



SAGE INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 17, 2022



Reporting your student absent: Please email our Attendance Office at attendance@sageintl.org before 9:00 am on or prior to the day your student will be absent from class for all or any part of the school day. Please include their name, grade, and reason for their absence. If your student is in K-5 we also recommend you copy their teacher on the email. If the absence is due to an appointment, please submit a doctor's note to the front desk in order to mark the absence as supportable, either by dropping it off or emailing the address above. If the absence is for travel, please email your Director in advance for approval in order for it to be marked supportable.



Student Illnesses: As winter settles in it is no surprise that we are seeing more illnesses. Please watch for symptoms and keep sick students (with fever, vomiting, persistent cough, etc.) home until symptoms have been resolved for 24 hours. If you are traveling over break, we encourage you to be extra vigilant. Thank you, keeping sick students home helps keep the rest of our students and teachers healthy and in the classroom learning!



Student Tardies: We have had an increase in students arriving late in the morning. Please be sure your student arrives on campus **BY 8:00 am** so they are in their seats and ready to learn by 8:05. If they arrive after 8:05, you must email the attendance address listed above or it will not be marked supported and you will receive a phone call. If your student is in K-5, please park and walk your student in to sign them in.



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

November 21-25 - Thanksgiving Break, no school

December 7 - Info Night for Families interested in Sage

December 16 - Jan 1 - Holiday Break, no school

January 12 - Last day of first semester

January 16 - MLK Jr. Day - no school

STAY IN TOUCH

Other than this newsletter, our website is the best resource for general info about Sage. You can also find us on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter!



OUR MISSION

“ Sage International School engages students within an inclusive IB learning community, challenging all members to take risks and contribute locally and globally through open-minded inquiry. ”

A MESSAGE FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, ANDY JOHNSON:



Dear Families and Staff of the Sage International Network of Schools,

I am grateful to be part of a school community that embraces a mission of inclusion, challenge, risk-taking, open mindedness and participating fully as a citizen - both globally and locally.

Our mission is strong and compelling and together we have built two great schools that are serving families and children from something like 10 traditional districts over a pretty extensive geographical reach in southwest Idaho.

The International Baccalaureate's approach to education was first articulated in 1948 before the United Nations. In the aftermath of two cataclysmic wars, many educators felt it was time for an education that not only prepared people for whatever choice they wanted to make after secondary school, but that it should also prepare them to make sense of events, to appreciate and understand other cultures and, hopefully, be part of ensuring a better, more peaceful world.

Seventy-two years later in 2020, it became clear that our world is interconnected to a degree that most of us couldn't have imagined before the global pandemic. Not only did the pandemic spread and affect nearly every corner of the planet, it also caused massive disruptions to many things we hold/held to be true. In March of 2020 and every day since, the need for the type of learning and thinking encouraged by an International Baccalaureate education, has been made crystal clear.

As the days get shorter and darker with winter's approach, I call every member of our schools' communities to redouble our collective efforts to care for and be kind to each other, to be grateful for the people and schools in our lives and to connect with each other, other cultures, and other countries in order to seek understanding and to pursue the common good.

All the best, Andy

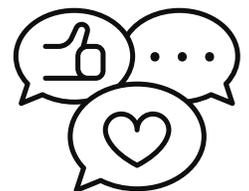
WE WANT YOUR FEEDBACK!



The **2022-23 Student-Parent handbook** can be found [here](#). If you haven't already done so, please review it with your student and then complete the [acknowledgement form found here](#).

We are seeking parent and family input on our **Family Engagement Plan** at Sage. This is a requirement for some of the federal funding we receive as a public school. But more importantly, it's an opportunity for us to get input from you, the families of our students, about how we'll work together to support your students. We'd really appreciate it if you'd look at the draft

[Family Engagement Plan](#), and then take some time to give us feedback through [this online survey](#) or by emailing emily.boles@sageintl.org. We'd love to hear from you by November 27.



ASHLEY RIVERS, K-7 SCHOOL COUNSELOR



Hi Sage Families,

We are entering my favorite holiday season! I love the excuse to focus on gratitude. Gratitude has been shown to increase feelings of happiness, social connection, mental health, and physical health, while decreasing feelings of depression. With these amazing benefits, how can we as a community add more gratefulness in our everyday lives?

Consider some of the following ideas to put into practice in your home. To orient your focus toward positive aspects of life, consider a brief journaling exercise to write down three things that went well each day, and to include a cause for each of the 3 things reflected upon. This typically takes less than 5 minutes but has been shown to have a great impact on increasing feelings of happiness and decreasing feelings of depression. This could even become a dinnertime reflection as a family. Consider implementing it as “Three Things Thursday” when each family shares about the 3 things that went well that day.

To dive into gratitude itself, consider spending some time reflecting on someone who has been especially kind to you and has not been properly thanked. Write a letter or card to that person to express your gratefulness about their kindness. Consider mailing or delivering the letter or card. Note that in research studies, this exercise was shown to improve happiness even if the letter was not shared with the person.

