



SAGE INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL MIDDLETON NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 30, 2025



Traffic Safety: Student safety is a shared responsibility, and our parking lot is a busy place before and after school. We have had some reports of unsafe driver behavior and ***need your help***. Please slow down, stay attentive, be patient, and ALWAYS yield to pedestrians. Thank you!



Picture Retake Day is October 9, 2025! If your student missed picture day or you would like a new photo taken, this is your chance. You must [register here](#) for each of your students to be pulled from class to have their photo taken.

- If you would like to pre-order prints online and avoid paying shipping costs, you can do so through October 11th by visiting mydorian.com and clicking the green "Order" button next to the date.
- If you were unhappy with your first order, return your picture packet on retake day for a new photo. If you only ordered a digital download and would like a retake, please send your receipt with your student to show the photographer.
- If you would like to view the new photos before ordering, proofs will be sent home with ordering instructions in a few weeks.



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!

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



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

October 9: Picture Retakes

October 16-17: Parent Teacher Conferences

October 17: Quarter 1 Ends

October 25: PTO Trunk or Treat

October 29: Coffee with the Principals 8:15-9:00

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



Dear families and staff of Sage International Schools,

We've started the year off strong and are now fully engaged in the work of teaching and learning. Last month, I outlined our academic goals: equipping students with strong pre-algebra and algebra skills, helping them grow as writers at every stage, and ensuring our youngest learners develop the foundational reading skills that open the door to all learning. These remain our top priorities. This month, I want to pause and shine a light on something at the heart of all academic success and that reaches far beyond the classroom - **reading**.

Reading is more than simply learning to read words on a page; it is an essential part of a child's overall academic success and development. Students who are strong readers by the end of third grade are more likely to thrive later in life. Yes, academically, but also physically, mentally, and emotionally.

Parents play a vital role in this shared effort. I had the joy of growing up in a family of readers and clearly remember my mother reading to me, hours exploring the library together, and reading alongside my father during quiet evenings as a teenager. When our first son was in kindergarten, his teacher gathered parents together and advised us to relentlessly read with our children every single night. We took this to heart, and I can honestly say it was one of the best pieces of advice I've ever received. It helped develop excellent and joyful readers and gave my husband and me a powerful way to stay connected to our children as they grew. I truly believe it profoundly impacted my children's learning and our bond with them, and I want to share it with you.

For our youngest children, the key is consistency: reading aloud every day, even for just a few minutes. These moments build vocabulary, strengthen decoding skills, and create joyful experiences with books. Learn more [here](#).

For middle schoolers, we know children are starting to form their own opinions at this age. We often choose a book with our children and read it together, chatting about it at dinner or in the car. Those conversations, sometimes about the plot, other times about bigger questions like, "Do you agree with this character's choice?" or "What do you think the author is trying to say?" gave us a window into their growing independence and developing opinions. We found these moments were less about analyzing the book and more about keeping communication open, strengthening their critical thinking, and letting them know we valued what they had to say. Learn more [here](#).

For high school students, the challenge is to go deeper. Encourage them to read both classics and contemporary works, and whenever possible, read alongside them. Sharing a book with our teenagers gave us a common language, rich conversations and a shared experience that kept us in touch with their world. Learn more [here](#).

Continued...

And, don't underestimate the power of reading aloud, even with older kids. Classics like *The Hobbit*, *The Secret Garden*, *Moby Dick*, and *Robinson Crusoe*, as well as more contemporary novels like *The Book Thief* and *Life of Pi* are not only rich in language but also in wisdom. Reading aloud nourishes the soul, builds family bonds, and teaches lessons about courage, kindness, and resilience. Children (yes, even teens!) often delight in being read to.

I encourage you to make reading a regular and enjoyable part of your family routine. I promise it will pay off in spades, developing passionate, joyful readers and creating a pathway to bond with your children throughout their life. My 88-year-old mother is experiencing dementia and cannot read anymore. However, she remains vibrant and curious, so enjoys listening to audiobooks. She still regularly inquires: "Emily, tell me about what you are reading right now." Right now I am reading *I was Anastasia*. What is your family reading?

With warmth and gratitude,

Emily Downey



LEADERSHIP TEAM

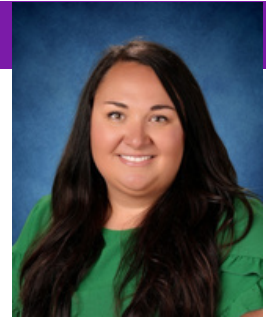
Now that the school year is well underway, we want to take a moment to reintroduce you to our Sage Middleton Leadership team! As our school has grown to a K-12 school, we now have TWO wonderful Directors and the support of a Dean of Students to serve our 530+ students!

