



SAGE INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL BOISE NEWSLETTER

APRIL 24, 2026



Idaho Gives starts May 4! Sage International will be participating, and what better way to invest in Idaho's future than through our students? Mark your calendar and be on the lookout for some fun prizes you can win for yourself AND your school!



As we approach the end of the school year, we are busy planning for the 2026–2027 school year. You will be receiving emails from us over the next few months asking about your intent to return to Sage in August. If you are returning, no action is needed! If your plans have changed and your student will not be returning to Sage this fall, please complete the [withdrawal form](#) as soon as you know. This helps to avoid any delays as your student transitions to their new school.



Staff Appreciation Week is May 4-8! Our PTO has some fun plans in store connected to this year's theme of Our Staff Is First Class. One easy way to participate as parents/guardians is to complete this [brief form](#), which invites you to share what you appreciate about Sage staff. Stay tuned for more details!



We have a lot of end-of-year celebrations coming up across all grade levels over the next several weeks! Watch for details from teachers and Directors, there are some opportunities for parents to volunteer as well!

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



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

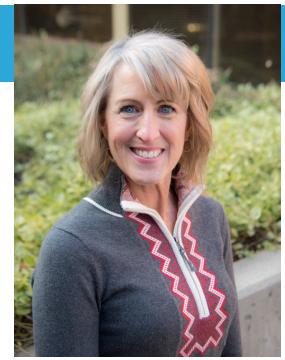
May 7-8: PYP Student-led Conferences

May 25: Memorial Day, No School

May 27: Class of 2026 Graduation @ Egyptian Theater

May 28: Last day of school!

[2026-27 Academic Calendar](#)



As we move into April, we feel both the momentum of the school year and a chance to reflect on what we're building together at Sage. It has been a joy to read your responses to my one simple question: Why Sage? I have found myself genuinely moved by what you have been sharing. As a fellow parent, your words resonate deeply with me. It brings me so much joy to see other families sharing the same incredible experience that my husband and I have had as parents of our own Sage graduates.

You are sharing stories about classrooms where learning feels alive, where kids come home excited to talk about what they're discovering and how they're thinking. You wrote about teachers who truly know your children, and a school where joy shows up in the smiles you see every day. One parent shared, *"I'm consistently impressed with what my kids are learning and HOW they are learning it."* Another reflected on their graduate, *"so well prepared for college, and life."* What I know every parent in the world wants for their child is reflected in: *"the team is so close-knit and the teachers truly love my child."*

Another parent captured something that makes Sage truly unique: *"A free IB education is such an amazing opportunity only offered to a small percentage of students... the learner profile matches exactly what we want for our child."* And perhaps my favorite reflection came from a student who said, *"At my last school, I didn't even know what collaboration was. At Sage, all of my learning is through collaboration."*

Reading these, I'm reminded that what we're building together isn't just a school. It's a community that's changing what education can look like for our kids.

And what we have at Sage is rare.

A full K–12 International Baccalaureate education, offered as a free, public charter school, is something most communities only find behind private school tuition. We believe this opportunity should be accessible to every child, and together, we've made that belief real.

At Sage, we don't let barriers determine the opportunities our students receive. And we are able to do that because of the partnership we have with you, our families. The reality is, funding for education in Idaho falls short, and charter schools like ours are asked to do even more with less. Our students deserve more, and together, we make that possible.

That's why [Idaho Gives](#), beginning May 4, is such an important moment for Sage.

This is our chance to come together and continue building something really special.

Continued...

[Idaho Gives](#) is part of our broader Mind the Gap fundraising effort, which helps bridge the difference between what we receive in state funding and what it truly takes to provide our students with:

- Teachers who are supported and valued
- A rich, inquiry-based IB education
- The learning environment our students thrive in

Every gift, no matter the size, directly supports your children and their teachers. And your voice matters just as much. If you haven't yet shared your "Why Sage", I hope you will. Your words tell the story of this school better than anything else ever could. We are offering a small thank you for families who participate. Share your "Why Sage" by filling out the form found in [this letter](#), and you'll be entered into a drawing for a \$50 Goody's gift certificate!

