



# SAGE INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL MIDDLETON NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 29, 2025



**Friday School Day on November 7<sup>th</sup>!** Please remember that this is a **required school day for ALL students**, the only Friday school day we have planned all year! There are a lot of exciting things happening and important learning that they won't want to miss out on.



**The temperatures are dropping!** We strive for all students in all grades to spend time outdoors year-round as conditions allow. Please have your student come to school dressed appropriately for the weather! Speaking of clothing, the **Lost & Found is FULL** of items, please ask your student to stop by and look for any items belonging to them!



**Two Bus routes** will have changes made starting Monday, November 3rd, for Bus 223 and Bus 230. If your student will begin utilizing a different stop next week (or at any time), please register again for the stops they will be using via the bus registration link on [our website](#).



**ESage** will be open for Thanksgiving Break, Mon-Thur, November 24-26! We also 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 [Click here](#) for more information.



**Our Sage Spirit Store** is open year-round and is a great idea for holiday gifts for your students! You can pay for shipping directly to your house, pick up at their local store, or if you aren't in a rush we do monthly deliveries to Sage. You can [shop HERE!](#)

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



## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

**October 30:** Halloween celebrations

**November 7:** Student School Day!!!

**November 24-28:** Thanksgiving Break - no school

[2025-26 Academic Calendar](#)

## FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, EMILY DOWNEY



As we move through October, we enter what I like to call the gathering season, a time when families and friends come together more often to share meals, traditions, and meaningful connections. These moments of togetherness are not just heartwarming; they are essential to our well-being. They remind us of the importance of community, of slowing down, and of supporting one another, especially our young people.

There are so many reasons to attend Sage International School and many of them center on the intangible ways we nurture healthy mental well-being. From the way we learn to the way we connect, the Sage experience is about developing confident, compassionate learners who understand themselves and others.

Our International Baccalaureate (IB) framework does more than prepare students academically. It helps them thrive emotionally and socially. IB students learn to connect ideas across subjects, think critically about real-world issues, and understand diverse perspectives. This interdisciplinary approach encourages curiosity, empathy, and self-reflection. These skills build emotional intelligence and resilience. Through collaborative projects, inquiry-based learning, and global-minded reflection, IB fosters a sense of purpose and belonging.

We can never underestimate the benefits of time outdoors. Our students have the unique opportunity to engage deeply with nature through Sage's robust Outdoor Expeditions program, led by Megan Furois, our highly trained and experienced outdoor educator. These expeditions allow students to tackle real outdoor challenges, explore Idaho's natural beauty, and learn how to preserve and respect the environment, all while building teamwork, confidence, and resilience. Our four-day school weeks and extra breaks throughout the year create the perfect rhythm for families to tap into this resource, giving students the space and time to reset, recharge, and grow. Be sure to read on through the rest of our newsletter for more details on upcoming adventures and ways your students can get involved.

We've also seen how working in partnership with parents can make an incredible difference in supporting our students' overall growth and happiness. Regular school attendance is one of the most underrated pillars of mental health. Attending school daily builds belonging, structure, and a sense of purpose. It helps children form relationships with peers and adults who care about them. I want to make a personal ask: please make regular attendance a priority for your family. When students are here, engaged with their teachers, classmates, and our community, they experience the full richness of the Sage program.

Continued...

This fall, we're partnering with Idaho Communities for Youth and the Idaho Department of Education to administer the Idaho Youth Well-Being Survey to students in grades 6–12. The survey helps schools and families better understand how students feel about their well-being, relationships, and sense of belonging, so that together, we can build stronger supports for every child. Participation is voluntary, and all responses are confidential and anonymous. Parents and guardians must provide permission, and students may choose to complete all, part, or none of the survey. [Here is a preview](#) of the full question list and the form to [submit your consent](#). Please visit the [Communities for Youth information](#) page to learn more.

As we gather this season, let's remember that fostering mental well-being is not about perfection; it's about presence, patience, and partnership. Together, we can work to ensure that our children feel supported, connected, and capable of thriving, this season and beyond.

Warmly,

Emily Downey  
Executive Director

## EXPEDITIONS

**Sage Expeditions** is wrapping up the fall season! We recently took a *spooky* field trip to Silver City with a group of 4th and 5th-grade students for a day of exploration. We had a history lesson of the abandoned mining town, took short hikes around Silver City, and had a fun Halloween-themed picnic!

We are getting excited about Winter and Spring activities! Please let us know what outdoor learning opportunities you would like to see offered in the second semester by filling out the interest form linked below. Your input helps us create intentionally designed and timed programs that are accessible and meaningful for our community. We appreciate you taking just a few minutes to give us your input by November 1! [Sage Expeditions Semester 2 Parent/Guardian Interest Form](#)



Also, mark your calendars! We will be opening up the lottery for our annual **ski and snowboarding days** at Bogus Basin on November 3rd! This opportunity will be available for students in grades 3-12. More details and lottery sign-ups will be sent via Toddle Announcements, email, and posted on our website.



Dear PYP Families,

Thank you for joining us for Parent Teacher Conferences last week. It was such a joy to hear families stop at the “I See IB” bulletin board to look for their names and point out others as well. We are IB Learners and it is wonderful to see how we are strengthening our attributes each day.

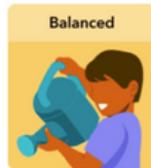
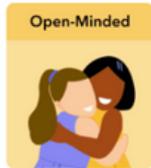
**I See IB!!**

I saw \_\_\_\_\_ being

principled caring a risk-taker open-minded an inquirer  
balanced reflective a thinker a communicator  
knowledgeable

From: \_\_\_\_\_  
Student's Teacher: \_\_\_\_\_

Sage Middleton PYP



Our Kindergarten, First, and Second Grade students all visited the Shindig Pumpkin Patch together last week. It was a blast! Our students and families had a great time. A big thank you to the 70 parent volunteers who joined us—what a stellar turnout!



