

MIDDLE SCHOOL QUARTERLY NEWSBLATT

Der 18. Dezember 2023

Liebe TCGiS Middle School Gemeinschaft,

We are proud to share that our middle school students have been working diligently, demonstrating their commitment to academic excellence. Our Math team and athletic teams are in full swing in their competitive seasons. Shortly after winter break our semester will be wrapping up and we encourage you to engage in conversations with your children about their achievements, challenges, and goals for the upcoming semester. Your support plays a crucial role in their educational journey.

As our Winter Break approaches, we would like to wish you and your families a joyful and restful break. Whether you are spending time with loved ones, traveling, or simply taking a moment to relax, we hope these two weeks brings you happiness and rejuvenation.

Thank you for your continued support throughout the year. We look forward to an exciting and successful New Year in partnership with you.

Alles Gute im neuen Jahr,

Elizabeth Zehnpfennig, principal



General News from Middle School

November 17th was our first day of Power Up Groups. With the help of the hard work of Herr Graf and the Middle School Teachers, the students were able to pick their favorite Power Up Group and Herr Graf did everything to make their wishes come true. We have a huge variety of Power Up Groups such as "Just Dance and Mandalas", "Coding Club", "Knitting /Fiber Art", "Origami", "Board Games" or "Outdoor Games and Sport" and many more. In the third week of this cycle I was able to have a little peek into different Power Up Groups and I was intrigued by how engaged our students were and how much fun they had.



Kathrin Gillhoff - MS Coordinator

Other news are the *Deutsch-Dienstag* and *Deutsch-Donnerstag* as well as a jar for speaking German in German class in Herr Eberhard's and my (Kathrin Gillhoff - MS Coordinator) classroom. Both ideas came from one workshop at ACTFL this year. Every Tuesday and Thursday the students can participate in wearing a flag and trying to only speak German in class. On all the other days the students earn glass stones when they are saying things in German they would usually say in English and can earn a "Free-Friday" = "*freier Freitag*". One of my classes was already able to spend an hour outside on a wonderful warm December day. We are hoping to keep the students engaged and using the German language more in class.

Message from the Dean of Students

Our PBIS Middle School Store/*Schulladen* is up and running! Thank you to everyone who already donated to our store. The students have been highly engaged in the *Schulladen*! If you would like to contribute, we are still collecting items for the store. You can view our [Amazon Wish list here](#). If you are interested in joining the PBIS Committee, reach out to cradecki@tcgis.org.

I came across this interesting article from Drake University on ways to build strong character and integrity in children. [Check it out!](#)

6th Grade Families – please keep your eye out for a special communication from me about a January Kindness & Respect initiative for 6th-grade students.



Sportecke



Here is the [Sportecke](#) for this season. You can also check out our Athletics website, our home page under [TCGIS Athletics](#).

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

Class of 2024– Transition to High School

The time is just around the corner for you and your 8th grader to be choosing a high school. To assist with this important decision, TCGIS Middle School puts on a few events in the next few months.

1. Virtual High School Panel

We will have our 4th annual Virtual High School panel night on **Wednesday, January 17th at 7pm** in a virtual format. We bring in high school students from all grades from Central, St. Louis Park, and usually, Minneapolis Edison to answer questions from our 8th graders and parents. They will talk about what German is like where they are but also everything from sports to homework load to handling stress. It's an online forum for which I gather questions ahead of time and moderate for parents and students to join. It's a really great night! A calendar invite will come in an email! [Here is a link to the survey](#) to gather questions ahead of time.



TCGIS and Central High school are very proud of our articulated K-12 immersion program. Herr Bublitz and Herr Richmond, Saint Paul Central's German teachers, will visit our students at TCGIS to give them more information about this program sometime after the Winter Break and to teach a mini-lesson. We currently have 110 students at Central enrolled in the German program. They are earning college credits through the Seal of Biliteracy and AP tests as well as showing success on the DSD II.

Class of 2024– Transition to High School

Central Open House Showcase: Feb. 1

Mark your calendars! Central Open House Showcase is **February 1 from 6pm–8pm at Central**. TCGIS families will have a special open house showcase at 5:30pm that day. Personal invite from Central coming soon.

Central tours are available on Jan. 16, 23, 25, 30 all at 10am–11am. Sign up will be coming on the Central website (likely posted in January after winter break). Adults must accompany students.



Registration & Enrollment at Central High School or other high schools

Because our TCGIS students have a guaranteed spot for 37 Freshmen at Central, at some point the 9th-grade counselors will reach out to me with information about registration. They make a special visit to TCGIS to help our kiddos. If you are undecided about your student going to Central, I recommend the tour and the high school panel as well as touring other schools in December and learning what their enrollment processes are. If it is your neighborhood school, they will take you automatically. If you are hoping to open-enroll at another district, that process should begin in December. **All TCGIS students are considered in district for Saint Paul Public Schools and they can automatically enroll there.**

Capstone Corner

8th graders Class of 2024:

Students preparing to travel to Germany (April 27–May 13, 2024) will meet monthly during advisory to prepare for international group travel and living with the host family. Two parent meetings are scheduled as follows: **On Feb. 28, 2024**, we'll discuss money, phones, partner/family communication, locus parentis, medical forms, and permissions. **On March 27, 2024**, we'll discuss departure details and travel logistics, packing, international group travel review, and parent communication while abroad. There will be a few more fundraising opportunities in the new year as well, including a TCGIS night at Dino's Gyros on Jan. 21, 2024, and bake/treat sales at the winter Middle School dance and the Festival of Cultures.



7th graders Class of 2025:

Please save the date for our **7th Grade Capstone Parent Meeting** on **Wed. Jan. 31, 2024, 7:00 pm**; This meeting will be online. We will discuss hosting German partners in the fall, and our coordinator at Language & Friendship will join us to talk about the spring 2025 travel portion of our exchange. Please consider volunteering on the Capstone Committee - the group of parents who lead the fundraising efforts for the class. It's great to have 7th and 8th-grade parents on the committee to ensure a smooth transfer of knowledge and practices.