



SAGE INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL MIDDLETON NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 19, 2025



School closure alerts: Winter is here, and in the event of a school closure we will let parents know by 6:30 AM in the following ways: Email, Social Media, KTVB, and by text IF you opt-in. To opt in to text alerts please **text "Y" via your cell phone to 61569**. If you're unsure if you've done this, please do it again!



Sage Discovery Tours: Our lottery application for NEW to Sage families opens on January 5th! If you know anyone who may be interested in Sage, please invite them to learn more on our website:

sageintl.org/middleton/enrollment Please know that existing Sage students and their siblings do not need to apply for the lottery, but re-enrollment will open to hold your spot for next year on January 26, 2026.



This year we have our entire [Sage Expeditions Semester II Catalog](#) posted with interest forms and lotteries already open for you to let us know which opportunities you'd like to have your student join us on! Take a minute to explore and start joining lottery lists now!



THANK YOU to those who have donated to [Mind the Gap](#) so far this year! So far we have raised \$7,450 toward our \$25,000 goal by the end of the school year.

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



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

December 22 - Jan 2: Holiday Break - No school

January 8: End of First Semester

January 19: MLK Jr. Day - No School

January 26: Re-enrollment for 26-27 School Year

February 16-20: Winter Break - No School

The [2026-27 Academic Calendar](#) is posted!

FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, EMILY DOWNEY



As December settles in and the twinkling lights around our neighborhoods glow against quieter days, I find myself reflecting, both as a member of this community and as someone entrusted with its care, on what matters most: connection, belonging, and helping our children feel seen and inspired. This season reminds us not only to gather and celebrate, but also to care for what we love and hope to protect for the future. Much like the music, shared meals, and traditions that bring us together during the holidays, Sage is a place of connection, a steady light in students' lives where voices are valued and learning is rich with meaning.

We are incredibly proud to be a free, public International Baccalaureate (IB) charter school, a rare and powerful opportunity for families in Idaho. The IB program invites students to see the world through multiple perspectives and grow into compassionate, thoughtful citizens. It prepares students not only for academic success, but for lives filled with purpose, empathy, and joy.

Creating this kind of learning environment requires intentional investment. IB schools are more expensive to operate because they require additional staffing, specialized training, and ongoing professional development to meet rigorous IB standards. At Sage, we also intentionally prioritize and invest in our staff, supporting their growth and honoring their expertise, because the care and creativity they bring to our classrooms shape our students' lives.

Every year, we face a substantial gap between the funding we receive and the true cost of offering the exceptional IB education our students deserve. As a charter school, Sage receives no local tax dollars, which are often used for facilities and teacher pay. In addition, Idaho ranks last in the nation for per-pupil education funding. Our fundraising campaign, [Mind the Gap](#), is how our community comes together to bridge that financial gap and ensure the exceptional learning at Sage continues to shine brightly.

Will you consider giving a financial gift to Sage?

We use [Mind the Gap](#) gifts thoughtfully and with deep gratitude to support both the people and places that make Sage feel like home and where meaningful learning comes to life every day. Your generosity helps us prioritize competitive pay for our teachers, provide busing for students to increase access for families, and save for projects that enhance safe, engaging learning environments across our campuses.

Because of you, Sage has been able to make meaningful improvements such as revitalized landscaping, parking lot expansions and upgrades, and the incredible new playgrounds at each campus that ring with laughter and joy. These spaces reflect what happens inside our classrooms every day: curiosity, movement, and connection.

Continued...

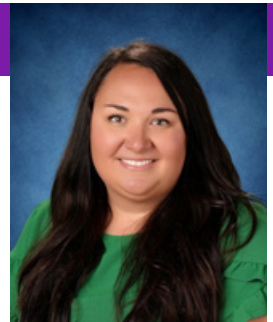
Looking ahead, your continued support will help us prioritize staff pay, add playground shade structures, and plan for building maintenance and facelifts that ensure our campuses remain welcoming, inspiring places to learn.

Sage International is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, and donations are tax-deductible. Idaho taxpayers may receive a 50% state education tax credit (up to \$1,000 for joint filers or \$500 for individuals) and many employers offer matching gift programs that can double your impact. Your generous support helps sustain a place where learning shines brightly and students are encouraged to grow into their fullest selves.

It is never easy to talk about money or ask for financial support, but I do so from the heart because I believe deeply in Sage. I have experienced firsthand, through my own children, the extraordinary opportunities Sage provides, helping students reach their full potential while fostering a caring, uplifting, and joyful community. If you feel moved this season, I invite you to consider a financial gift to Sage. Your generosity helps keep our light shining for our students and families. Thank you, and I wish you a wonderful holiday season. We look forward to seeing you in the New Year!

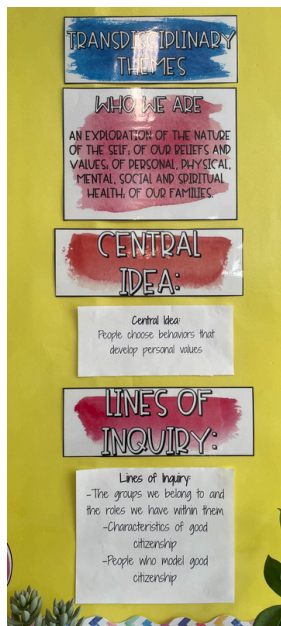
With warmth and gratitude,
Emily Downey

PYP (K-5TH) WITH JACQUE BETTENCOURT



Hello PYP Families!