Sage exists because of this community, and [Idaho Gives](#) is one of the moments where that really comes to life, as we come together to support something we all care deeply about: our kids and their future.

I'm truly grateful to be part of this with you, and thank you for your support of the incredible potential we see in each and every one of your children.

SAGE STUDENTS - HUMAN RIGHTS LEADERS

We would like to recognize Sage's **Wassmuth Center Youth Leaders** for the upcoming school year! For context, the WCYL program is an amazing opportunity for selected 9-12th graders to grow in leadership and positive community engagement. From the Wassmuth Center website: "Throughout the program, youth will deepen their understanding of human rights issues, hear directly from inspiring guest speakers, and work together on collaborative projects that foster inclusion and justice. Participants not only learn about leadership, but also practice it—gaining the tools, confidence, and networks to stand up for human dignity in their schools and beyond."

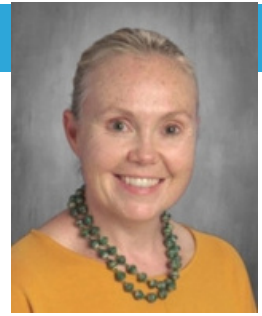
Each year, we have Sage students selected for this program, and we are excited to announce next year's cohort:

Angelique Musila, Saba Musila, Loey Brandel, Molly Steenhoven, and Penelope Araya.

Thank you to all of you for your commitment, understanding, and advocating for human rights!



PRIMARY YEARS PROGRAMME WITH KATE HUNTER



It's been a fun and busy start to spring in the PYP! Read on for a few spotlights.

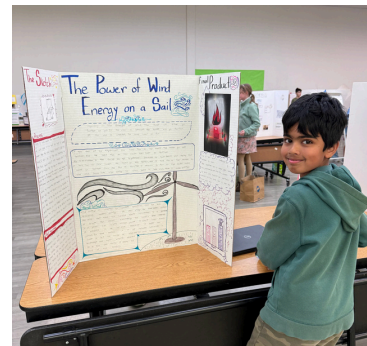
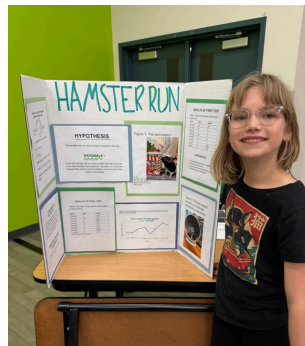
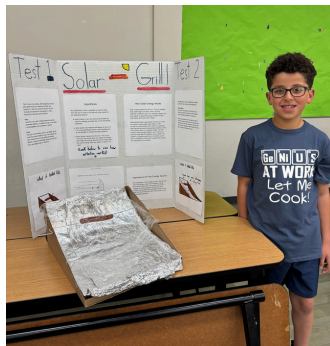
3rd Grade Spotlight – Transdisciplinary Connections



Students are engaged in their “How the World Works” unit of inquiry, delving into everything from energy and force to graphing data and building simple machines. Pictured left, students experiment with effort and efficiency (through a PE connection) and document their outcomes.

4th Grade Spotlight – Science Connections

Wrapping up their “Sharing the Planet” unit of inquiry, students are challenged to research and understand a variety of forms of energy, including renewable energy. They put their thinking into action in a variety of ways, all of which culminated in a Science Fair. As part of the Fair, students experimented with a chosen energy source and honed their presentation skills. Way to be IB thinkers, 4th graders!



Staff Spotlight – Linda Buczynski

After 16 years at Sage our beloved K-5 Visual Arts teacher, Linda Buczynski (aka Ms. Bu), is retiring at the end of this school year. Ms. Bu has had – and will continue to have – an incredible impact on our entire community, inspiring colleagues and students alike.



Through the arts, Ms. Bu has challenged us to think deeply, explore courageously, and celebrate widely. We wish her absolutely nothing but the best, and we thank her for inspiring many generations of Sagers.

Do you have a message you'd like to share with Ms. Bu upon her retirement? Please use this [Retirement Memories and Send Off](#) form as one way to express well-wishes, memories, or any other words of encouragement and gratitude.