Consider taking a walk as a family and each member taking a turn sharing about something on the walk that person is grateful for. Getting into a focus on the present moment can help calm our racing thoughts that can sometimes get stuck in past issues or worry about potential future situations. Bringing attention to the present moment, being outdoors, and connecting with loved ones can all add benefits to the practice of selecting things that we are grateful for.

I hope you and your family enjoy this season. I am thankful for all of you, for the chance to work with your kiddos, and for this wonderful community.

Sincerely,
Ashley Rivers and Krystin Newman



BRITTANY MEDUNA, 8-12 SCHOOL COUNSELOR

It is College Application season and Sage seniors are deep in this process. This means that acceptance letters will start trickling in and we want to celebrate our seniors! If you receive word of a college acceptance that you wish to celebrate, please reach out to Brittany Meduna or Brandy Burkett and we would love to feature your Sage student in our newsletter!

Is your student looking for scholarships? Check out the [Next Steps Scholarship Listing](#)! This is a great resource for Idaho-specific and national scholarship opportunities. Have questions about financial aid? Check out this [resource](#) that can help you navigate the financial aid process. If you have additional questions or need any assistance, contact Brittany Meduna.

Idaho State Department of Education Advanced Opportunities: If your 7-12th grade student is interested in taking some dual-credit or curriculum overload courses that Sage does not offer, there may be funding through the State Department of Education available to you. Idaho State Department of Education staff will be providing free webinars to share information about Advanced Opportunities and how to navigate the program! Join them to learn more about the opportunities available to students through Advanced Opportunities on **January 17th at 6:30 pm**. You can [Register Here](#).

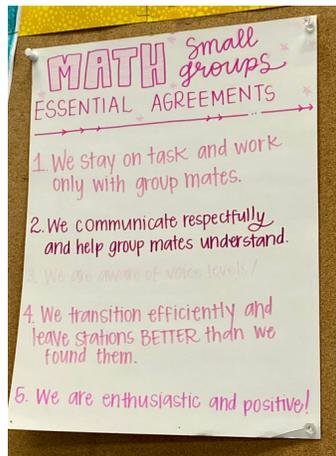
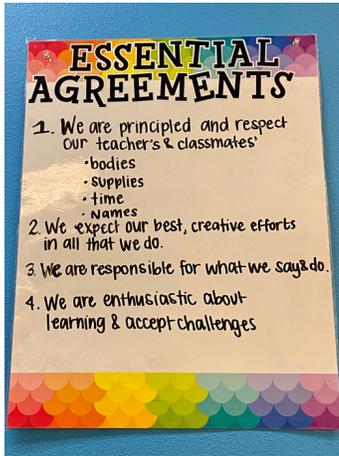
PYP WITH DIRECTOR KATE HUNTER



What is the PYP?

The Learning Community and Essential Agreements

As we look ahead to Thanksgiving, we want to recognize the importance of the Learning Community as a key component of the PYP Framework. As a learning community, we set essential agreements together.



These agreements engage us beyond simply complying with school rules; rather, they create the culture in which we all live and learn at school. Perhaps most importantly, they aim to develop students' sense of individual and collective agency, and they put students in the driver's seat of their own education.

To the left are some sample essential agreements that students and staff have created around the school.

Classroom Spotlight, Performing Arts: Our "specials" classes (Visual Arts, Performing Arts, French, Literacy Lab, and Physical Education) engage students in so many valuable and enriching ways. Ms. T, in Performing Arts, recently led our 5th graders in Revolutionary War performances, wherein students explored 5th-grade social studies standards through theatre. This transdisciplinary approach is at the heart of the IB, and we are thankful for Ms. T's expertise in this area.



Last week 2nd-grade students planned, organized, and implemented a flower sale to benefit local non-profits! They sold carnations and raised over \$800 to donate to Zoo Boise, the Idaho botanical gardens, and humane society. Thank you to all of you who supported this great effort!



Gratitude

We are most grateful for our students and their families.
Thank you for trusting us with your children.

MIDDLE SCHOOL WITH ZACH PARKER



All,

I want to provide a broad overview of where we have been and where we are headed over the next month. On our one Friday school this year the Middle School team decided to try something new: hosting our first "Career Day". Throughout the day over two dozen community members presented their personal career stories as well as engaged students in thinking about their choices and the future. I am sharing an email I received unsolicited from a student, I hope and feel this characterizes the experience that most students had:

"Hi! I just wanted to let you know that I found Career Day very helpful. I am being completely honest right now. It really got me thinking about my future but not in a bad way, where I am scared. In a good way where I start thinking about the possible things I find interesting, what I want to major in, and possibly future jobs I haven't thought about before. We should definitely do Career Day again in future years."

Today the Middle School held our **5th Annual Day of Gratitude**. Students and staff worked side-by-side in going out into our school and surrounding community to show gratitude. Additionally, a luncheon was hosted for all secondary students. This is a wonderful opportunity for staff and students to engage with one another on a different level, to sit and share stories, joke and share the more individual sides of who we all are.



