



SAGE INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL BOISE NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 21, 2026



Nurse Natalie has partnered with **Albertsons Pharmacy** to host a **vaccine clinic** in the Sage library during our October conferences. A number of vaccines will be available in addition to Flu and COVID-19. You can find more information [HERE](#).



We are enrolling! We have seats available in Grades 6-10 and would love for you to share this opportunity with anyone you think would benefit from a Sage education. You can [share our website](#) with them for more information!



School Photos were taken of all students this week and pre-ordering is now closed. In about a month, each student will receive a photo packet to take home. If you pre-ordered prints, the packet will include your order. If you did not pre-order, it will include a photo proof and information about how to place an order at that time. If your student missed photo day, retakes will be on November 3.



We maintain a food pantry with snacks for students who need them, and families are welcome to donate to the food pantry via our [Amazon Wishlist](#). We are currently very low on lunch items such as mac & cheese and ramen cups. Our list also includes community supplies as well and we are always looking for donated items. Thank you for your support!



All families were emailed the [2026-27 Student-Parent Handbook](#). We ask that you review it in its entirety and then discuss the last two pages with your student(s). Once you've done so, please complete the [Acknowledgement Form](#) for each of your Sage Students. Completion of the Acknowledgement Form is due September 24, 2026.

**CHECK OUT OUR
WEBSITE AND FIND US
ON SOCIAL MEDIA!**



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

September 28 - October 2: FALL BREAK!

October 15-16, 23: PYP (K-5) Conferences

October 22-23: Secondary (6-12) Conferences

[2026-27 Academic Calendar](#)

FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, EMILY DOWNEY



Dear Sage families and staff,

Welcome to the 2026-2027 school year! Seeing our classrooms and hallways come alive with energy, curiosity, laughter, and learning is inspiring. It is a joy to watch our students build relationships and reconnect with their Sage community. There is much to look forward to!

I'm Emily Downey, and I have the honor of serving as Executive Director of the Sage International Network of Schools. During 12 years as a Sage parent, board member, Chief Financial and Operating Officer, and Executive Director, my appreciation for Sage continues to grow. I see our mission come to life through the dedication of our staff and our partnership with families.

I am profoundly grateful for the impact Sage has had on my family. My three sons graduated from Sage with their International Baccalaureate Diplomas, thrived in college and now enjoy meaningful careers. The rigorous, supportive, and globally minded education they received prepared them for that success. Their experiences stand as a powerful testament to the lasting power of a Sage education, and the extraordinary opportunity we provide as a free, public charter school.

An IB education at Sage prepares students for far more than academic success. It teaches them to think critically, ask thoughtful questions, consider perspectives beyond their own, take meaningful risks, and contribute to the world around them. This would not be possible without our exceptional educators and staff. Their talent, care, and belief in every child are at the heart of what makes Sage so special. They inspire me, and I hope you feel the difference they make each day.

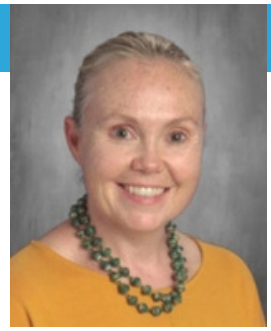
Our commitment to exceptional learning never stands still. Strong learning in reading, writing, and mathematics remains central to our work. We want every student to experience joyful, challenging learning, and to know they are seen, supported, and capable of meaningful work.

Our families help make that vision possible every day. Two of the most powerful ways you can support your child are also among the simplest: prioritize regular attendance and make time for reading at home. Whether your child is five or fifteen, engaging with them in what they are reading, learning, and wondering about sends a powerful message that their education matters.

Thank you for choosing Sage! I am excited about what lies ahead and deeply grateful to share another school year with you. Together, we will continue building up students who are confident, compassionate, curious, and prepared to thrive.

With warmth and gratitude,

Emily Downey
Executive Director



PYP – What is the “PYP”, anyway?

At Sage, we use the terms “elementary” and “PYP” interchangeably. To kick off our year, I want to start at the beginning, aiming to answer the question, What is the PYP, anyway?