MIDDLE SCHOOL WITH ZACH PARKER



It's hard to believe, but we are down to the final five weeks of the school year. As we move into this busy and exciting stretch, we want to highlight several important events and milestones for our middle school community.

First, we have two important orientation events designed to support students and families during key transitions.

- **Freshman Orientation: May 6, 5:00 - 6:00 pm.** Current 8th-grade students and their families are encouraged to attend. They will get a preview of life as a Sage High Schooler, and meet high school Director Brandy Burkett and counselor Brittany Meduna.
- **New to Middle School at Sage: May 14, 6:00 - 7:30 pm.** We welcome current 5th-grade students and families, along with any new families starting at Sage in Middle School in the fall. This orientation will help them feel prepared and connected for the year ahead.

On **May 6–7**, our 7th graders will travel to Minidoka for an annual field trip, exploring the Japanese Internment Camps that were established during WW2.

The week of **May 11–14** brings the final round of MAP testing. These results are a key indicator used to measure student growth and reflect on the year's progress. Wrapping up that week on **May 14** is our student-led *Summer Send-Off* celebration. More details on that coming soon.

May 18 - 21 is finals week. Please note that reassessments will not be available due to the timing at the end of the year.

On **May 21**, all school-issued laptops and plugins must be returned. Families will be billed by our Sage helpdesk for any lost or damaged devices.

The week of **May 26**, we hope to get all grades out on field trips. Our 6th graders will visit a jumphouse, 7th graders will head to the Boise State SUB for games and activities, and 8th graders will enjoy a trip to Wahooz.

We will officially close out the school year on **May 28** with our annual secondary breakfast. Families are invited to donate and help serve food as we celebrate the year together. We will email a sign-up soon.

Supporting your Student

Finals, shifting routines, and the anticipation of summer can feel overwhelming for some students. This is a great time to check in and offer support to navigate these transitions.

Encourage *specific* strategies to help them manage this time successfully. Setting aside intentional time to relax, building in scheduled study breaks, and planning regular check-ins to talk about how they're feeling can all make a meaningful difference. Some students may also benefit from having a journal to process their thoughts and concerns.

Middle school is both a rewarding and challenging time, and developing resilience during moments like these is an important part of your student's growth.

HIGH SCHOOL WITH BRANDY BURKETT



Hello High School Families! There is a lot to highlight this month but I want to start by acknowledging our IB Students and Teacher of the Month. In the month of April we recognize people who are **Balanced**.

The IB considers us to be balanced when we understand the importance of balancing different aspects of our lives (intellectual, physical, and emotional) to achieve well-being for ourselves and others. We recognize our interdependence with other people and with the world in which we live.

This month, we are recognizing freshman **Saba Musila**! Saba just returned from a service trip in Central America, and she is also recognized in this month's newsletter for her commitment to the Wassmuth Center Youth Leadership program. She balances her outside activities and commitments while working toward a 4.0 GPA. Saba was nominated by several of her teachers. Mrs. Alley shared, "Saba is a member of student council. She balances life, extracurriculars, and school, and is a high achiever." Mr. Falconer echoed Mrs. Alley's words, and Mrs. Travis was so impressed by her through their travels and service in Guatemala and Belize. Thank you, Saba for being such a great example!



We would also like to recognize CP Junior, **Lily Pajak**! Lily is working through two tracks in the Career-related Programme, Med Sciences and Outdoor Education. She balances her school work, extracurriculars, and athletics with grace. Scout Sorcic, her CP teacher remarked, "Lily does an incredible job being a balanced student. Between soccer practice and homework, various social groups and dual credit classes, Lily is able to balance it all and make it look effortless. Lily asks for help when she needs it, supports peers when she can, and is a really communicative student. I have no doubt that her Google Calendar is full of color and commitments, but with her quality time management, she makes it all work." Way to go, Lily!



