



SAGE INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL BOISE NEWSLETTER

JULY 28, 2023

Please see the next page for a critical traffic update!

Join us next week for our **Back to School Open Houses for ALL grades!** It is not mandatory that your student attends, but highly encouraged. We do not allow parents to walk their students into the building on the first day of school due to parking constraints, so it's a great time for them to practice and familiarize themselves with their classrooms.

Kindergarten through 5th grade: Thursday, August 3rd from 9:00 am - 12:00 pm

- Class lists/teacher assignments will be posted on our front doors the afternoon of Aug 1 and families will begin receiving emails from their classroom teachers.
- Students are welcome to bring their school supplies to drop off, K-5 supply lists can be [found here](#). Our PTO is selling packages of K-5 school supplies in order to save you time and raise money for Sage. You can find more details about this great service [here](#), the deadline to order is July 29!
- Please review this [map of our Sage campus](#) and use the K-5 Entrance.

6th through 12th grade: Friday, August 4th from 9:00 am - 12:00 pm

- Class schedules will be handed out to students at this time, and will also be made available on Skyward.
- Please review this [map of our Sage campus](#). Middle School (6-8th) students will check in at the 6-8 Entrance. High school (9-12th) will check in at the 9-12 Entrance for their schedule and then go to the K-5 entrance to have their photo taken.
- Supply lists can be found [here](#), students do not need to bring their individual supplies and will store most of what they need in their backpacks each day.

**Check out our
WEBSITE and find
us on social media
via the links below!**



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

August 3 - Open house for K-5

August 4 - Open house for 6-12

August 7 - First day of school!

September 4 - Labor Day, no school

September 8 - Friday School Day for ALL students!

OUR MISSION

Sage International School engages students within an inclusive IB learning community, challenging all members to take risks and contribute locally and globally through open-minded inquiry.



Critical Traffic Update: ACHD has informed us that part of Mallard Drive will be closed for construction from August 2 through December 15.

Families that access Sage from Mallard drive via Highland Street will no longer be able to. Access to Sage will only be possible via

Mallard off Parkcenter Boulevard near Smoky Mountain. See ACHD map [here](#). Stay tuned for more instructions on drop off and pickup, but we are strongly encouraging families to use the Sage bus, carpool, bike, and/or city bus if possible.

Please keep in mind that Sage families are strictly prohibited from using the parking lots of surrounding businesses and apartments to park, drop off, or pick up students. They have the right and have assured us that they will ticket and tow Sage family vehicles that access them.

Bus Registration: Registration for the 2023-24 school year is now open. If you would like your student to ride the bus, please complete the registration for each student. First, determine the best route and stop by using the information [found here](#). Then complete the registration form [here](#). Even if you have registered your student for the bus in the past, this form must be completed before they ride.



Community School Supplies: We will be collecting community supplies and would love for families to help us by contributing items that we run out of often. Community supplies are listed on supply lists but include dry-erase markers, white copy paper, boxes of tissues, disinfecting wipes, and sheet protectors. You can also purchase Community Use Supplies through the [PTO fundraiser here](#). Thank you!

School Photos: Barksdale will be on site taking individual school photos at our open houses on August 3rd and 4th. You can order prints [via this link](#) by entering your email to get started. If your student is not able to attend the open house, retakes for school photos are scheduled for later in the fall.



School Lunch: Every school day we have a wonderful local nonprofit called **Life's Kitchen** serve delicious and nutritious lunches to students and staff. Please find more information from them [HERE](#). If new to the program please set up an account, or if you have an account already you must log in in and update the grade level of your student before ordering.

Sage Spirit Wear: You can now order Sage T-shirts, sweatshirts, bags, hats, and other items through our online Sage Spirit Store year-round! You can [find the link here](#). If you placed an order before July 25, your items will be available for pickup at our Back to School Open houses on August 3rd and 4th! You can find the pickup table inside the K-5 entrance near the main cafeteria.



FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, ANDY JOHNSON



Dear Families and Colleagues of Sage International Schools,

Welcome back! I hope that you have all enjoyed this relatively mild summer and lots of outdoor time with your family and the other people with whom you fill your lives. Building, maintaining and extending connections to each other at school and with others in our communities is really important to our well-being. We are proud of the work we all did last year to connect to each other in open houses, math nights, college nights, campouts, athletic events, exhibitions, PTO activities, and chance encounters in town or the school's parking lots. All of those moments count. They strengthen our school community. We will continue to offer lots of opportunities to meet and connect with each other.

We have a lot to celebrate as we begin this year. Our students - at both campuses - enjoyed lots of growth in their learning and their ability to demonstrate that learning. We had record enrollment at both campuses and are set to open with record enrollment again. Sage-Boise's Junior class is the biggest in the school's history. There are nearly 70 students in the Junior class! Sage-Boise successfully completed its reaccreditation (mandatory for all public schools offering a high school diploma) process. We actively worked and are still working to ensure Sage-Middleton's high school building is open for the 24-25 school year. Finally, We are reinvigorating our outdoor ethos across the whole Network with a renewed commitment to offering a range of outdoor activities on Fridays and over breaks at both campuses.

Again, we send our warmest welcome to each of you for the start of the school year. We are grateful to you all for supporting our schools' mission - at the heart of which is an "inclusive International Baccalaureate learning community."

Introducing our Network Special Education Director, Christine McMillen

Hi! My name is Christine McMillen. I moved to Boise in 1998 and worked as a special education teacher in West Ada and then most recently as principal of Canyon Springs High School in Caldwell. I am also the proud mother of three grown daughters and two stepsons and enjoy spending as much time as possible visiting them in Colorado and Montana.



