



# SAGE INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL MIDDLETON NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 30, 2024



Thank you to all our families for their patience with our construction and for always prioritizing safety while in our parking lot! Our new traffic pattern seems to be working well, please [review it here](#) if necessary.



Please take time to read through the Sage International Middleton [Handbook here](#). Once you have reviewed please complete the acknowledgement [form here](#).



In urgent situations, Sage uses SchoolMessenger to send automated phone calls, texts, and emails. Parents must opt-in to receive text messages, to do so please text YES to the number 67587.

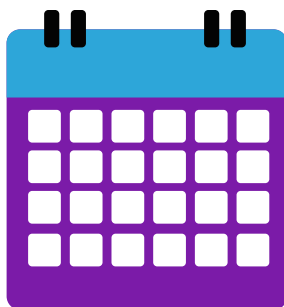


We partner with a local business to provide Sage Spirit wear for our families via an online store. You can [visit the website here](#), and a small portion is donated to the school. You can opt to have your items shipped to you, pick up directly from their local store, or have them delivered to Sage for free if you're not in a rush and can wait a couple of weeks. We appreciate you showing your school spirit!



We are enrolling! We have openings in most grade levels for the current 2024-25 school year! Do you have families in your life that could benefit from a Sage education? They can find more information [HERE](#).

Check out our [WEBSITE](#) and find us on social media via the links below!



## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

**September 2:** Labor Day, no school!

**September 12:** High School College Night

**September 23-27:** Fall Break, no school!

**October 8:** School photo retakes

**October 7-18:** PTO canned food drive

**October 10-11:** Conferences

## 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,

We are off to a great start at both campuses! It is hard to believe that we are already at the Labor Day holiday weekend. I hope that you all spend time (fire weather dependent) on doing the things you love to do with family and friends.

We are, as we have for many years, focusing on academic growth for every student. Our schools' leadership and teaching teams have spent a great deal of time thinking about your student's and all students' academic strengths and needs. Broadly, our goals are to focus intently on pre-algebra and algebra skills across the elementary, middle and high schools. With regard to English Language Arts (ELA in the vernacular of teaching), we've decided to focus intently on improving writing skills across the schools. We are focusing on particular styles of writing - informational at the elementary level, explanatory or argumentative at the middle level and on argumentative at the high school. We know that strong writing skills are critical to success in International Baccalaureate programs, post-secondary learning and in the workplace. Finally, we firmly believe that almost all children can learn to be strong readers. To support that belief even more fully in Grades K-3 we are reinforcing our multi-year effort to strengthen and improve early reading outcomes by focusing on vocabulary development and strong spelling skills.

As always, parents can support our shared effort to educate our communities' children by ensuring their children come to school everyday ready to learn. We encourage parents to read to their youngest children regularly and routinely and with their older children to read and discuss news or stories of shared interest. Encouraging children to name the main ideas of what they are reading and using key details from what they have read to support an opinion about what they have read is incredibly supportive of what your children's teachers are doing at school.

Finally, a call to action for regular attendance. Our families are very supportive of regular attendance, but there are times during the year when attendance is less regular and it might surprise parents. As we look forward to the period between the February break and the April break, I am urging parents to ensure their children attend regularly. This period, particularly during March, sees the most student absences by far every year. The period between February and March is the most important period for growth in learning. Students need to be at school with their classmates and teachers.

Thank you for your trust and confidence in our schools, our shared mission and the values our schools stand for.

All the best,

Andy Johnson



Sage Middleton community,

Thank you for choosing us for your child's educational journey. We know this is not an easy decision. Your child is in a place where they are cared for, will learn to the best of their ability, and will begin to think about life from a global perspective, while being encouraged to act locally. "Think globally, act locally."

This month's learner profile attribute is **PRINCIPLED**. "We act with integrity and honesty, with a strong sense of fairness and justice, and with respect for the dignity and rights of people everywhere. We take responsibility for our actions and their consequences.

Additionally, PYP is concentrating on the following:

- Personal space- "I have a right to my space and so do you." Respecting boundaries is a key principle.
- Apology and forgiveness- "I admit my mistakes and work to forgive yours." Owning up to mistakes and practicing forgiveness demonstrates integrity.

**Campus Update:** Our campus is still in the process of an amazing transformation. The addition of the full size sport court complete with 6 built-in basketball hoops in the back playground area has been a huge hit during recess! The groundsmen have installed sprinkler systems in the back area and in the middle of our new track. There will be areas of sod and areas of hydroseed that children will soon be enjoying! This construction project was an enormous undertaking. We appreciate your patience during the last phase of grounds work. Your support means the world to us.

