



SAGE INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL MIDDLETON NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 26, 2025



Back to School Night is Wednesday, August 27th, from 5:30–6:30 pm.

This is a great opportunity to connect with teachers, learn more about your child's classroom experience, and hear about the exciting year ahead. The PTO will also have ice cream, while supplies last! We hope you can join us.



Attendance: If your student will be tardy or absent, please let us know as soon as possible by emailing middleton.attendance@sageintl.org with your student's full name, grade, estimated date of return, and reason for the absence. If due to an appointment, please provide a note from the provider's office to excuse the absence.



Text opt-in: In order to receive urgent messages from Sage via text, you must opt-in from your cell phone. To do so text "y" to the number 67587.



We are enrolling! We have seats available in several grade levels, and would love for you to share this opportunity with anyone you think would benefit from a Sage education. [Share our website](#) with them, and if they list you as a referral you may just win some free Sage swag!



The Sage Spirit Store is open year-round, stock up on Sage swag for the new school year! Shop [HERE](#). We always welcome donations of Sage items in good condition that your students have grown out of. Feel free to drop them off at the front desk during school days.

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



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

August 27: Back to School Night

September 1: Labor Day, No School

September 22-26: Fall Break - No School

October 9: Picture Retakes

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

FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, EMILY DOWNEY

Dear families and staff of Sage International Schools,

Welcome to a new school year! We have been eagerly anticipating the return of students and it is a joy to find our hallways full of energy again. It's going to be a fantastic year!



I am honored to be writing to you as the new Executive Director at the Sage International Network. For over 11 years, I've had the privilege of being part of this remarkable community, first as a parent, then as a board member, and most recently as the Chief Financial and Operating Officer. Each role has deepened my commitment to Sage and broadened my understanding of what it takes to sustain and grow excellent schools. Most importantly, it has strengthened my appreciation for our mission, the people who bring it to life, and the profound impact of the work we do together.

As a parent of three sons who each graduated from Sage with their International Baccalaureate (IB) Diplomas, and have all completed college as of May, I feel an overwhelming sense of gratitude for the rich learning environment and the academically rigorous and supportive culture that helped shape them. Today, all three are thriving in meaningful, highly valued careers. I couldn't be more proud or more convinced of the transformative power of a Sage education.

The global perspective and academic challenge of an IB education prepares students not just for academic success, but for lives of purpose and contribution. The fact that we provide this through a free, public charter school is truly extraordinary! At Sage, we are incredibly fortunate to have a team of dedicated educators and staff whose passion, talent, and tireless commitment make a lasting difference in the lives of our students. Their belief in what's possible for each child and for our community as a whole is what makes this place so special. They inspire me every day and I know they will you too.

We have lofty goals at Sage this year focused on reading, writing and mathematics. Literacy remains an evergreen priority across all grade levels, and we have ambitious goals to ensure all students are *engaged*, challenged, and supported in their learning. You will hear me speak often about *engagement* at all levels - students, families and staff - as it is absolutely central to the success and well-being of our students. As a start, I will ask you, probably over and over again, to prioritize regular attendance at school and to read with your children every day. Whether they're five or fifteen, your time spent reading together makes a lasting impact.

Thank you for your trust, your partnership, and your belief in our mission. I look forward to working with you this year and continuing to build a school community where every child feels seen, supported, and empowered to thrive.

With warmth and gratitude,
Emily Downey



CHIEF ACADEMIC OFFICER, JOSH NOTEBOOM



We are thrilled to welcome Josh Noteboom as our Network Chief Academic Officer. Josh brings more than 15 years of leadership experience as an Idaho teacher and administrator. Most recently, he served as the Federal Programs Director at the Idaho State Department of Education, including leading the Idaho Principals Network by providing ongoing mentoring and coaching to school leaders across the state. As CAO, Josh will directly impact student learning and achievement, providing a clear academic vision for both Sage Schools that aligns with and advances our mission. We feel so fortunate to have him on our team. Welcome Josh!

A note from Josh:

Joining Sage International Schools this year as your Chief Academic Officer, I have been inspired by the warmth, positivity, and strong commitment to serving all students that our staff and teachers demonstrate each and every day. Thank you to everyone who has taken a moment to connect, share a story, or offer a kind word. Sage is truly a special place to be!