PYP stands for **Primary Years Programme**, which is the IB-specific framework for teaching and learning in grades K-5. It is not a set curriculum that dictates what is taught and mastered; rather, it is a structure and lens through which students and teachers engage with the what of teaching and learning. Ultimately, it is the foundation of how we approach and bring to life the art of both teaching and learning.

A few key components of the PYP Framework (the how and the why):

The PYP is a people-centered framework that is built on the underlying premise of agency, or the idea that all of us are capable agents of our own learning, and that students are active participants and co-creators in their learning and understanding.

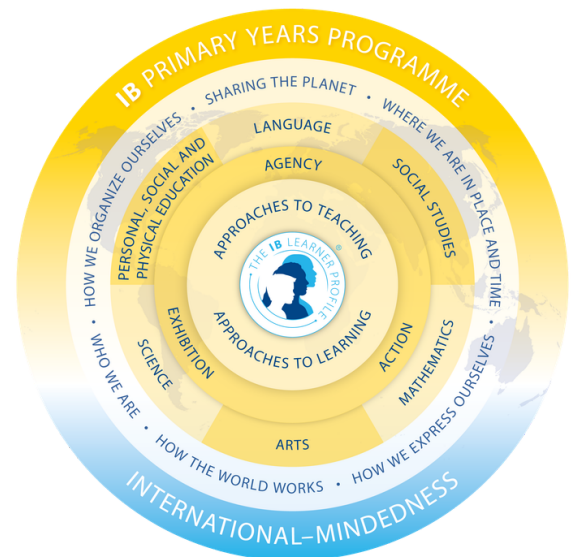
As a means of sparking that active engagement, the PYP focuses on **inquiry**, leaning on the idea that we as learners are naturally curious. The PYP encourages us to build upon our curiosity to deepen our understanding and make connections between our own experiences, the world around us, and the content knowledge that we grapple with.

This interconnected focus also highlights **transdisciplinary work** (connections within, across, and beyond the academic subjects) and **international-mindedness**, along with the key concept that learners **take action**, or use their learning to make positive changes around them. As an IB school, we believe that these big takeaways from a students' experience prepare them to meaningfully engage in the changing world around them.

What does all this mean for my child?

Learning in any PYP school is organized around six transdisciplinary **Units of Inquiry**, which fall under broad conceptual themes. These six themes, as prescribed by the IB, are:

- Who We Are
- Where We Are in Place and Time
- How We Express Ourselves
- How The World Works
- How We Organize Ourselves
- Sharing the Planet



Students delve into units under each theme each year, with the exception of Kindergarten, which focuses on four units. While the overarching themes remain the same, the content, complexity, and concepts vary from grade to

PYP continued...

grade. It is around these themes that we build in content knowledge specific to the Idaho State Standards. Revisiting themes and concepts in different ways is one of the key pieces that makes the PYP what it is and creates the environment for all the important how and why components noted above.

For example, 2nd Grade is studying their "Where We Are in Place and Time" unit of inquiry. The central idea that kids delve into is "our Earth is constantly changing", and they look at how wind and water change the Earth, incorporating all subjects into a study of the concepts of change, function, and form.



While this certainly does not cover everything about the PYP, I wanted to start the year with a window into our shared and foundational purpose. Thanks for reading along with me!

Further reading:

[PYP Overview](#), [What is an IB Education](#), and [Parent FAQs about the PYP](#)

MIDDLE SCHOOL WITH ZACH PARKER

Welcome, Middle School families! These years are full of growth, discovery, changing friendships, and even the occasional “meh” from our students. Already, we see students settling into routines, building relationships, and taking on challenges. They are thriving. We also know that some need extra support along the way. This is a natural part of learning and growing.