I am passionate about student success and learning and looking forward to working with the great team at Sage.

Welcome, Christine!

NURSE NATALIE EMMERLING

Hope you all had a fun and safe summer, I am so excited to see all the kids back on campus soon!

A few things to remember as we prepare for the new school year:

- Please reach out to me if you have any updates to your student's health record or if there is something you would like the nurse to know. You can email me at Natalie.Emmerling@sageintl.org or call the main number (208)-343-7243 and connect to my office by pushing option 3 on the directory menu. If you would like to schedule a meeting please email me so we can coordinate.
- All student medications should be dropped off with a signed consent form prior to the first day of school (August 7th). The Consent Form can be found [HERE](#) and I will have extra copies in my office. I will be at both open house events on August 3rd and 4th, please bring your students' medications to my office then.
- Back-to-school germs are right around the corner, please help us encourage handwashing, covering coughs and sneezes, proper nutrition, and plenty of sleep to help keep the spread of germs to a minimum. Please check out our health section of the [student handbook](#) to refresh our guidelines on when to keep kids home from school.



SAGE EXPEDITIONS - MEGAN FUROIS

My name is Megan Furois and I will be working as the Program Coordinator of Sage Expeditions for both our Boise and Middleton Schools! I've been with the Sage Network in Middleton for the past 4 years as a teacher while also running the Expeditions program for that campus. I'm thrilled to bring back a dedicated role in the outdoors program to Boise this year, bringing our students from both campuses into outdoor spaces for unique learning opportunities!

My passion is to cherish, spend time in, and protect our precious outdoor spaces. I love my work educating on responsible recreation, and expanding access to new outdoor spaces and activities for our students!

Stay tuned for info about upcoming Sage Expeditions!



ENRICHMENT OPPORTUNITIES



Cross Country: All students in grades 6th - 8th are welcome to find out more. Our team is all about getting Sage students to enjoy the sport of running. We strive to make practices fun, beneficial, and educational. Practices begin on Monday, August 14th. Find more information and register [HERE](#).

Ultimate Frisbee: Students in 9th - 12th grade are welcome, practices start in September. This fun sport promotes physical, mental, and social fitness while playing a self-refereeing game that builds skills related to leadership, initiative, and teamwork. You can find more information [here](#).

Mountain Bike Team: Sage has both a Mountain Bike Club and a competitive Team for students in grades 6-12. You can read more about both [here](#).

PYP WITH NORA STRAUCH

Hello! My name is Nora Strauch. For the last four years I have worked as a teacher and the PYP Coordinator at the Sage International School Middleton campus. I am so excited to be expanding my role to be the PYP Coordinator for both Sage campuses and to be able to work with the Sage Boise learning community.



My family and I have lived in Boise since 2019. My husband, Paul, is a teacher and we have two children. Our daughter is going into 8th grade and our son is going into 2nd grade. I am originally from Chicago and as an adult have lived in many places including Montana, Utah, and Washington.

I began my teaching career outside of Olympia, WA, and taught Grade 4 for five years. In 2012 my family moved overseas to Asia where I taught at IB Schools in both Dhaka, Bangladesh, and Nanjing, China. This was my introduction to IB and PYP schools, and where I fell in love with the PYP framework. We lived in Nanjing for four years and our son was born while we lived there.

Upon moving back to the States in 2019 I knew I wanted to find an IB school to work at and when we decided to move to Boise, I discovered the Sage Network. I was hired to work at the Middleton campus as it was opening and taught Grades 1 and 3 and in the 2021-2022 school year, I moved into the PYP Coordinator position.

While I have worked in IB schools since 2012, I find that the work of inquiry and the PYP framework is a never-ending journey! I love the challenge and nuance of this work. I am drawn to collaboration, the sharing of ideas, and intentional work. Thank you for welcoming me. I am so looking forward to getting to know you.

MIDDLE SCHOOL WITH ZACH PARKER

Returning back to school is always an exciting time as everyone gets to see friends again, find their new schedules and reconnect with past teachers. This excitement holds true for our staff as well. I'm excited and proud to say that our entire middle school teacher team of 18 educators are all returning!



However, it is bittersweet that one team member, our amazing front desk rockstar Ms. Katie (or Queen Katie as some refer to her as) will no longer be in the same position as she has moved offices and is now our school's Registrar. We are happy for her and excited to introduce the awesome Sarah Brown who is already rocking her role at the Middle School Front Desk. Please help us welcome her when you see her!



Hi! My name is Sarah Brown. I live on a small farm in Kuna with my husband L.J. and son Jack, who will be starting Kindergarten this year at Sage. We have horses, chickens, a dog and cat, an orchard and a few small gardens. When we have spare time, which is rare, we love rafting, bikes, and being in the mountains. I'm super excited to be here at Sage and am looking forward to meeting you all!

HIGH SCHOOL WITH BRANDY BURKETT

We are excited to welcome one of the newest members of our Sage Community, Sloan Burkett! She joined the world at the end of her mom's last day of work at the beginning of June, so she clearly has impeccable timing! Congrats to Brandy and her husband Phil, she is DARLING and we know she is keeping them busy!



Mrs. Burkett will be on maternity leave until October 2nd. In the meantime, here are the contacts for the following questions:



Anything related to your high school student's schedule, transcript, etc., please contact our HS Counselor Brittany Meduna at brittany.meduna@sageintl.org

For questions or concerns related to student well-being, please contact our Counselor Brittany Meduna (email above) or Director of Student Services Danny Solomon at danny.solomon@sageintl.org

If you have specific questions or concerns regarding course requirements or expectations, please contact teachers directly.

For all other questions, please email info@sageintl.org.