Finally, a look ahead. When returning from Thanksgiving Break, there will be roughly four weeks of classes to wrap up the first semester. This obviously includes a series of summatives. I encourage you and your students to review the WAAG you receive each Friday. I encourage you to make a study plan at home. Here are some tips:

- For every 35-45 minutes of work, a student should take a five-minute break, such as walking around the block or stretching.
- If your student is feeling the pressure of semester finals, have a conversation that focuses on your students' concerns, stressors, and pinch points.
- Help your student identify what is within their control and what isn't.
- Work with your student to have them identify victories of the day, regardless of size and scope.



Ultimately, the goal is to help provide a space that allows your student to be successful by intentionally developing a plan that provides focus and balance! We are here to help, reach out if you need it.

HIGH SCHOOL WITH DIRECTOR BRANDY BURKETT



Our Seniors are signing up for **IB exams** that will take place at the end of the year, and Coordinators have been working hard to meet the deadlines. Early applications for most colleges and universities are now due! Our CP/DP faculty and high school counselor have been busy writing letters of recommendation while seniors are rushing to get their apps in. This is an exciting time for our seniors!

On October 31st we hosted our **Fall Festival** for PYP students! Senior Ben Siegenthaler took the lead this year and planned an amazing event including games, face painting, and a "trunk or treat". Events like this are one of our favorite parts of being a K-12 school!



Recently Mr. Falconer lead a group of students on a service Friday with **Global Gardens** to contribute to their CAS (creativity, activity, service) requirement. These students



helped at the Pond Street farm by pulling onions and preparing the garden for winter. Global Gardens is a local organization that supports beginning farmers from diverse backgrounds by providing access to land, training, and access to sell at area markets.

ENROLLMENT



Tell your Friends!

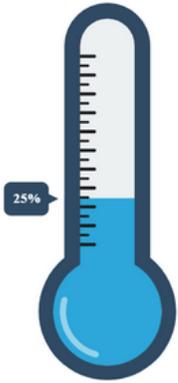
We have immediate openings in some grade levels, and are getting close to lottery season! Our best marketing tool is YOU...our satisfied Sage parents. There are more school choices than ever in the Treasure Valley, and you can help us by: talking about Sage with your friends and family, liking and sharing social media posts, and taking part in school activities. They can learn more on our website, and please invite them to join us for an Information Nights coming up on December 7th, January 10th, or February 8th.

We are creating a "Parent Ambassador" team to welcome new families. If you are interested in finding out more and possibly being a part of the team, please fill out this form [here!](#)

SUPPORT SAGE



GOAL: \$100,000



Thank you to the 57 generous supporters who have donated so far this year to **Mind the Gap!** We are at about \$25,000 of our \$100,000 goal, and hope to reach \$50,000 by halfway through the year at the end of December. We need your help to get there!

Mind the Gap is our annual fundraising campaign where we ask our community to help us bridge the gap between what we receive in funding as a public charter school, and what our actual operating costs are. We do not receive ANY local tax dollars like the Boise School District, and rely on our community to play an important part in supporting our great school. Our goal is 100% participation of some kind, whether it's \$10 or \$1,000! You can find out more [here](#) thank you!

- **AMAZON SMILE** - As you do your holiday shopping, keep in mind that by designating Sage as your Amazon smile charity you can make a donation to us for FREE with every purchase! Find out more about the program [here](#).



- **Fred Meyer** also has a similar program called [Community Rewards](#) if you participate in their rewards program, earn free money for Sage!

- THANK YOU to everyone who has donated to our food pantry and community supplies either through our Amazon Wishlist or by dropping items off. Our students appreciate your help!

ENRICHMENT

Bogus Basin Life Sports Program 2023

Come and join us for Bogus Basin's fantastic "Life Sports" program. In this three-week enrichment program offered through Sage, your child will complete a group lesson and receive a lift ticket and equipment rental for the day. After their 1.5 hour lesson, they will have 2.5 hours of ski time to practice their skills. Sage provides a ride from Sage to Bogus Basin and back, along with limited supervision. You can find more info [here](#).



When: January 20th and January 27th

Cost: \$135 for 2-week session with Lessons and

Who: Students in grades 3 and up

Rentals, \$115 for 2-week session with Lessons Only

Current Clubs at Sage - click for more information:

[Board Game Club 9th-12th grade](#)

[Green Club 9th-12th grade](#)

[D & D Club 7th grade](#)

[High School Student Council 9th-12th grade](#)

[D & D Club \(Bard's Tavern\) 8th grade](#)

[National Beta Club 9th-12th grade](#)

[Dungeons & Dragon Club 11th grade](#)

[Rising Stars K-11th grade](#)

[Dance Committee 9th-12th grade](#)

[Soccer Shots Kinder-2nd grade](#)

[French Club 9-12th grade](#)

[Yearbook Club 6th-12th grade](#)

[Girls on the Run 3rd-5th grade](#)



Community Opportunities - You can find other activities offered for all ages in our community [here](#)! If you would like to add something, please email info@sageintl.org.