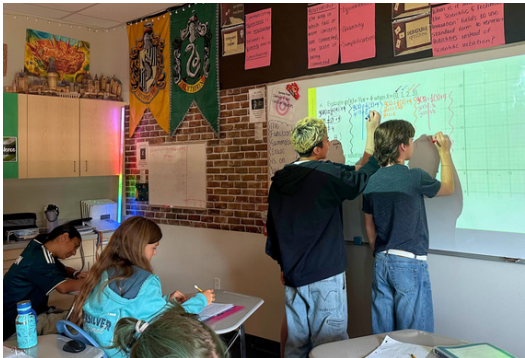
Our Middle School staff prioritizes collaborating on student progress: academically, socially, and emotionally. These conversations help us celebrate growth, identify students who may be struggling, and plan support. We are impressed by the curiosity, courage, humor, and kindness our students bring to their classrooms and community each day.

At home, I encourage you to have conversations with your student about what they are studying, what they feel proud of, and how things are going socially. Middle schoolers often have certain times and places when they are more likely to open up. My son finds his “talk time” right when I am ready for bed. Once he has had time to decompress and process his day, he opens up. I encourage you to look for that pattern with your own student.



Middle School continued...

It is also helpful to recognize what “normal” struggle looks like and when it may be time to reach out to a teacher. As new assignments, concepts, and skills are introduced, some frustration is normal. Working through challenges builds confidence and is an important



part of learning. However, if your student is consistently avoiding a class or feeling completely lost, please reach out to their teacher so we can support them together. Here, eighth-grade math students are being risk-takers and practicing function notation problems on the front whiteboard with their peers. This is an excellent example of learning through challenge and collaboration.

The same is true socially. Middle school students navigate the ups and downs of friendships while learning to set boundaries, communicate clearly, resolve disagreements, and understand different perspectives. These skills will serve them far beyond middle school. Families play an important role by talking through situations at home, asking questions, and helping students consider perspectives beyond their own while taking their concerns seriously.

Middle school is a remarkable season of change and possibility. Challenges, changing friendships, and independence are natural and beautiful parts of being a middle schooler and raising one. We feel fortunate to walk alongside your family through these years and are grateful to partner with you as your student grows and thrives!

HIGH SCHOOL WITH BRANDY BURKETT

Hello Sage Families,

The school year has been off to a fabulous start. For our first feature, I wanted to include a special announcement about our 2026-27 Student Council! We have a robust student government here at Sage and I am proud to present your Student Council Officers and Representatives:



Student Body President: Ishitha Bolleddu

My goal for the year is to make the most amount of people happy!

Student Body Vice-President: Hugh Corpstein

This year I plan to continue the progression of the Student Council to be more inclusive of all groups of students, teachers and faculty at our school. I am here along with the rest of the Student Council to make this the most engaging, fun and community-based year that we can.



High School continued...



Secretary: Maxwell Waxburg

I ran on the promise to represent the heart of Sage, its students, with the slogan: "The voices of the people make the voice of a nation."

12th Grade Representative: Robby Sikha

My goal this year as a member of the student council is to make this a memorable year for the seniors.



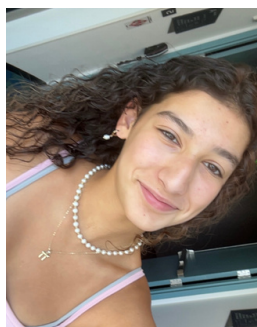
11th Grade Representative: Colton Arthur

I hope that I can make Student Council more transparent and informative to its student body.

10th Grade Representative: Saba Musila

I hope to provide more opportunities for the student body to reach out to the student council.

We are here to make decisions on behalf of other students and we need their opinions in order to serve as many people as possible.



9th Grade Representative: Miranda Lam

My goal as Representative is to make everyone feel welcome but more than that for those to feel safe and open to come to me for suggestions or any adjustments needed. I can't wait for an amazing year!

I also wanted to include a few highlights from our **Sagefort** event, which took place Sept 10th and 11th. For those unfamiliar with this fall event, teachers lead hour-long workshops that we refer to as "hacks". Students sign up for 6-8 hacks depending on their interests.

Some of the examples of the hacks we offered this year were line dancing, karaoke, yoga, drone flying, collage, and many more!