We had a great December that was quick, but full of learning!



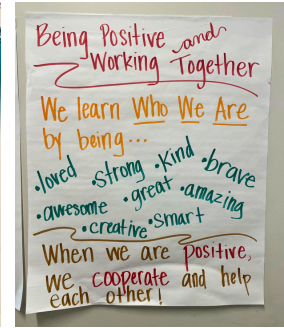
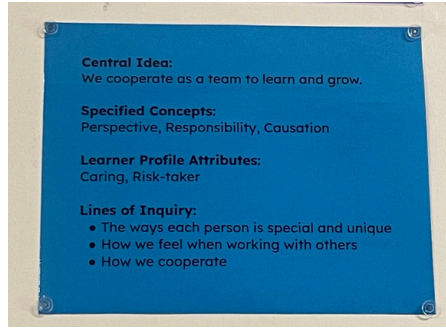
First, our second graders were able to participate in the *Upstanders with Open Arms* program, which promotes disability awareness, education, and acceptance of all human differences. This opportunity was a perfect activity to help students understand their IB unit's central idea: *People choose behaviors that develop personal values*. Our students performed the dance they learned through this program for a big crowd of families and other PYP students.



They did a wonderful job sharing this important lesson with others in our school community!

PYP continued...

Our kindergarteners are finishing their central idea: *We cooperate as a team to learn and grow*. Every day they practice and discover together as they learn how to be at school. They had a class discussion around this central idea, and here you can see the ideas the students came up with!

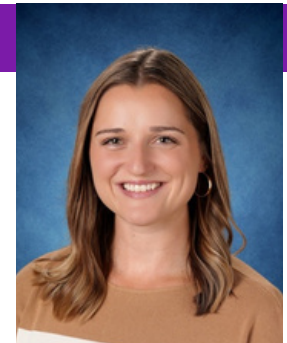


We have hung Spanish signs all around our school! We placed labels everywhere to help us learn the Spanish vocabulary words. Getting to see our students in Spanish class is such a highlight. They are doing such a great job with their understanding and translation of words. There are so many language connections happening!

SECONDARY WITH SARAH JENSEN

Dear Families,

As we move into the holiday season, I want to take a moment to wish you and your loved ones a safe, happy, and healthy holiday season. We are grateful for your continued partnership and support as we close out the year together.



Celebrating Our 11th Graders:

We are incredibly proud of our 11th-grade students for successfully completing their Theory of Knowledge (TOK) Exhibition. This is a major milestone in the IB journey and showcased their critical thinking, reflection, and communication skills. Well done to our students and staff for all of the hard work that went into this experience.



Secondary continued...

Winter MAP Assessments Complete:

Congratulations to all students for completing their winter MAP assessments. We appreciate their effort and focus, and these results will help guide instruction and support student growth moving forward.

Middle School Highlights:

Our middle school students have been working incredibly hard to complete their summative assessments. In Design, students created homes and inventions, and it was wonderful to see their creativity, problem-solving, and innovative thinking come to life.

College of Western Idaho Visit:

Our juniors recently visited the CWI to learn more about postsecondary options and career pathways. During the visit, students explored CWI's associate degree programs and received an overview of how these degrees can support both workforce entry and transfer opportunities. Juniors also toured Career and Technical Education spaces, where they observed programs in small engines, electrical trades, robotics and more.

The visit gave students a first hand look at applied learning and helped them better understand how technical skills connect to future careers.



Senior Science Field Work:

Ms. Abigail Moody recently took her senior science students into the field to conduct birding research. Students practiced observation and data collection skills while identifying and counting a wide range of bird species, from songbirds to geese in two of Boise's parks. The day concluded with a stop for coffee or ice cream, a welcome reward after a successful research experience that connected classroom learning to real world science.

Important Reminder: WAAG

Families are encouraged to continue checking the WAAG regularly for updates on assignments/due dates. The WAAG is sent weekly on Sundays via Toddle. Thank you for being an important part of our school community.

Thank you for being an important part of our school community. We look forward to an exciting new year ahead and wish you a wonderful holiday break.

Warm regards,
Sarah Jensen



Sage Middleton PTO

NEWSLETTER



Our Winter Fest was a wonderful success, and we are so grateful to everyone who helped make it such a memorable event! A huge thank-you to our amazing vendors for sharing their time and talents, our dedicated teachers and staff for their continued support, and all of the families and community members who came out to support the PTO. We would also like to extend special appreciation to our Student Council for organizing such fun and engaging activities for the kids. It truly made the day magical. Events like this remind us how special our school community is, and we couldn't have done it without all of you!

Upcoming Events:

*FAMILY SKATE NIGHT

January 15, 2026 6pm-8pm

Nampa Rollerdrome

Join us for Skate Night and help support our school! come skate, have fun, and give back, all while enjoying a great night with friends and family

*Family Flapjacks Festival

February 7, 2026 9am-11am

Sage Middleton Gym

Bring the whole family for a morning of pancakes, play, and community! Get ready for tasty breakfast and local vendors to explore. Don't miss out on this sweet event!



Want to join PTO?

The PTO is always looking for volunteers to help make our events a success. Volunteering is a great way to support our school, meet other families, and have fun along the way. We appreciate any time you're able to give!

**Come join us at our next
PTO meeting January
6th 2026 7PM in our
school gym**

Wishing you and your families a warm and joyful holiday season!

-Sage Middleton PTO