I have loved getting to know our Sage families, thank you for your warmth and support!



Dear Families,

As we wrap up the first quarter of the school year, I want to take a moment to celebrate all that our students and teachers have accomplished. Your support has been incredible—thank you for taking the time to attend parent-teacher conferences and engage in your student’s learning journey. I am excited to celebrate just a few of the amazing things that have happened on campus this month.

Mr. Youngberg went above and beyond to bring an empanada truck to campus as part of a Spanish activity! Students had to order in Spanish and it was such a fun and delicious way for students to connect with language and culture!



Our 10th-grade students completed the PSATs! Their focus and effort are commendable! Also, Student Council showcased their leadership and planned the upcoming Halloween dances on October 30th. Their dedication, creativity, and initiative continue to make a positive impact on our school community.

Recently, Diploma Programme Coordinator Dr. Faith Hansen took many of our Middleton and Boise juniors to visit Boise State University. Diploma Programme Juniors from the Boise Sage campus joined their peers from Sage Middleton for a day of research and exploration at the BSU Albertsons Library, where an academic librarian guided them through the process of finding and evaluating scholarly resources for their Extended Essays (a DP Core requirement). With laptops open and research questions in hand, students learned how to navigate academic databases, refine searches, and access reliable materials to support their investigations.

The morning was a great success! It was an engaging and productive opportunity for students from both campuses to come together with a shared purpose.



Quarter 1 has been filled with curiosity, growth, and dedication, and we couldn’t be prouder of our students and staff. As we head into Quarter 2, we are excited to continue building on this momentum, with more learning, fun activities, and opportunities to shine.

Thank you for being part of our school community and for helping make this first quarter a success. Here’s to an exciting and engaging quarter ahead!

## FROM CHRISTINE MCMILLEN: CELEBRATING OUR SPECIAL EDUCATION DEPARTMENT



### Spotlight on Excellence

At Sage International School of Middleton, we believe every student deserves the opportunity to succeed, grow, and shine in their own unique way. This month, we are proud to showcase the incredible work being done by our **Special Education Department** — a dedicated team of educators, specialists, and support staff who embody the heart of inclusive education.

*“Every child can learn — just not in the same way or on the same day,” says Megan Hardin, special education teacher. “Our goal is to meet students where they are and help them reach their fullest potential.”*

### Collaboration is Key

One of the strengths of our Special Education team is their collaboration with general education teachers, administrators, and families. This ensures that students receive consistent support across all settings — from the classroom to the playground.

*“The best part of our job is helping students learn and grow in all aspects of their life. Socially, emotionally, behaviorally and not just academically. It makes the job so much more meaningful watching them gain skills they will use for a lifetime,” says Abbie O’Hara PYP special education teacher.*

### Recognizing Our Team

We also want to take a moment to recognize the tireless efforts of our special education staff. Their passion, patience, and professionalism are the foundation of everything we do. From early morning planning sessions to end-of-day check-ins, their commitment to students goes above and beyond.



L-R: Heather Baker, Megan Hardin, Rhianna Young, Vanessa Lara, Kama Maendl, Jewel Freitas, Ariel Puckett, Lilyanne Lucas, Abbie O’Hara.

We are proud of our Special Education Department — not just for the work they do, but for the lives they touch. Thank you for making Sage International a place where all learners are valued, supported, and celebrated.

## SUPPORT SAGE

At Sage International, we provide an exceptional International Baccalaureate education for all students, tuition-free. But as a public charter school, we receive zero local property tax or levy funding. As you likely know, **Idaho is ranked very LAST in the nation** for per-pupil spending. Our students deserve better, and we provide better.

Each fall, we launch [Mind the Gap](#), our annual fundraiser that ensures our classrooms stay full of dedicated teachers, engaging IB learning, and opportunities for every student.

This year, we aim to raise **\$25,000**, the equivalent of about \$50 per student, to help bridge the gap between the state funding we receive and the real cost of delivering our world-class education. Your donation supports:

- Exceptional teachers who bring learning to life
- The full IB curriculum across all grade levels, K–12
- A vibrant, enriching community built on inquiry and open-mindedness

Every family's participation matters. Whether it's \$10 or \$500, your gift shows that our community believes in Sage, in our educators, and in IB for ALL. Your gift to Sage qualifies for the [Idaho Education Tax Credit](#) (50% up to \$1000), plus potential federal and state deductions. [Many employers offer matching gifts](#), which can double your impact. Read more about Mind the Gap and donate [HERE](#).

## PTO

Our Charleston Wrap fundraiser was a big success and raised over \$4,700 for Sage! We are so grateful to the families that took part. Also thank you to everyone who donated to feed our teachers during our recent Parent-Teacher conferences! They are LONG days for teachers, and they were so grateful to be fed delicious food and treats. We had so much fun last weekend at our Trunk or Treat, thank you to those who braved the rain to join us. We even had this airplane!



Mark your calendars for the Sage International Middleton PTO **Winter Fest on December 6th from 12:00 - 4:00 pm in the Gym!** Come support our school and local businesses.

- Over 20 AMAZING Vendors selling everything from Christmas Decor and Jewelry to Cookies, Woodwork, and more!
- Bid on incredible items in our Silent Auction.
- Enjoy delicious food from the Food Trucks!