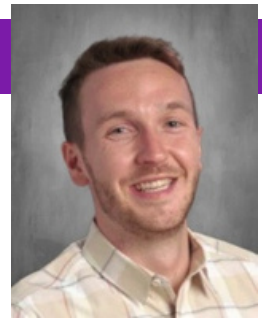
### LIFE IN SECONDARY (6-II)

The past month has already been an incredible journey of learning for our Sage community. Over the first few weeks we have transitioned the high school students into the new building, giving them and the middle school students a chance to get comfortable with their new normal. This has been refreshing to see.

From the guitar playing in Mr. Youngberg's middle school science classes to the autobiographies from our high school students in our new library, these students have been immersed in consistent learning from the first week. We have kicked off Cross Country and girls volleyball and in the coming weeks we expect more clubs to begin.

We thank you for choosing this community.

## LIFE IN THE PYP (K-5TH)



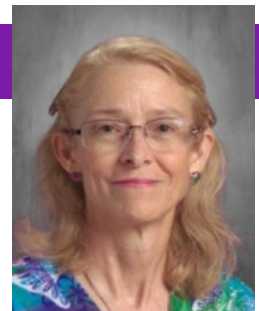
We are having a wonderful start to the new school year! The beginning of the year is filled with setting classroom culture, routines, and expectations. Our teachers and students have been working to set the stage for an incredible year of learning.

There are many assessments at the beginning of the year as well. These assessments help teams learn where students are at in their learning so a path can be chartered for the year ahead. We appreciate students shaking off the cobwebs of summer and doing their best to show us what they know at the start of the year. We cannot wait to see all the growth that will occur this year!

We already have a couple exciting adventures happening for our PYP students. Our 5th graders are back at STARBASE, a STEM program based out of Gowen Field. They go for 5 consecutive weeks for one day to engage in a variety of activities to learn about STEM concepts. This is a great opportunity that we are grateful to have done for many years. Our 4th grade students will be heading off to Celebration park after the long weekend for a day of learning about early Idaho settlers and the environment. They will also get to engage in some fun activities such as atlatl throwing.

It is going to be a year packed full of learning and engaging activities. We look forward to all we will do together.

## FROM NURSE LORINDA



It's wonderful to have our students back! It's typical this time of year for illnesses to start circulating. Please refer to our [Student Handbook](#) for guidelines on when to keep kids home from school when sick. While attendance is important, we understand that it's sometimes necessary to keep them home to rest and also prevent contagious illnesses from spreading. We continue to follow the [CDC guidelines](#) for Covid, which is essentially the same as for other respiratory illnesses. Please remind students to wash or sanitize their hands and cover their coughs. Talk to your doctor about antiviral medications that are available to patients who are diagnosed with Covid or influenza that can shorten the duration of their illness.

I often see students that have tummy aches because they didn't eat breakfast, or much of their lunch, or just need to eat more often. Remember that as kids go through growth spurts, they need to eat more. Please encourage them to eat something with protein in the morning before school, and send them with a few snacks to eat throughout the day.

On that note, I am looking for snack donations for my office. If you are able to contribute, you can drop off healthy shelf-stable snacks at the front desk. Thank you!

## EXPEDITIONS

Expeditions programming is getting up and running for Fall Semester! Take a look at our list of adventures below and mark your calendars for those registration openings!

### **Fall Break Rock Climbing Camp @ City of Rocks**

Friday 9/20- Sunday 9/22

3 days, 2 nights rock climbing and camping at City of Rocks with professional mountain guides! All experience levels are welcome.

*Registration opens 9/3*



### **Silver City Spooky Scavenger Hunt**

Friday, October 25th

This fun day trip is geared towards our upper elementary students as an intro to hiking and exploration in the very cool ghost town of Silver City!

*Registration opens 9/20*



### **November Service Project**

Friday, November 1st

Spend a day outside and giving back to the community. We are partnering with community members to provide support in raking fall leaves and celebrating with a bit of disc golf in the afternoon!

*Registration opens 10/7*

## ENRICHMENT

**ESage** is off to a fun start this school year! The group is in our new space in the HS building and has also been enjoying full day Fridays with off campus adventures to Babby Farms, Bowling, Caldwell Library, Planet Kid Indoor Playground, and lots of fun local parks!

We still have space available to enroll Mon-Fri and we are also open for Fall Break. Fall Break is Monday-Friday, Sept. 23-27, and ESage will be open daily with all sorts of activities and field trips. Students in grades K-6 are welcome to attend one or more days during break and more information and registration is available on the [ESage website](#). You can email [esage\\_middleton@sageintl.org](mailto:esage_middleton@sageintl.org) with any questions.

**Girls Volleyball Schedule** - next game is 9/4 4:30 @ Horseshoe Bend!

**Cross Country Meets** - next is 9/25 at the Payette Open!

**Middle School Girls Basketball Registration** is now open and will close September 12th. To find out more or register go to this [link](#).