



# SAGE INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL MIDDLETON NEWSLETTER

MAY 8, 2025



Looking for a fun way to keep your students active and learning this summer? Check out our [Sage Summer Program](#) for students entering Kindergarten through 6<sup>th</sup> grade in the fall! ALL kids are welcome, so tell your friends!



Our **Sage Spirit Store** will be having a SPRING SALE from May 18-24 with 10% off all items! We will email you a coupon code when the sale starts, and you can stock up on Sage gear just in time for summer!



**We are hiring** for next year! If you or anyone you know are interested, check out [our website](#) for details about our open positions including part time kitchen assistant, part time custodian, paraprofessional, school nurse, school counselor, and more!



**THANK YOU** to everyone who donated to Idaho Gives! We raised a total of \$796 from 8 donors. These funds go toward [Mind the Gap](#), which is our annual giving fund that engages our Sage community to fill the gap in funding we do not receive from local tax dollars, like other public schools. *This is a really important time of year as we budget for next school year, and all donations are subject to tax benefits. We still have about \$9,000 to raise, can you make a small donation to benefit our students?* [Click here.](#)



**THANK YOU** to our PTO, students, and families for their hard work and support for our **jog-a-thon**! Students raised a whopping \$28,000, \$20k of which our PTO has offered to be used toward adding to our playground project! We love what our generous community can accomplish together!

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



## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

**May 15** - Middle School Dance

**May 16** - High School Prom

**May 26** - Memorial Day - No School

**May 29:** Last Day of School!

The [2025-26 Academic Calendar](#) is available!

## FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, ANDY JOHNSON



Dear families and staff of Sage International Schools,

An education at a Sage school offers a strong “return on investment.” A significant part of that return is centered on ensuring that children and parents feel safe, welcomed and respected. This year, just like the last few years, parents reported to us in the engagement surveys that they and their children do feel safe, welcomed and respected. We are incredibly grateful for that feedback as our mission demands that we strive for an “inclusive IB learning community.” We are going to continue to strive to meet that demand - all should feel welcome, safe and respected at a Sage school.

We also believe that having high expectations for student growth and learning is central to the mission of public education. As K-12 (or soon to be K-12) schools that embrace the International Baccalaureate, high expectations are fundamental to our approach. We are college preparatory by design and know that this approach will leave the greatest number of students positioned to make the choices they want to make at the end of high school.

A rigorous and challenging education at a Sage school peaks in May. May is the month during which our Seniors finish their primary and secondary education with a rigorous and challenging series of IB exams that measure their abilities to reason, problem solve, write, argue and persuade using facts. As an example, I want to share with you an example of the kind of question they are prepared to answer:

This question is from a previous IB Diploma Programme History examination. The question is from Paper (Exam) One. There are three total exams for History of the Americas at the Higher Level (HL). On Paper One, students are given a couple of primary sources to consider and must rely upon their training as historians, historical knowledge, and skill as a writer to respond (in a few to several hundred words) to questions like this one:

*Using the sources and your own knowledge, discuss the effectiveness of the international response to German aggression between 1933 and 1938.*

Your child will be prepared to answer questions like these at the end of their Sage experience.

We are incredibly grateful for your support and for the opportunity to partner with you to educate your child(ren). All the best for the month of May!

Sincerely,

Andy Johnson  
Executive Director

## HEAD OF SCHOOL DARCI STELZNER



Dear Sage International Middleton Community,

I hope this message finds you well. It is with a full heart and deep gratitude that I write to share some important news: I will not be returning as the Head of School for the 2025-26 school year.

Serving as the leader of this incredible community for the past four years has been one of the greatest honors of my professional life. The students, families, staff, and wider school community have inspired me every single day with resilience, a passion for learning, and an unwavering support for one another.

Together, we have celebrated many milestones, faced challenges with courage, and grown in ways I will carry with me always. I am so proud of what we've accomplished—whether it was launching new programs, strengthening our culture of open-mindedness, caring, and high expectations, or simply building strong relationships that center students and their success.

This decision did not come easily. After much reflection, I believe it is time for me to begin a new chapter in my journey. Though I will no longer serve in this role, I will forever remain an advocate for this school and all that it represents.

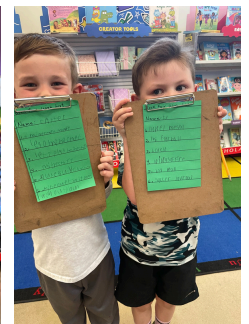
Our Sage network is working hard to ensure a smooth leadership transition, and I will do everything I can to support that process. I have every confidence that Sage Middleton will continue to thrive under new leadership and with the continued dedication of our phenomenal educators, staff, and families.

