots, earn patches and win games. While we have a return to in-person learning and a return to a few traditions and activities, we are still limited by COVID in so many ways. While I saw joy and happiness today and throughout the month, there are still so many moments where I see kids struggling. I am in awe everyday of the Middle School teachers and their strident effort in meeting kids where they are and moving their learning forward.

Mit herbstlichen Grüßen,

*~Elizabeth Zehnpfennig, Middle School Dean
ezehnpfennig@tcgis.org*



What's Happening in our Middle School?

Self-elected Extended Recess

We will be opening up recess in a system we call, Open Campus, to allow those students who would like 10 more minutes of recess to participate in more outside time. We are leaning into our mission of *Whole Child Education* and are seeing that some kids have a need to move a bit more than others. Starting on Monday 5th and 6th graders that finish their lunch and would like to go outside 10 minutes early may after following a protocol we will begin teaching at the beginning of the week. 7th and 8th-grade students will be able to stay out a bit longer and come in to eat 10 minutes later than usual. Rest assured that we will be keeping an eye on kids eating and making sure they are not rushing out without eating lunch. You can't play or learn on an empty stomach. Thanks to the Dean of Academic Support, Esther Neu, for helping us with the logistics. Thanks to our Middle School lunchroom supervisors and lunch staff for their flexibility in allowing us to offer this to our students again. We will monitor this new system and adjust it as needed.

Sportecke

One Last Soccer Game!

On a bright, sunny day at the start of the month, TCGIS won their game on October 6 against Great River School (A Team). They got off to an early lead in the first half, but at the beginning of the second half, GRS scored a couple of goals tying up the game. TCGIS pulled off a victory though in the final minutes of the game. On October 13, TCGIS traveled to

Donaldson Park in Richfield to play against GRS (B Team). Despite a well-fought effort, TCGIS lost the game.

This week on October 27 during a brief break in the cold rain, the footballers played a fantastic match, scoring the first two goals of the game. The players from Eagle Ridge Academy evened the score before the end of the first half, and during the second half, ERA added a couple of more goals to their lead. In a late-game effort, TCGIS scored the fourth goal, leaving the final score at 7 to 4. Oliver Chesla and Sophia Erwin both scored one of the TCGIS goals, and Olin Engebretson scored two. ERA was a strong opponent, and TCGIS left everything out on the field.

Make sure to come and cheer on our team at their last season game next Wednesday! The Immers will play on Wednesday, November 3, on the McMurray Fields at 4:30 PM. See you there!



Cross-Country at the Championships

Over the past month, our harriers ran in two community trail races at which they won the age group awards. Eleanor Poppenhagen (8th grade) was even the 2nd female finisher of the 3.5-mile race.

On October 15, the Immers conquered the most difficult course of the season at Battle Creek Regional Park at the XC Conference Championships. The course included long, steep uphill and a finish line at the bottom of a stony and sandy downhill. All of our harriers gave their all at this intense meet. Our 5th and 6th-grade boys took home the trophy for winning the race as a team, led by Liam Doyle (6th grade), Hudson Warren (6th grade), and Bennett Ludwig (5th grade).

The Immers have one more meet: the USA Track-and-Field Minnesota Junior Olympic Championships on November 7. Good luck to all our harriers!



Immer Sportlich XC Invitational and PTO Kids' Races & 5K Fun Run

Thank you to the entire TCGIS Community! Thanks for volunteering! Thanks for participating! We couldn't do it without you!

We had nearly 200 runners in PTO 5K and kids' races, and we hosted 9 middle schools with more than 150 harriers at our first XC invitational. Beyond the nearly \$5000 the German Government granted TCGIS to host this event, the races were a great fundraiser for the PTO and for the XC team. We are already excited about our event in fall 2022!

Looking Ahead

Capstone Information:

8th Grade Capstone Trip--Fundraising Opportunities

We're excited to let you know about two upcoming opportunities to fundraise for the 2022 Capstone trip. Each sign-up below lists items to bring and volunteer shifts. Folks are more inclined to donate to Capstone with their purchases when they see 8th graders hosting, so sign up with your friends for a shift!

This Saturday, October 30 - TCGIS Trick-or-Treat Event by the PTO

Volunteer shifts between 12:30-4:15 p.m.

[Sign up here](#) to volunteer to sell coffee, cider, and water, or to donate coffee or insulated hot beverage cups. Donations can be delivered to the front office during the week or brought to the event by 12:30 on Saturday. Contact Maureen Carlyle (maureencarlyle@hotmail.com with questions). *Vielen Dank!*

Next Thursday, Nov. 4 - TCGIS Martinstag Lantern Parade

Volunteer shifts between 5:15-7:15 p.m.

[Sign up here](#) to work and/or bring items for a Capstone Cafe fundraiser during *Martinstag* festivities. The sale will take place after the parade, on the playground area near the entrance. You may bring items to the Front Office on Nov. 4 before or after school. Since we will be on school grounds, please guarantee that baked goods and sandwich trays are nut-free. Contact Marilee Tuite (marileetuite@gmail.com) with questions. *Vielen Dank!*

PLEASE try to help in some way because the proceeds of Capstone fundraisers go toward group activities in Germany.

Vielen Dank!

7th Grade-Capstone Trip First Family and Student Meeting

Mark your calendars! 7th graders and their families are invited to the first meeting to discuss the planning of the Class of 2023 Capstone Trip and Exchange. We are so excited to kick off this experience.

Please join us virtually from 7-8 pm on November 17th.

[Zoom Link](#)

8th Grade DSD I Presentation

Middle School Athletics: Winter Sports

Winter Season Start November 29

All [TCGIS winter sports](#) will begin the week of Monday, November 29 ([team practices and competitions](#)). Weekly update emails will start up 1-2 weeks before the start of the season. Stay tuned!

If interested in setting up carpools, winter sports families may fill out this [form](#). It is similar to the TCGIS VonZu map. Families are responsible for contacting each other and finding carpools as desired.

With questions, please contact [Athletic Coordinator Tabisz](#) and [Intramural Coordinator Tocko](#).

