



TWIN CITIES
**German
Immersion**
SCHOOL

Middle School Newsblatt

Innovative education of the whole child through German immersion.

Der 2. September 2022

Liebe TCGIS Gemeinschaft,

I'm so happy to be sending out the first Middle School Newsblatt of the 22-23 school year. For those of you new to the Middle School, the Newsblatt, or newsletter, was born out of a COVID necessity that became a lovely tool to connect important and exciting news to our Middle School families. Look for it in your inbox at the beginning of the month.

For those of you who are new to the Middle School, my name is Elizabeth Zehnpfennig and I am in my third year as the Middle School Dean at TCGIS. My role serves much like a principal and/or Assistant Principal would in a traditional public school. I oversee all middle school teachers and curriculum, manage student behavior and provide support to students and families for any bumps along the road for this next part of the TCGIS journey. Teachers will always be your first point of contact, but I will be your second. I look forward to the school year and working with you and your students.

mit freundlichen Grüßen,

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



What's Happening in our Middle School?

Middle School Planners



Kommende Tests/Quizzes & fällige Projekte	
Datum	Fach/Thema/Projekt

Woche # 1: _____

	Nicht-Check	Fehlende Arbeit
Mathe	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Englisch	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Nawi	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Specialists	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Deutsch	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sezi	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

All students made a homework planner the first week of advisory and we will be teaching organization and executive functioning skills with this planner. All students in grades 5-8 will be using them until fall break. After fall, we will transition 8th graders to their choice of homework management. We want to ensure their success in high school next year, respect choice and different learning styles and support our students' use of technology. Ask your student if they can show you their planner. Help us form good practices by encouraging planner use at home.



Middle School Tech Tools

Chromebooks are an exciting part of middle school. We will follow the same plan as last year. Here are some details:

- **5th and 6th graders** will keep their Chromebooks in carts and grab them every morning and stow them after the last period. They do **not** bring them home.

- As a result of keeping Chromebooks at school, when work is assigned on them, the expectation is that kids will do it at school. If they are telling you that there is work to do on a device at home, check with the teacher to see what might be going on.
- **7th and 8th graders**, in a system that is concurrent with the increased responsibility that comes with these grades, **do** get to take theirs home.
- There will be work assigned for students to do on their Chromebook.
- **7th and 8th graders** were issued chargers to go home with these devices.
- Please help your student create a routine around charging these devices.
- Students will be the only person to touch their computers.
- All teachers will be using Google Classroom as our Learning Management System.

With Chromebooks came the [responsible tech agreement](#) that families and students signed. We have come up with a list of consequences for students who are having trouble following our Responsible Tech Agreement. **Here is the [document](#) that your student will receive on Monday in Advisory.**



Sportecke

We will feature a sports corner here when our seasons are more underway. In the meantime, check out our Athletics website our home page under [TCGIS Athletics](#).

As a reminder, finances should not be a factor in deciding to participate in TCGIS athletic teams. If finances are a concern, please contact Coach Tabisz **BEFORE** registering because payment is required at the time of registration.

With questions, please contact [Athletic Coordinator Tabisz](#)

Social Emotional Learning Feature

If your house was anything like my house this week, emotions were high, family members were unusually tired as our bodies adjusted to new routines and the potential for anxiety is higher. As we all adjust to back to school, please know that we have resources at school to provide support. TCGIS has a strong mental health team comprised of a licensed social worker, a school psychologist, and two behavioral interventionists. This team is guiding the Deans in our building to help bridge the social and emotional aspects of school with the academics. Every month we will provide a poignant link to an article or video of things that we are seeing in abundance in our building.

Here is this month's link to an [article](#) about the transition back to school and it includes some tips for parents to help ease the anxiety that newness can cause. Feel free to email me at ezehnpfennig@tcgis.org if you feel like you could use some more support with this or any other issue your student is facing as we start a new school year.



Capstone Corner

8th Grade Capstone Trip Class of 2023

Our German exchange students are arriving this year on September 14th and will be with our TCGIS community until September 29th. We are excited to welcome back this awesome opportunity for cultural engagement after taking a covid hiatus.

Important Dates and Information:

- September 15th is our Capstone Potluck at Como Fire Pits. BYOP—Bring your own picnic and smores.
- Please make sure to send your student's field trip forms to school and to pay your fall payment in Boonli.

Family Handbook September Feature

Missed Class/Make-Up Work

Students who are absent from school are expected to complete all missed school work and exams. In the case of a pre-planned absence, Teachers will meet with the parents/student to give a brief overview of what is missed during the absence. Assignments will be given to the student upon their return. The student will have as many days as they were gone to turn in the completed work, with a week being the maximum time given.

In the case of illness or other unplanned absences, parents/students should contact teachers as soon as their child returns to school to get make-up work, turn in assignments, makeup exams, etc.