This year, we are excited to continue delivering rigorous, engaging, inquiry-driven learning experiences while ensuring that every one of our students feels challenged, supported, and seen for who they are. We are especially focused this year on strengthening the International Baccalaureate Programmes across all grades. Whether we are sparking curiosity in our Primary Years classrooms, making interdisciplinary connections in the Middle Years, engaging in a Career-related Programme, or exploring complex global issues in the Diploma Programme, we are committed to holding high expectations and providing exceptional learning opportunities for every student.

We are incredibly thankful that you entrust your students to us each day. We look forward to connecting with you throughout the year as we celebrate the learning journey we are on with our students.

Thanks,
Josh Noteboom

Mission: "Engaging students within an inclusive IB learning community, challenging all members to take risks and contribute locally and globally through open-minded inquiry."



SAGE MIDDLETON'S NEW LEADERS

In case you missed it in our May newsletter, we wanted to reintroduce you to our two new leaders this year at Sage Middleton! They are absolutely rocking the new year, and getting to know your students and their fantastic teachers. If you haven't met them yet, please introduce yourself at our Back to School Night on August 27th!



Jacque Betterncourt, PYP (K-5) 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 (6-12) 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 JACQUE BETTENCOURT

What a wonderful start we've had to the school year! Over these past few weeks, I have loved meeting all of our students, and I must say—this is an incredible group of IB Learners! I have challenged myself to learn the name of every student in the PYP by the end of the month. I even told the fifth graders they could quiz me! While it's certainly a challenge, it's one that is very important to me, because every name represents a valuable member of our school community.

I want to again mention the IB Learner Profile. At Sage we are: Inquirers, Principled, Knowledgeable, Thinkers, Communicators, Open-Minded, Caring, Risk-Takers, Balanced, and Reflective. Using the Learner Profile at home is a great way to strengthen your child's understanding of the attributes we so strongly believe in.

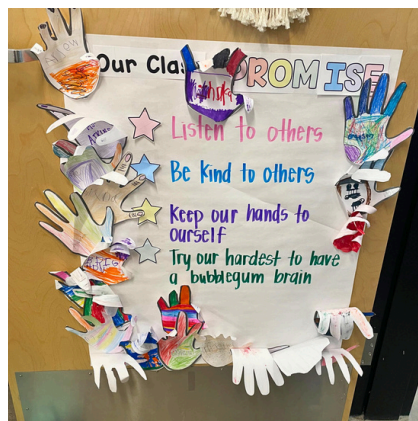
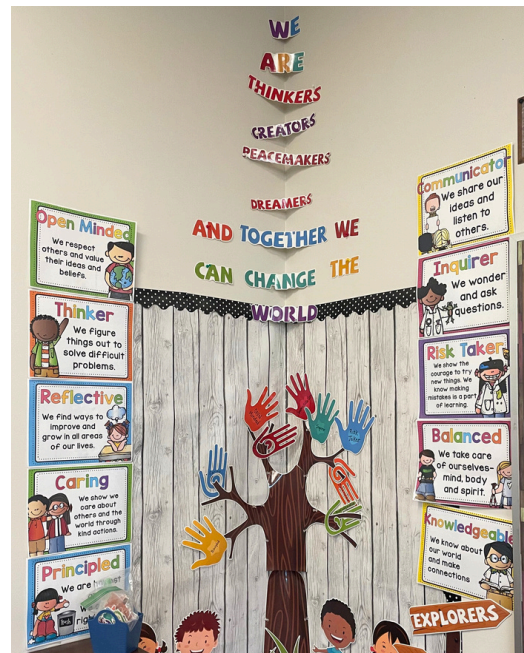
I look forward to continuing to build connections with our students, supporting their growth, and partnering with you to make this school year one of the best!

Thank you for your continued support, and please don't hesitate to reach out if you ever have questions or just want to connect.