Finally, we would like to shout out 9/10 teacher **Emily Flores** for being most balanced! Mrs. Flores was nominated overwhelmingly for this award by her students. Freshman Sage



Birdsall shared, "Ms. Flores is super nice and funny but also strict when she needs to be. She balances the two just right which is why I love her! I think she definitely deserves this award!" Freshman Ninon Bregaint said, "I nominate Mrs. Flores because she has so many things to figure out and she has a lot of grading to do basically ALL the time for Lifetime Sports and Health, and it is pretty fascinating how she manages to balance the tasks and still be done with everything on time."

High School continued...

Lastly, freshman Vivian Chetwood shared, “Mrs. Flores is the most IB of all the teachers! Not only does she teach the best classes ever that benefit us not only as students but as people! Mrs. Flores is always there to help us and support us in whatever we need. I also appreciate how she BALANCES work with fun. She gives us breaks during class but also lets us know when we need to focus! I love her so much she is so perfect and awesome and lovely and wonderful and supportive, and kind, and cool, and smart!” I was not able to include all of the comments here but Mrs. Flores, you are loved and appreciated!

Beyond the Classroom

Our students have also had the opportunity to participate in some incredible trips and adventures this month.

First, Mrs. Travis joined the non-profit Vivid Roots for an impact trip to Central America. This is what she had to share about this great experience: “Over Spring Break, four amazing young women, a couple of parents, and I traveled to Guatemala and Belize to learn about the culture and history of the Mayan people, work in an incredible school, and adventure to waterfalls, limestone canyons, jungles, and temples. While the sights were epic, the most rewarding part of the trip was our time in Casa Guatemala, an inspiring rural school that until two weeks ago was only accessible by boat via the beautiful Rio Dulce. The kids who attend this school are gifted

with an education in a world where most people discontinue their schooling at age 10! We loved playing sports, painting, and just laughing with the children- it’s surprising how much you can communicate with very few words and a little risk-taking! What an incredible experience! (And yes, the monkeys, ancient temple ruins, delicious food, jungle strolls, and warm sunshine didn’t hurt!)

Keep this Spring Break Adventure on your radar for next year because we have a new, incredible South American country in our sights!” Thank you to Mrs. Travis and to the guys at Vivid Roots for creating this amazing opportunity for our students.

Mr. Lunt also spent his Spring Break on an annual educational trip to Washington D.C. with a group of 12 students. They had the opportunity to visit many meaningful and historical sights, including the Lincoln Memorial, the F.D.R Memorial, the U.S. Capitol, the M.L.K Memorial, the U.S. Supreme Court, Arlington National Cemetery and Mount Vernon.

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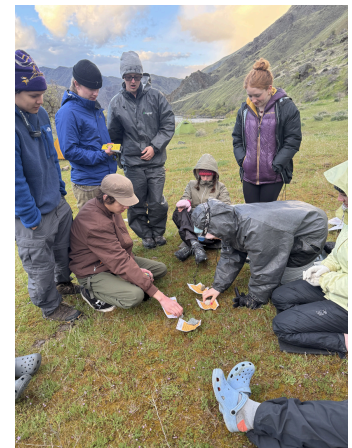


One of the most powerful moments of the trip was their visit to the Holocaust Museum, seen at the left. They were able to hear a survivor share her moving story of enduring the Holocaust as a Kindergarten student.

Thank you Mr. Lunt for providing this opportunity for students each year!

Most recently, **Scout Sorcic**, CP teacher and Coordinator, and **Megan Furois**, Program Coordinator for Sage Expeditions, led an unforgettable trip through Hells Canyon with our CP Outdoor Education Students and myself. This trip was equal parts adventure and education as students were given the opportunity to apply their learned skills in the Idaho backcountry. We hiked approximately 15 miles over 4 days, through the gorgeous canyon.

Students carried all of their own gear and supplies and demonstrated their skills by filtering all of our water, cooking all of the meals, setting up and breaking down camp daily, as well as delivering lessons to our group related to Hells Canyon topics of their choice. Huge shout out to Scout and Megan for making it all happen!



EXPEDITIONS

It's a busy time of year for Sage Expeditions! In the month of April alone, **Sage Boise will have 200+ students in the field** on outdoor learning adventures!