In addition to hacks, teachers develop and lead a "Fort". These Forts (inspired by our local Treefort music festival), span the two days and take a deeper dive into a project or activity.



High School continued...

Some examples of this years Forts were Creative Writing Fort, Cajun Fort, and two senior-led Forts which are pictured at right, Puppet Fort and Car Maintenance Fort. This event is designed and implemented by teachers, with the help of some awesome seniors as well.



Please keep an eye out for my weekly emails with all details related to important student and family events.

EXPEDITIONS

The Expeditions year is off to a great start on our Boise Campus! In August, we got some awesome 7th and 8th graders on the Snake River paddling to Blue Heart Springs for a Friday trip. We learned about the local geography and how the crystal-clear water from the springs travels for HUNDREDS of years underground before finding its way to the Snake - HOW COOL!



We are SO excited for our 5th Annual 8th grade camp next week. 8th grade families, please be sure to read the information sent to you over the last several weeks so your student is prepared for 3 days of awesome community building, adventuring, and outdoor activities!

Coming up: We've got our Fall Outdoor Climbing Clinic and some awesome winter activities in the planning process! Make sure to check out our [Expeditions Catalog](#) and email megan.furois@sageintl.org with any questions.

ENRICHMENT

ESage has been having fun after school and on Fridays! Recent field trips have included splashing around Mores Creek, visiting the Boise Watershed Education Center, learning about petroglyphs at Celebration Park, playing at Bodies in Motion, and lots of fun activities after school! **We have recently hired more staff members and are moving families off our waitlist!** If you would like to sign up for ESage, you can do so on our [website](#). Please email esage@sageintl.org with any questions.

Enrichment continued...

Middle School Cross Country Meets are underway, good luck to the team!

- **Wed Sep 23: [Payette Open](#):** [Kiwanis Park](#), Payette, ID. 5:00pm Girls, 5:30pm Boys [Race Information Sheet](#)
- **Thu Oct 8: [Conrad Evanow Invitational](#):** Simplot Farms, Melba, ID, Time TBD. [Race Information Sheet](#)
- **Wed Oct 14: [Winston Tilzey](#):** West Park, Nampa, ID, 4:00pm Girls, 4:30pm Boys [Race Information Sheet](#)

Ultimate Frisbee is starting and all students in 6th-12th grade are welcome! Practices are on Wednesdays at Williams Park from 3:40-5:30 and most Fridays at Ann Morrison Park from 12:00-2:00. Find more information [HERE](#).

PTO

Sage has a wonderful Parent Organization that strives to build community and support for our teachers, students, and families. We would love for you to join us at any of our events, and please reach out if you would like to volunteer to help in any way!

October 8 - Fall Festival Gathering, 4 - 7 PM at the Idaho Botanical Gardens

Pack a picnic, bring a blanket, and connect with the Sage community at the Idaho Botanical Gardens for a FREE evening with the Scarecrows. The Garden hosts a flower power happy hour from 4-7. Come join your community and see if you can find the Sage PTO Snow-crow!

October 8 - Panera Fundraiser Night, 4-8 PM at the Myrtle St location

Grab a delicious meal from Panera on your way to the Fall Festival Gathering at the Idaho Botanical Gardens (free event)! Bring your family, invite your friends, grab some dinner, and help us make a difference for Sage! The In-Cafe Event Hours are 4PM - 8PM; Online transactions are valid with FUND4U Promo Code all day at the Myrtle St. location. 25% of sales will be donated to Sage. [More details here](#).

October 9 - October First Friday Playdate, 1PM at Commons Climbing Gym

Bring the family for an afternoon of climbing, play, and community! All experience levels are welcome, and lessons are provided. If you plan on attending, please complete the [waiver](#) in advance. Cost: \$11.50–\$22, depending on gear rental.

November 3 from 6:00 - 8:00 pm- Sage International Fair

Mark your calendar for one of our most popular PTO K-12 Events of the year! Free for everyone, with Food, Friends, and performances from around the globe!

Check out our [September PTO Newsletter](#) and receive future ones by [join our mailing list HERE](#)!