Thank you,
Jacque Bettencourt

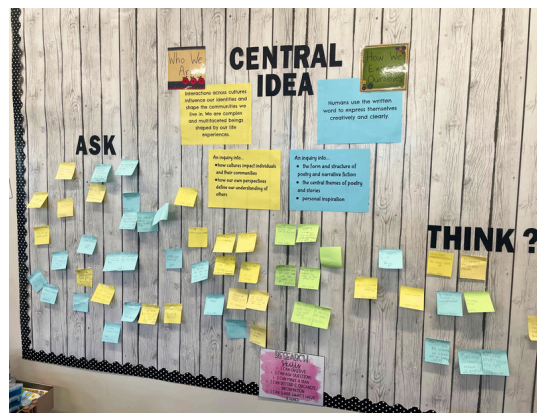
We implemented an "I See IB" program where students and staff can leave notes when they witness others being IB. 3rd-grade teacher Ms.

Scott (pictured on the right) was thrilled to receive an IB ticket from a student for being caring. Way to go, all!



Each class worked together to create their Classroom Essential Agreements, like this one to the left.

← Inquiry work around the central idea →



SECONDARY (6-II)

I want to take a moment to thank you for sending your children to Sage Middleton. It is a true joy to serve as Secondary Director, and I am so grateful to partner with you in supporting our students' growth and success.

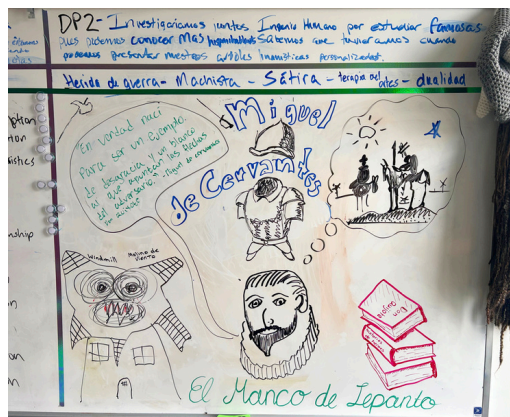
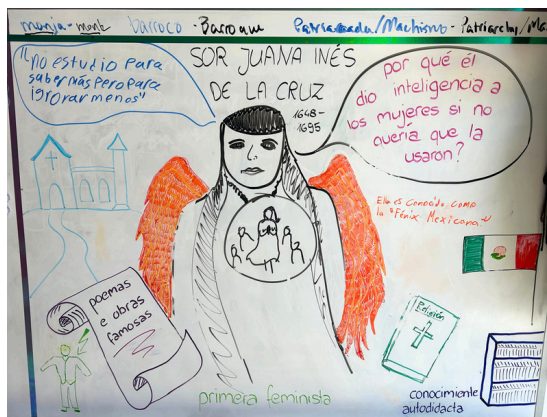
The first weeks of school are always a time of transition, and I deeply appreciate your adaptability as we adjust to new routines and procedures together. Your patience and partnership make a difference as we create the best possible environment for our students.

Over the past few weeks, I have had the privilege of spending a great deal of time in classrooms. What I've seen has been inspiring. Both our new and returning teachers are pouring tremendous energy and dedication into their work. Their lessons are engaging, their expectations are high, and their care for students is evident. It is clear to me that your children are in very good hands, and I am so grateful for the strong team of educators who make that possible.

Thank you again for entrusting us with your children. Their energy, curiosity, and enthusiasm are what make this school such a special place. I look forward to keeping you updated as the semester continues and to celebrating all the successes—big and small—that lie ahead.

Warmly,
Sarah Jensen

Ms. Moody's High School Science classroom has adopted two Hawk Moth chrysalises, which were brought in by a student! They have buried themselves in the soil, where they must be kept moist. They are excited to care for them and witness the transformation!



Whiteboard murals by 12th-grade Sage Diploma Programme Spanish students. The first two of a semester-long series of famous Spanish speakers.

Left - Sor Juana Inés De LaCruz aka Juana Inés de Asbaje y Ramírez de Santillana, the first American feminist. Right- Miguel de Cervantes "Don Quijote" a surreal satire.

DEAN OF STUDENTS, KELLY SHAW

We are excited to have a new Dean of Students at Sage Middleton. Kelly will work closely with our leadership team and teachers, and we are so happy to have her. Please join us in welcoming Kelly Shaw!



