



THE SAGE SCHOOL PROFILE



Revolutionizing Education for Adolescence in the Modern World

The Origin

The Sage School was founded by teachers in 2009 to create and sustain a learning environment which reflects scientific research on the adolescent brain. The Sage School has 70 students in grades 6-12 taught by 15 faculty & staff, and is an Accredited Member of in the Northwest Association of Independent Schools (NWAIS).

The Mission

We honor adolescence as a critical developmental window for learning essential academic, cognitive, social, and emotional skills.

The Sage School creates a thriving environment for students through a challenging, authentic curriculum centered on human ecology and engaging experiences designed specifically to promote self-awareness, community responsibility, and a sense of place.

College Acceptances

Our list of acceptances includes:

Bates College
Chapman University
Colby College
Davidson College
Denver University
Fort Lewis College
Franklin & Marshall College
Gonzaga University
Ithaca College
Middlebury College
Northeastern University
Occidental College
Oregon State University
Prescott College
Pacific Northwest College of Art
Quest University
Rhode Island School of Design
Sarah Lawrence College
University of Amsterdam
University of Colorado—Boulder
University of Oregon
University of Redlands
University of Utah
University of Puget Sound
Western Washington University
Willamette University

Why Sage? A Needed Focus on Adolescence



Adolescence is a critical developmental window—socially, physically, emotionally, academically, and cognitively. Modern middle and high schools were designed at time when little was known about this vital period. We have since learned that adolescence is one of the most concentrated and active

periods of identity construction during one's life, comparable in growth to the first three years of life. At Sage, we organize students into developmentally appropriate groupings and design the curriculum around the students' natural questions and needs as they mature towards adulthood. Sage adolescents actively construct understandings, while teachers mentor them towards becoming their best selves—academically and otherwise. The adolescent journey, which at Sage is one of rigor and joy, requires the students to understand themselves, their community, and their environment. The study of Human Ecology defines that exploration.

A Focus on Human Ecology

Our central curricular pillar is Human Ecology—the study of relationships between humans and their natural, built, and social environments. It is a whole-systems, interdisciplinary, project-based approach that persistently and deeply explores the complex relationships between humans and the world in which we live. Within these parameters, students are offered choice in how they engage those topics. Our daily schedule, weekly work, and extended Field Studies Program give students authentic and meaningful experiences that are rich in historical and scientific content.

Authentic Curriculum: Self-Awareness

The Sage School creates a safe place where all students can be curious, vulnerable, and find their voice and purpose within the school and greater community. Since adolescents are constructing their identity, it is critical that students develop realistic understandings of themselves. From goal-setting to student-led conferences to personal autonomy, Sage creates multiple platforms for students to develop the skill of self-awareness. The Sage curriculum guides these understandings, from a study of family history to understanding global ideas. Both content and process guide students towards a richer awareness of self.

Graduation Requirements

The Sage School uses the traditional “Carnegie Unit” system to measure students’ successful completion of courses. One Credit is the equivalent of 120 hours spent in coursework throughout a year. Our program is unique and demanding. Students do not have free periods or study halls. Students can design Independent Studies on Friday afternoons. As a result of these school-wide commitments, students will gain the following credits for a Sage School Diploma:

English	4
Math	4
Spanish	4
Social Science/History	4
Science	4
Technology, Art, Design	1
Field Studies	4
Wellness	2
Community Service	2
Creativity Workshop/	2
Independent Study	

This yields a total of 31 credits in a breadth of fields and experiences, insuring a well-rounded and prepared graduate.

Assessment

The Sage School uses an Integrated Assessment System which focuses on maximizing student growth in all areas of our mission. It includes traditional assessments (tests, etc), performance assessments on complex tasks such as a Farm to Table Feast, standardized measures such as National History Day participation, and emphasis on student’s social and emotional growth. All of this is done through extensive narrative comments. The school eschews grades and rankings, while highlighting quality work. Students also take part in various national assessments ranging from the (P)SAT and ACT to the OPIc test in Spanish. Sage students outperform national and state SAT averages.

The Structure

Academic Calendar

The Sage School operates on a trimester system. School begins just after Labor Day, and ends in the second week in June.

Athletics

While The Sage School does not have an athletic program, students participate widely in valley sports and athletic programs.

Contact

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Authentic Curriculum: Community Responsibility

Schools are often isolated places, set apart from the rest of the community. The Sage School is enmeshed in the Wood River Valley. Students will perform nearly 6,000 hours of service this year. Students develop longer-term commitments to non-profits and the issues they serve. Students learn from Fish and Game officers, present information to City Councils, create displays for the Center of the Arts, and produce plays with theater professionals. First and foremost, however, students own their responsibility in constructing a healthy community within the walls of The Sage School. From there, we can explore meaningfully.

Authentic Curriculum: A Sense of Place

The Sage School considers the 300 mile radius surrounding the school our extended campus. Through our daily coursework, our weekly community action, and our 5 weeks of Field Studies each year, we explore our region, addressing the issues and taking advantage of the opportunities unique to the Intermountain West. From a purposeful and deep understanding of place, students understand the unique characteristics of the human and physical landscape, develop a sense of how place informs their identity, and, ultimately, gain the skills to seek a place in the world where they will have the greatest impact.

Putting it all together: How will Sage students be ready for college?

Long term projects. Creativity. Service. Standardized test success.
 Mentoring younger children. Working with professionals in their field.
 Communication skills. Systems thinking. Quality production.
 Environmental ethic. Time management. Design thinking. Problem solving. Interdisciplinary connections. Active constructors of knowledge.
 Global Citizens. Self Aware. Socially Responsible.

These are the types of skills, habits, and activities that Sage School students spent nearly 10,000 hours engaging in. They are the skills of college, of citizenship, and of leadership. Sage students are different than typical 18-year-olds. They have had a wealth of experiences, knowledge, and connections—both intellectual and social—that have led them to deeper understandings of themselves and the world around them. They come ready to work, ready to learn, ready to serve, and ready to make an impact.