Thank you for trusting me with the privilege of leading this community. Thank you for your partnership, your kindness, and your belief in what we can accomplish together. I will miss you all dearly and will always hold Sage Middleton close to my heart. With appreciation and kindest regards,

Darci Stelzner

## SAGE MIDDLETON BOOK FAIR

A GIANT thank you to our volunteer librarian Gretchen Bates, teacher Lori Roberson, and our 11<sup>th</sup> grade students for organizing and hosting our FIRST Sage Book Fair! Sales far surpassed their goal thanks to students and families showing up to shop and support them! All proceeds will go toward buying new books for our library, and we are excited to make this an annual fair!



## SAGE MIDDLETON'S NEW LEADERS

We are excited to announce two fantastic and experienced new leaders for the 2025-2026 school year! Please help us welcome Jacque Bettencourt as PYP Director and Sarah Jensen as Secondary Director.



### **Jacque Betterncourt, PYP Director**

Hello! My name is Jacque Bettencourt. I am beyond excited to introduce myself as the PYP Director at Sage International Middleton. Sage International School is very near and dear to my heart as I was part of Sage before! I was with Sage International Boise from 2010-2015 and I had the privilege of being a PYP Kindergarten teacher, a PYP Coordinator, and the PYP Director. When I had my son I decided to step away and stay home with him, with hopes of one day returning to Sage. Most recently, I have spent the last two years with the amazing team at Idaho Arts Charter School as the Secondary Assistant Principal. When I am not working you will find me spending time with family and friends, perfecting my sourdough loaf or enjoying the outdoors

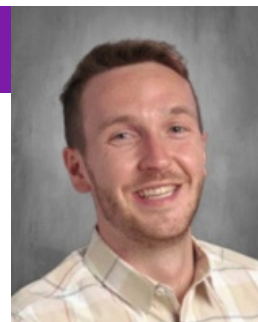


### **Sarah Jensen, Secondary Director**

Hello Sage families! I was born and raised in Weiser, Idaho. I earned my B.A. in Education from Washington State University and M.Ed. Leadership from Boise State University. I have a wide range of experience in education, including six months on an American military base in Germany, three years as a 7th-grade Math teacher in the Middleton School District, two years as a 6-9th grade Math teacher at Gem Prep Meridian North, and one year in 2nd grade. In 2022, I was able to serve as both Miss Jensen and Miss Idaho, and represented the Gem State on the Miss America stage. I'm a plant lover, dog mom, outdoor adventure seeker, and exercise enthusiast. My greatest passions are education and service, and I am excited to bring those passions to Sage International in Middleton!

## PYP (K-5TH) WITH AUSTIN AMBROSE

PYP students have been having an exciting spring! From the incredible Wagons Ho experience for 4th graders, to our 3rd graders getting to go to Studio Blu at Boise State, and 5th graders getting to experience an overnight camping adventure, all our students are getting a chance to take their learning beyond the classroom. We appreciate our teachers for working to provide the most robust opportunities for students and exposing them to these experiences.





## 5th Grade Basecamp Adventure

During the week of 28 April to 2 May, Sage Middleton's 5th Grade several spent days at [Idaho Basecamp](#) near Mackey, Idaho learning to cooperate and trust each other in order to foster a sense of group belonging. They learned about animals that live in the Big Lost River, learned to build campfires, engaged in number of fun games intentionally designed to foster trust between students. We feel incredibly fortunate to participate as the program is intended to serve 5th-Graders in Blaine, Custer and Lemhi counties. Sage Middleton is the only school outside of those counties invited to participate in this experience. We are looking forward to next year!



## Wagons Ho!

Idaho History came to life when 4th-grade students had a great day of hands-on learning! They experienced how pioneers lived, learning how to perform tasks like washing clothes, making butter, lassoing, and using tools as the pioneers did. As Ms. Perez says, "Best day of 4th grade"!





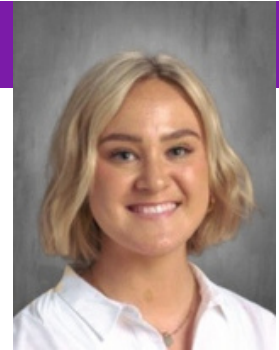
*PYP continued...*

As we are reaching the home stretch of the school year, more of these experiences will take place here at campus with celebrations for the Spanish holiday Día de los Niños, kindergarten graduation, student-led conferences, and end-of-year awards/performances! We are excited to celebrate all the great work your students have done this year. We still have a couple of big assessments coming up where students can demonstrate their learning from the year. We appreciate their hard work and dedication to demonstrating everything they gained from this school year.

We are working on putting some plans in place for smooth transitions into next year. Every year we get strong as a school community and our practices become tighter, which ensures we are giving the best education possible to our students.

## SECONDARY (6-II) WITH JASMINE STANCIU

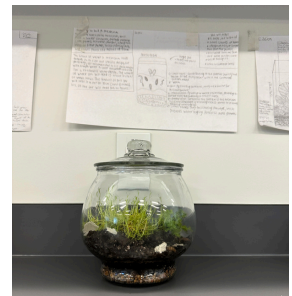
Spring has sprung and MYP students' energy is reflecting that. With the newfound energy students can be seen participating in diverse learning engagements, from soap making to making authentic corn tortillas. Take a peek into these MYP learning experiences below.