A note from Kelly:

I am thrilled to already be diving into the role of Dean of Students here at Sage Middleton! I am coming to this wonderful school community after a long and fulfilling career as a French teacher, both online and in the classroom. I have studied abroad twice, facilitated and hosted international school exchanges, and traveled with more than 200 students to 7 countries abroad. I spent time volunteering in an orphanage in an impoverished country abroad, helped Idaho children learn and implement important coping skills during my time in Psycho-social Rehabilitation, and hold a Master's Degree in Education Leadership.

I was born and raised in Boise and have had a passion for languages and world exploration since I was little. This passion drove me into education from the beginning, and I am so excited to be stepping into a new position of educational leadership here at Sage Middleton. I believe that care and compassion are the foundations of student success and that every child is capable of achievement.

You can reach Kelly by email at kelly.shaw@sageintl.org.

SCHOOL NURSE, SAVANNA ROLLAR

We are equally excited to welcome a new school nurse to the Sage Team, Savanna Rollar! Even in retirement, Lorinda has been spending a little time with Savanna, and she's doing a great job getting to know our students and their needs!



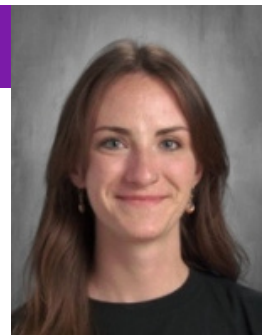
A note from Savanna:

I have worked as a registered nurse at Saint Alphonsus and the Idaho Youth Ranch, where I gained experience in a variety of healthcare settings. You can often find me exploring the beautiful outdoors with my yellow lab, who is always up for an adventure! I'm passionate about promoting wellness and encouraging students to take care of their bodies and minds - whether it's through good nutrition, exercise, or simply taking time to relax and recharge. I'm here to support students, staff and parents in any way I can.

You can reach Savanna by email at savanna.rollar@sageintl.org.

EXPEDITIONS

We are so excited to be back in session and getting kids outdoors to learn and grow together. For those of you who are new to Sage or are unaware of our program, Sage Expeditions is our outdoor education program that offers a wide array of activities and learning activities throughout the school year. We focus on teaching and practicing Leave No Trace principles, building community, place-based learning, and building outdoor skills! Most of our programming is catered toward our older students, but we have a few opportunities available for students starting as young as grade 3! You can find more information about our program on our website ([link here](#)).



Check out the list of opportunities below and *watch your inboxes* for when those lotteries open up!

September

- 25th-27th: Fall break camping trip to the Wallowa-Whitman NF (open to 7-12th grade)

October

- Fridays 10/3, 10/10, 10/17, 10/24 Outdoor rock climbing clinic with Idaho Mountain Guides (open to students 7th through 12th grade)
- Friday 10/24 Spooky Scavenger Hunt to Silver City (open to 4/5th grade)

ESAGE

ESage has been having fun after school and on Fridays this school year! Some of our recent field trips have included swimming at Calwell Pool and Black Canyon Reservoir, picking fruit at local orchards and going to the Fair, hiking at Camel's Back, playing at Planet Kid Indoor Playground, enjoying many different local parks, and lots of engaging indoor activities like shrinky dinks, jewelry & painting. We would love to have your child join in on the fun! [Click here to enroll.](#)



We will be open for Fall Break and still have space available to enroll Mon-Fri, Sept. 22-26! 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 for half price on your child's first day!** Please email esage_middleton@sageintl.org with any questions or enroll via the link above.



Stop by and see us at Back to School Night! If you can help feed our staff before back to school night by bringing a dish or providing food, they'd really appreciate it! [Sign up](#)

Not able to bring food? We're also accepting donations that will go toward food the PTO will purchase for our teachers! [Zeffy Link](#)

Additional Events and Fundraisers:

September 11th- Family Movie Night featuring the LIVE ACTION *How to Train Your Dragon*. Movie starts at 7:00 PM (NEW TIME!)

Sage International Middleton School Gym

\$3 per person – Food & Drinks available for purchase

Hot Dogs – \$2 | Chips – \$1 | Soda – \$1 Candy -\$1

Bring your blankets, chairs, and your whole crew!

October 6-17- Charleston Wrap Fundraiser

October 13-23- Canned food drive

October 23- Kindergarten pumpkin patch in the courtyard

October 25th- Trunk-or-treat

Find more info on our [Facebook Page](#), and join us for a meeting...the first Tuesday of each month in the gym!