To highlight one of these awesome opportunities, 12 students from both Boise and Middleton got to spend a 3-day weekend in the City of Rocks National Monument with outdoor leaders **Mr. Mercer and Mr. Cavanagh** rock climbing and camping. Here are the highlights Mr. Mercer had to share about this super unique and exciting outdoor adventure:



We set out Friday for a weekend adventure among the towering granite spires of City of Rocks National Reserve and Castle Rocks State Park. They met their guides and wasted no time hiking to the Warrior rock for our first climbs of the trip. With chalk bags filled with hand warmers and a mix of excitement and nerves, students pushed themselves up their first routes of the trip, encouraging each other on from below.

Saturday morning brought a sharp reminder of the desert cold. Temperatures in the low 20s left water bottles frozen solid and crawling out of sleeping bags a true test of willpower. Fortunately, Mr. Cavanagh's famous dutch oven breakfast scramble warmed both hands and spirits, fueling the group for another full day of climbing.



Back at Castle Rocks, students spent the morning tackling new challenges at the Fenceline climbing area, building confidence with each climb and celebrating every hard-earned success. In the afternoon, the group traded harnesses for swimsuits and headed to Durfee Hot Springs. Students splashed, played, and

soaked in the warm water, a perfect contrast to the chilly morning.

That evening, everyone returned to camp for dinner followed by games of hide-and-seek, s'mores, and more laughter around the fire. By then, the group had grown closer, bonded by shared challenges, and accomplishments on the rock.



On Sunday, the climbers packed up camp and began the journey home, making one final stop at Malad Gorge State Park. Standing above the rushing water, students took in the view and reflected on a weekend filled with adventure, perseverance, and unforgettable memories. Thank you to all campers, climbers, and our awesome outdoor leaders for trusting each other and spending such an unforgettable weekend in the amazing Idaho outdoors.

ENRICHMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Summer ESage: Enroll your rising K-6th grade student for an exciting summer full of fun and adventure. Just like our full-day Friday program during the year, kids stay active and engaged with daily activities. Summertime includes trips to local pools & swimming holes, and play both indoors and out. It's also a good time to enjoy hiking and exploring, either on local trails or just around town, as well as BBQ's and s'mores! ***We currently have limited availability for 2nd-6th grade, with a waitlist for Kindergarten & 1st graders.***



Adventure ESage Camps for Middle School Students: New this summer, this is a Summer camp for students in grades 6-8 in the 2026/27 school year. Camp will be Mon/Wed, Tues/Thur, or all 4 days for 2 weeks (June 8-11 & July 13-16). Students can sign up for the Cultural Track on Mon/Wed, the Outdoor track on Tues/Thur, or both. The Cultural Mon/Wed group will focus on art, science, and enrichment through hands-on experiences and local exploration. The Outdoor Tues/Thur group will focus on exploration and physical adventure around Boise.

The cost is only \$110/week for one track (2 days/week) or \$185/week for both (4 days/week). Discounts are available for siblings of Summer ESage students or families with multiple students attending camp together. Sign your middle school student up for a week or two of fun, adventure, and exploration!

Enroll in both programs on our [website](#), or email esage@sageintl.org with any questions. Enrolling in Esage for summer or camps gives you priority for fall registration!

PTO

First Friday Playdate - May 1st, 11:00 - 2:00 PM at MK Nature Center. Pack a picnic lunch and meet your friends at the MK Nature Center for a scavenger hunt & nature walk, then playtime afterward at KA Municipal Park.

Sage Family Campout - May 15-17 at Elks Flat Campground! Stay one night or both. With hikes and hot springs close by, you can join a planned activity connecting with the Sage community or find your own adventure. Space is limited, so don't wait! [Sign up today.](#)

PYP Family Color Dance - May 21st, 5:30-7:30PM. Get ready for a night full of music, laughter, and COLOR! Bring the family, wear your grade color, and join us for an unforgettable evening where the play yard comes alive with vibrant fun.

Teacher Meals May 7 - The PTO will be providing a meal for teachers during conferences. If you'd like to donate to support them during these long workdays, you can [donate here](#).

Check out their latest [Newsletter](#) for more info!

