



SAGE INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL MIDDLETON NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 17, 2023



The Academic Calendar for the 2024-25 school year has been approved by the board and is posted on our [website here](#).



School closure alerts: Winter is coming, and in the (uncommon) event of a school closure due to snow we will let parents know in the following ways by 6:30 AM: Email, Social Media, KTVB and if you opt-in, by text. To opt in to text alerts please text "Y" via your cell phone to 61569.

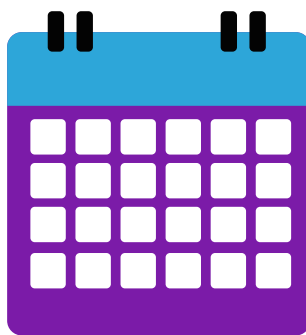


Lottery Season is coming! We have several Information sessions coming up for families interested in joining Sage. The next session is December 7th at 5:30 pm and we'd love your help spreading the word! They can find more information and RSVP on [our website](#). (Please note current families DO NOT need to enter the lottery.) We also still have current openings for Kindergarten and 6th grade for this year!



Sage Spirit Store: You can now order Sage T-shirts, sweatshirts, bags, hats, and other items through our online Sage Spirit Store year-round! You can pay for shipment to your home or have it delivered to the school on a weekly basis for free. You can [find the link here](#), happy shopping!

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



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

November 20 - 24: Thanksgiving Break - No School!

December 25 - January 5: Holiday Break - No School!

January 11: End of First Semester

January 15: MLKJ Day - No School!

OUR MISSION

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

FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, ANDY JOHNSON



Dear families and staff of Sage International Schools,

October and November, for me, always inspire reflection, thinking and gratitude. As summer slowly fades and autumn puts on its colorful coat, I think about the year that is finishing and all that the future holds. These quiet autumn moments often compel me to think about the important people in my life; to redouble my efforts to extend grace to others (and myself) and to be grateful for all that made this year interesting and challenging.

At our campuses, we often encourage students and each other to stop and say thank you. Our Sources of Strength team at the Boise campus has been leading an effort to encourage people to write down why they are grateful for a specific person in their life and then, if they are ready, to actually tell that person. The results have been wonderful. It is important that we tell those we care about that we think about them and are grateful for them.

I am grateful for our embrace of an inclusive International Baccalaureate learning community where every person should feel welcome and feel safe to take on new learning challenges while welcoming new members to our community. Our schools offer opportunities to pursue rigorous, challenging and inclusive learning opportunities that ensure they are strong readers, writers, mathematicians, scientists and interdisciplinary thinkers. We want that experience for as many people as possible.

I am grateful that each of our families has chosen one of our two schools. I am grateful that parents value our teachers, support staff and leadership. We have great teams, great parents and wonderful students. Lifelong learners lead rich, purpose filled lives.

All the best,

Andy

SUPPORT FOR SAGE

As a Public Charter school that offers an outstanding education FREE to our students, we need the support of our community. We receive funding through the state, but ZERO local tax dollars like district schools. Luckily, our generous community sees the value in the International Baccalaureate Education we provide your students to help us Mind the Gap in funding. WE NEED YOUR HELP! In this season of giving, we are asking **EVERY Sage Family** to make a donation in any amount in order to reach our goal of \$40,000. Proving our families believe in us helps us gain the support of other funders and organizations, especially as we add our new High School Building. You can make a one-time donation, or give monthly or quarterly. Thank you to the 2 donors that have helped us raise \$750 so far! We have a long way to go. Please [visit our giving website](#) to learn more about how you can help!



FROM HEAD OF SCHOOL, DARCI STELZNER



Sage International Middleton is officially a Diploma Program candidate school! The final piece of being an IB Continuum World School is getting closer. During our candidacy phase, we will continue to deepen our knowledge and connections with the IB's philosophy and the DP. We also will complete teacher professional development required for authorization, ensure our policies are inline with IB philosophy, and focus on implementation of curriculum.

The DP (Diploma Program) is for grades 11-12 and focuses on college preparatory work to ensure success in multiple directions after high school graduation. Eighth grade and high school families, please mark your calendar for Feb. 1 (5:00-7:00) for a high school and DP information session. At this session, we will outline our courses of study that will lead students to their chosen degree paths. At this meeting, we will also share the blueprint of our new high school build.

We held a wonderful Veterans Day assembly with our guest speaker and Marine Corps veteran, Rachelle Stewart. We honored our Veterans with performances by each grade level in K-5, poetry readings and hand-written letters from our students in grades 6-10. Thank you to our wonderful art teacher Ali Beltramo for the gorgeous poppies that created such a wonderful backdrop!



