

## The Basics

### Twin Cities German Immersion School (TCGIS)

- Is the largest German immersion school in North America and only German immersion school in Minnesota. Enrollment is 600 students in grades Kindergarten - 8th grade.
- Is a public charter school (which means no tuition or fees).
- Is located in St. Paul and open to all families in Minnesota; students from 5 metro area counties are enrolled. Busing is available.
- Provides an innovative education, delivered in German, that meets all Minnesota State standards.
- Has consistently high student test scores.

## An International Focus

TCGIS families are curious about the world. Many parents have lived, worked, or studied in other countries. Our families value the opportunities TCGIS offers their children to not only learn about other cultures but to also use their German language skills to connect with people from all over the world and to be curious about their own place in the world.

### To support this open and curious world-view:

- We offer ELL classes for English Language Learners
- We offer German as a Second Language support for students who start school with limited or no German
- Students can learn Spanish in grades 7 and 8
- 8th graders participate in a year-long exchange experience with German peers and travel to Germany together before graduation.
- We host 15-25 native-German speaking Interns annually. These young educators live with host families in our school community and provide our students with engaging intercultural experiences in German.

## Why German?

The world learns English to gain access to jobs and education. At TCGIS, we learn German because we value seeing the world through the lens of another language and culture. The German language is the springboard for connecting our students with the world through all academic subjects - science, art, math, technology - and personal connections with international staff, interns and peers. This experience and the resulting skills will help our kids to better find their place in our world. (*Continued*)

## Why German?

### Knowing German opens doors:

- German companies like Adidas, Aldi, BASF, Bosch, Daimler Benz, Lufthansa, SAP, Siemens, T-Mobile, Volkswagen, BMW, Porsche, and many others create more than 1 million jobs in the US, and US companies have created the same number of jobs in Germany. Our students have a distinct competitive advantage when entering the workforce.
- Germany is Minnesota's #1 European trading partner, and in Minnesota, affiliates of German companies have created over 10,400 well-paying jobs. The MIT economist Albert Saiz calculated that the average lifetime earnings bonus for an American college graduate who learns German is \$128,000 (for French: \$77K, for Spanish: \$51K).
- There is economic value associated with speaking the language of the economic engine of the European Union and the world's fourth largest economy. Our students learn the world's second most commonly used scientific language, the very language often required by American universities for those pursuing advanced degrees in the sciences.
- German is the native language of 126 million people worldwide, the official language of six European countries and the most widely spoken native language in Europe.
- German is the second most spoken business language in Europe after English.

As parents, we want our children to be as well equipped as possible to succeed in today's competitive, global marketplace. Learning to read, write, and speak German is an essential advantage that helps our children differentiate themselves from others in the high tech, competitive 21<sup>st</sup> century.

## What exactly is “immersion”?

TCGIS is a language-immersion school, which means German is the primary language of instruction in grades K-8. With exceptions for English class beginning in 3rd grade, and Math beginning in 5th grade, students meet their learning targets using German, learning language through the content. Of course, we provide additional support for students who don't speak German yet, as well as English-language support for students who speak a language other than English at home.

## During COVID

We are reimagining language immersion within unprecedented limitations. We offer both hybrid and distance learning models that focus on connection between educators and students, and that leverage online platforms to provide synchronous language learning opportunities in small groups. TCGIS students in both hybrid and distance models are learning how to utilize technology to forge real connections in a virtual world, and to develop more independence in their learning habits and routines.

**Enrolling Now** We currently have openings in grades 1-3 and 5-8, and we enroll students throughout the school year. Learn more here: [www.tcgis.org/prospective-parents](http://www.tcgis.org/prospective-parents) or contact us directly at [info@tcgis.org](mailto:info@tcgis.org) or 651-492-7106.