### High School

Math students started on their finals last week! There have been some creative project ideas. They range from video games and sports to one student who's looking into the specific math of how reversing a person's age would affect them.

11th-grade science students have been designing and assembling mesocosms in Mrs. Stanciu's class for their Environmental Systems & Societies summative. Students selected the appropriate materials, plants, and insects that best suit their chosen ecosystems. After observations throughout the month of May, students will be able to take them home.



Also in Mrs. Stanciu's science class, 9th and 10th grade students designed and are conducting a lab investigation to examine how different environmental factors (e.g., air quality, soil pollution, light) affect plant growth and development.

This year, our students published three incredible books:

- 10th grade – The Descent, a chilling collection of horror stories
- 11th grade – The Written Cacophony, an original poetry anthology
- 9th grade – a collection of short science fiction stories (title coming soon)

*Secondary continued...*

Shout-out to the 10th-grade students for wrapping up their Personal Projects! Grades are out and random selections of these projects have been sent to the IB for grading moderation. Thank you to the students, supervisors, families and community for supporting our students through this culminating project.

## **Sage Fort**

All middle school MYP Spanish students had the opportunity to make authentic corn tortillas as a part of Sage Fort. As each of them had a turn to use the press, we explored Latin America's thousands of years long tradition of cultivating and consuming corn and how an inedible plant harvested for its husk became what it is today.



Students also had fun in Mrs. Roberson's Gamefort! They jumped into all kinds of board games—some they knew, some they learned on the spot—and they brought their competitive side. With nachos and popcorn fueling the fun, there were lots of laughs, friendly battles, and good vibes.

High school students each devoted 1.5 hours of their Sage Fort to campus clean up with Mr. Norland. These service hours consisted of removing 8 wheelbarrows of large rocks to the biosyncs in the main courtyard. Students also sorted and moved medium-sized rocks to the area outside Mr. Norland's classroom where they will build mesocosms or mandala art installations to greet us in the fall when we return.



High school students expressed creativity and sustainability with bar soap making in Mrs. Stanciu's class. They melted down soap bases, chose colors/scents, then poured them into their molds. You could smell the lingering scents or fragrances throughout the building! It was a joy for all.

Android/iPhone photography tips for beginners took place with Mr. Ellsworth. Students learned that it's possible to take great photos with your phone, some knowledge of settings, and a little bit of time.



Secondary continued....

### Announcements and upcoming events for MYP:

- **Personal Project Exhibition:** Wednesday, May 14, 2:50-3:30 HS Hallway/Library
- **High School Prom:** Friday, May 16, 8:30-11:00 PM, Sage's Courtyard (find announcements through Toddler)
- **End of Year High School Intercultural Potluck:** Thursday, May 29 @ lunch
- **Student Book Launch** – May 29, Join us in the library to celebrate these publications! Students will sign books, and parents are invited to attend. Limited copies will be available for purchase at the event, so we recommend ordering in advance from [Blurb Bookstore](#).
- **CAS Police Carnival** – May 22, 11th graders are bringing fun and service together for their CAS (Creativity, Activity, Service) project! This carnival for PYP students will raise awareness and support for the Middleton Police Department. Activities include games, learning stations, and visits from local officers. Funds will be raised through:
  - A PYP penny war – the winning class gets free carnival tickets!
  - Ticket sales – \$1 for 5 tickets or \$5 for 30 tickets.
  - Some activities are free for all students, while others require tickets. It's going to be a day of fun, learning, and community spirit!

### Yearbooks Are Going Fast!

There are only 120 copies of the 2025 yearbook left! Customizations are now closed, but yearbooks are still **available for purchase for \$30**. Don't miss out on this keepsake filled with memories from the year! Purchase yours here: [Jostens Yearbook Order](#)

## ESAGE

Sage Summer Camp is now open for enrollment! Find the info and enrollment link on our website [here](#). Camp is fun and flexible with custom schedules available. Join us for a couple days, a few weeks, or all Summer! We will do field trips at least 2-3 times per week and aim to keep the kids active and engaged while exploring all that the Treasure Valley offers. ALL kids entering Kindergarten through 6th grade are welcome, not just Sage students! Please reach out to [esage\\_middleton@sageintl.org](mailto:esage_middleton@sageintl.org) with any questions.

ESage has been having fun staying active this Spring! Some of our recent field trips have included visits to Babby Farms, the Boise Watershed Environmental Education Center, Nampa Rollerdrome, and a beach day at Eagle Island State Park! We would love to have your child join in on the fun! [Click here to enroll](#).

We still have space available to enroll Mon-Fri. Students in grades K-6 are welcome to attend one or more days per week, or attend on a drop in basis. All activities, field trips, and daily snacks are included in tuition, plus you can try out ESage school year for half price on your child's first day!