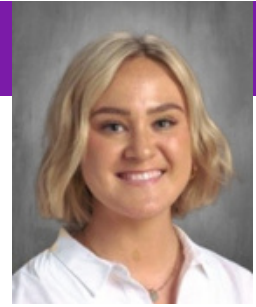
FROM PYP DIRECTOR, AUSTIN AMBROSE

The PYP students have been working hard since fall break to show growth in their learning and IB learner profile attributes. At the end of October we celebrated those students who were "Thinkers" and after the break we will be moving into a recognition of the learner profile "Knowledgeable". Our students have been demonstrating both being knowledgeable and thinkers in their monthly Istation assessments. The growth continues to be demonstrated each month!

The PYP put together some wonderful gratitude doors that were judged by Mayor Rule. In the PYP, our first-grade doors won the competition! The students and Ms. Ali work hard each week to make incredible art that often gets displayed in our PYP hallway, turning it into a winter wonderland right now. There is also an art night being planned between Thanksgiving and Holiday Break. Be on the lookout for more information upon our return.

Finally, enjoy your break safely with loved ones. We wish you a happy Thanksgiving.

THE MYP WITH COORDINATOR JASMINE STANCIU



This year is an incredibly important one for our MYP Programme. We are continuing our efforts to ensure our school is authorized to offer the IB Middle Years Programme. Thank you to our parents who assisted with our consultancy visit last week. We are in what is called the "candidacy" phase of this process. We had a virtual visit from our consultant on November 9th and 10th. These two days were filled with observations and interviews with students, guardians and teachers. Thank you to those who participated in the interviews. Once in the final stages of our candidacy, we will have an authorization visit. Our MYP team is working endlessly to be fully prepared for it.

This week 9th Grade students hosted a theme park expo! As a capstone to their themed entertainment studies — an interdisciplinary unit between Art and Design — students presented park maps, brochures, commercials, merchandise, and attraction and costume renderings aligned to their unique thematic concepts.

Students in grades 1-10 as well as grade 9 families explored park displays offering a range of immersive experiences, from high-octane thrills to serene getaways, expressing their diverse interests and visions for worlds of adventure.



- Check out our [MYP blog](#) for updates on Learner Profile awards, assemblies, instruction in the MYP classrooms and exciting events happening in our community.
- 1. • If you are having trouble getting connected to Toddle please email MYP Coordinator Jasmine Stanciu at jasmine.stanciu@sageintl.org.
- Upcoming Dates: 12/21 MYP Sage Fort, 1/8-1/11 MYP Finals Week

SAGE EXPEDITIONS



We are wrapping up our first season running Sage Expeditions at both campuses and are so proud to look back on what we were able to accomplish this fall. Since August, Sage Expeditions has taken nearly 100 students on expeditions leading to over 200 hours of outdoor learning for our community. These expeditions have provided a wide range of activities including backpacking, camping, fly fishing, rock climbing, hiking, history and geology lessons, trail crew and community service in places like the Wood River Valley, Crater Lake National Park, the Frank Church Wilderness, Silver City ID, and so many more wonderful places. Thank you to everyone who signed up for these expeditions and to all the staff that supported our trips.

Last Friday some MYP students enjoyed a joint service project with ESage students by raking leaves, including the house of our wonderful Ms. Wendy's mother! They were rewarded with hot cocoa and donuts, and then an afternoon of disc golf at Eagle Island State Park.



If your student is still waiting for an expedition that suits their interests/abilities/grade level keep an eye out this winter! We have so many fun outdoor learning opportunities planned for winter 2024, including:

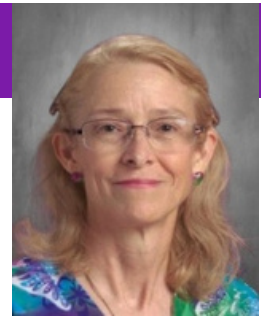
- Bogus Basin's Lifesports Program on 1/19 and 1/26 is open to grades 3-10. Please see [expedition details here](#) and sign up for the lottery by November 30th if interested.
- 4th Grade to Bogus Basin Snowschool is 1/17/24. Keep an eye out for information on this amazing opportunity - informational packets will be emailed by classroom teachers and sent home with students. All forms are due back to classroom teachers by 12/21.