- Jacque Bettencourt supports our youngest learners and leads our PYP (Primary Years Programme) team, working with Kindergarten through 5th-grade staff.
- Sarah Jensen supports our 6th -12th grade learners and leads our team of both the Middle Years Programme (6-10th) and Diploma Programme (11-12th).
- Kelly Shaw is Dean of Students and supports ALL our K-12 students and teachers. Kelly's focus is on student well-being, behavior support, and ensuring a safe and inclusive learning environment for every student.



We are grateful for such a dedicated and experienced leadership team, and we look forward to continuing a strong partnership with you this school year.

PYP (K-5TH) WITH JACQUE BETTENCOURT



Hello PYP Families,

I wanted to share some amazing learning going on around our school!

Our fourth grade classes got to experience Wagon's Ho! They got to feel what life was like on the Oregon Trail in a fun, hands-on way. I remember this experience from when I was in fourth grade, so it was extra special seeing our students experience it!



Our third graders got to meet Middleton Mayor, Jackie Hutchison! This great event connects to their IB Unit: *Laws have the responsibility to protect all rights*. The students created interview questions and took turns speaking. They also got to ask some personal questions as well. Now we know our mayor loves apple pie!

I got to see some of our first graders analyzing art. Their Central Idea is: People use pictures to convey meaning. Ms. Atkins had a color version and a black and white version posted and the students were deciding if their feelings toward the painting changed after they saw it in color. One student said, "I think it looks like a rug when it has color!" They were being thinkers for sure!

I am seeing wonderful things happening at Sage. What a great place to be!



SECONDARY (6-12) WITH SARAH JENSEN



Each day, I see evidence of our students' curiosity, creativity, and collaboration—and it's clear that their learning is thriving.

This month, some highlights include:

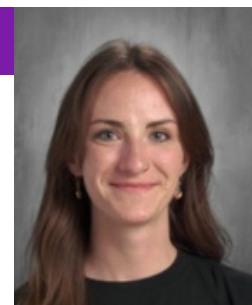
- *Engaged discussions:* In several classes, students connected their learning to real-world events and debated important ideas with confidence and respect.
- *Collaboration and inquiry:* Students worked together on art sorting activities, digital literacy modules, and independent research, demonstrating teamwork and ownership of their learning.
- *Positive learning environments:* Teachers used tools like clapping patterns, call-backs, and even a classroom "doorbell" to keep lessons flowing smoothly while maintaining a fun, respectful atmosphere.
- *Student voice and confidence:* I've seen students presenting ideas, asking great questions, and supporting one another in ways that make our school community stronger every day.

We are so proud of the effort our students and teachers are putting into building a positive and challenging learning environment. As always, thank you for your continued partnership in supporting your child's education.

We look forward to another exciting month ahead!



EXPEDITIONS WITH MEGAN FUROIS



Over fall break, a combined group of Middleton and Boise students were able to experience the amazing fall weather and scenery in the Wallowa National Forest on the edge of the Eagle Cap Wilderness. Students took a guided hike with a park ranger, learned at the local discovery center, and experienced the high alpine environment via the steepest tram in North America! It was truly a trip to remember. Check out the list of opportunities below and watch your inboxes for when lotteries open!



[Outdoor rock climbing clinic with](#)

[Idaho Mountain Guides](#) - Fridays in October: 10/3, 10, 17, 24. For students in Grades 7th - 12th. Lottery Closed.

[Spooky Scavenger Hunt to Silver City](#) - Friday, 10/24. Open to 4th/5th grade students. Lottery closes 10/3.

ESAGE

We've been having lots of fun! Some of our recent Friday field trips have included Foothills Learning Center, picking apples and plums at local orchards, skate parks, hiking around Duff Pond & Camel's Back Park, and enjoying many different local parks and the river. After school on campus has included fun chalk art & self portraits. 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. 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.

PLAYGROUND UPDATE

We are so pleased that our NEW playground equipment arrived and was professionally installed over fall break! Our new playground, plus the new track/field, basketball court and huge grass area behind the high school creates outdoor accessibility for all of our age groups and we are working on scheduling to ensure everyone has plenty of time to enjoy it!



PTO

Join us for a spook-tacular afternoon at our Trunk or Treat! Food Trucks • Decorated Trunks • Hot Chocolate • Music • Candy & More!
Saturday, October 25th, 3:00 PM – 5:00 PM
Sage Middleton Parking Lot
FREE Family Fun — All Are Welcome!
Come dressed in your best costume and enjoy a fun, safe way to trick-or-treat with our amazing community! Would you like to decorate your car and pass out candy? [Sign up here.](#)

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