Sage Expeditions is looking for feedback from families to support us in creating expeditions that best serve our communities. Please take a few minutes to fill out the survey linked below to provide us insight into what you'd like to see offered in the future: [Parent/guardian Expeditions Interest Form](#)

If you are looking for fun, local, outdoor activities to do with your students on your own outside of school, take a look at the list of activities below:

- [Free skiing opportunities for 5th and 6th graders](#)
- [Walk/bike along the Weiser River Trail](#)
- [Disc golf at Foote Park](#)
- [Explore the Ridge to Rivers trail system](#)
- [Hiking or Snowshoeing on the Star River Walk](#)

NURSE LORINDA BLEW



As your school nurse, I get the privilege of seeing and getting to know many of our students as they come to see me. One of my roles is also to manage immunization records. By law, schools are required to have either proof of adequate immunization or a signed Exemption form, specifying which vaccines you choose that your child not to receive. I understand that parents have personal reasons for not wanting to vaccinate their children. While I am expected to keep our records compliant, as well as to educate families on the benefits vs risks of vaccinations, I try to do so respectfully. I am happy to provide information and suggest that you discuss any concerns you may have with your child's healthcare provider to determine which vaccines your child will receive.

The childhood vaccination rates in Idaho have dropped below the level required to provide "herd immunity". According to a letter I recently received from the Idaho Immunization Program, "Research shows that community vaccination rates of about 94% are necessary to protect against the spread of many highly contagious, vaccine-preventable diseases". From last year's report, Idaho's overall vaccination rate for K-12 was only 71.7%. I was happy to report that Sage Middleton's rate last year was a bit higher at 80%. However, from this year's report that I recently submitted, our rate has dropped to 71%. That rate puts our unvaccinated students at a higher risk of contracting preventable illnesses. These reports are only using data from the required vaccines for school and do not include voluntary ones such as Covid, Influenza, etc. For the first time in years, we now have confirmed cases of Measles in Idaho, and many people don't realize that Measles can be deadly.

Again, I fully respect parents' rights to make health decisions for their children, just as I hope that all parents will respect others' rights to vaccinate if they choose. Getting vaccinated does not mean that you will never get Chicken Pox, Measles, etc, but it will greatly decrease the possibility, usually decrease the severity, and definitely helps to protect our community.

If you cannot get into a Primary Provider, you can also get vaccinations at your local Health Department:

Southwest District Health Dept, Call for an appointment:

Caldwell: (208) 455-5300. Hours Monday – Friday from 8:00am – 5:00pm

Emmett: (208) 365-6371. Hours Monday – Friday from 8:00am – 5:00pm

Payette: (208) 642-9321. Hours Monday – Friday from 8:00am – 5:00pm

Weiser: (208) 549-2370. Hours Monday – Friday from 8:00am – 5:00pm

For more information:

[CDC: Parent Information about Vaccines](#)

[Idaho Department of Health and Welfare: Measles in Idaho](#)

ENRICHMENT

Boys Basketball Registration is now open and will close December 7th. All students in grades 6 through 8 of all skill levels are welcome! Our coaches Jarrett Ellsworth and Arin Jeffs will begin practices on January 8th. We are looking forward to another exciting season! Learn more and register [here](#).

Girls Basketball is having an awesome season coached by Zach Mega and Ian Norland! Their next and last game will be November 29 at Treasure Valley Classical Academy at 4:15. Come cheer them on to wrap up their great season!



Our ESage Program will be open over Holiday Break, Dec. 27-29 and Jan. 2-5 and registration is now open! You can find tuition and registration information on our website [here](#). We have TONS of fun activities and field trips planned!

Middleton Music Academy is enrolling for classes year-round! Check out their website middletonmusicacademy.com or email info@middletonmusicacademy.com

SAGE MIDDLETON PTO

Our **Fall Harvest Festival** was a big success! The weather was cold and rainy but we stayed warm and busy inside with lots of games, a bake sale by Green Club, chili, vendor booths, and a WILDLY successful silent auction of donated gift baskets! Thank you to all those who attended, donated items, and especially to our awesome PTO for their hard work organizing this community event. It raises a lot of money for our school every year!



Our **Annual Door of Gratitude contest** resulted in a TON of impressive entries! Students were so creative with their ideas, and their artistic talents and caring messages shined through in them all. Thank you to Mayor Rule for being our judge, it was no easy job!



**Winner -
First Grade!**



Mark your calendar for **December 8th for Parents' Night Out** - Drop off your potty-trained child from 6:00-8:30! Cost is \$10 per child.

Order Forms were sent home with students and are due back November 30th!

JOIN US FOR SAGE INT.
SCHOOL MIDDLETON'S ANNUAL

HOLIDAY ORNAMENT Fundraiser

NOVEMBER 14 - NOVEMBER 30

**\$10.00 PER
ORNAMENT**

*Ornaments will be given to
students December 20th for
delivery.*

*50% of all proceeds will be
donated to the school.*

Thanks for your Support & Happy Holidays!

Event Sponsored by Sage International School Middleton's PTO
For more info contact Heather at 208-982-6998