FORGE INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

July 2021 Newsletter

A NOTE FROM OUR NEW NETWORK EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, ANDY JOHNSON:

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

Thank you for your graciousness and your belief in our schools. Our uppermost goal is to ensure our schools are safe, in all of the permutations of that word, so that all of our students can learn and grow. We are very proud of the work we did at Forge and Sage to ensure we served our communities during the 20-21 school year. We are striving for even more growth, learning and connection in the 21-22 school year.

I have spent quite a bit of time looking at and thinking about the results our students obtained at both campuses. I can report to you that our students learned and grew over the past year in ways we might not have expected back in August of 2020. That is certainly a testament to the dedication, skill and persistence of our students, teachers, staff, and parents. Well done!

I do want to make a special note of the results obtained in the Diploma Programme and Career-related Certificate program by the Class of 2021 at Sage International School. Not only did a (for Sage) record number of students attempt the full Diploma and full Certificate, but they had outstanding, even world-class results. An astounding 92% of Diploma candidates earned the full Diploma and 100% of Career-related Certificate candidates earned the full certificate. Not only does this result in students who are well prepared for college and career; but also many DP students will take with them up to 30 college credits (the equivalent of one year of college!) and CP students some college credit plus the experience of a full internship. Forge will also offer the Diploma Programme and Career-related Program to its 11th and 12th Graders.

Excellent academic outcomes, like the ones earned by Sage's Seniors this year, I believe, are founded in reading. Our children should be active, strong readers. I encourage you all to regularly read to and with your children - no matter what age they are.

In support of reading at Forge, we are redoubling our efforts to ensure excellent reading outcomes by adding a stronger foundational reading curriculum and adding a second reading specialist to the Forge staff. For Sage, we are increasing our Response to Intervention (RTI) position to help with direct intervention and education assistants to provide for flexible, small groups.

In other exciting developments, we are pushing ahead with some classroom expansion and adjustment projects at Sage to ensure we have the right sort of spaces for our students and teachers. You will also notice our installation of school zone traffic signals to provide for a safer environment for our students. At Forge, we are working on expanding our outdoor play space. Over the summer we added tetherball poles and picnic tables. And, we are currently working with contractors to determine if we can install a soccer field this summer and, potentially, an asphalted space where children will be able to play basketball, four square and other games.

Till August!

All the best,

Andy Johnson
Executive Director, Sage International Network of Schools

A NOTE FROM OUR NEW HEAD OF SCHOOL, DARCI STELZNER:

Dear Forge Families,

It is with great honor and excitement that I write this welcome letter as the new Head of School at Forge International. My name is Darci Stelzner and I am going into my 20th year in education. A Montana native, I graduated as a Bobcat prior to moving to Idaho to begin my teaching career in a traditional public school. After spending 12 years in a neighboring large school district, I found myself looking for something different; rigorous and outside of the box of a traditional system. When I began teaching at Sage International School of Boise, I knew I had found where I belong, professionally. The Sage Network had plans to open a new school in a rural setting and, in the fall of 2019, I helped open Forge International School.

I am pleased to welcome you to the 2021-2022 school year. I would like to extend a special welcome to all of the new families joining our learning community this year and a warm welcome back to our returning families! Our goal at Forge is to work together to provide our students with a rich learning environment. As educators, we will discover how each child learns in order to differentiate our instruction to support diverse learning styles. In collaborative effort, we want children to thrive in all ways possible. My hope is children will love school and nurture a learning environment that is positive, safe, warm, caring, and a fun place to grow! Student success is attributed to the partnership and relationships we build within our community.

As we plan for a new academic year, our focus will ensure that every child, every day, is finding a way to feel connected, being challenged by new learning experiences, and know they have someone to trust. The past two academic years have challenged students, staff, and parents worldwide to find their footing to continue learning while connecting in new ways. We will continue connecting with all in our third year as a learning community.

Our International Baccalaureate progress is as follows:

- Our PYP (K-5) will be going through the authorization process in the spring. Our new PYP Coordinator, Nora Strauch, will lead the way with support from our teachers.
- Our MYP (grades 6-10) is officially a candidate school and our new MYP Coordinator, Lisa Marshall, will lead the effort next year when we have grade 10 to apply for authorization.
- Until we are authorized, we will refer to ourselves as an 'IB Candidate School.' Our goal is to become fully authorized in all four IB programs (PYP, MYP, DP, CP). To find out more about the IB, please refer to the link above.

Important Upcoming Dates:
July 26- Kindergarten screening; 10:00-2:00
August 2- Teachers are back to work!
August 5 from 1:00-4:00- Meet the Teacher/Supply Drop Off
August 9- First day for students! (6-9 begins at 8:20, K-5 begins at 8:30)
September 6- No School (Labor Day)
September 10- Friday school. This is our only Friday school day for the year.
Please find the full 2021-2022 academic calendar HERE on our website under the 'calendar' tab.

Kind regards,
Darci Stelzner, Ed.S.
Head of School, Forge International School

Below are the start and end times of the school day for the 2021-2022 School Year, Monday - Thursday:

- K-3rd: 8:30 am - 3:50 pm
- 4th-5th: 8:30 am - 3:55 pm
- 6th-9th: 8:20 am - 4 pm

STAY CONNECTED!

Other than school- wide emails and newsletters, our website is the best resource for general info about Forge. You can also find us on Facebook and Instagram!

SCHOOL SUPPLY LISTS

It's that time of year! Please see the links below for lists of the recommended supplies for students in the various grades. Please know that these are based on our calculations of what each student will need in order to get them through the school year.

Supply drop-off will be on **August 5th** from 1:00-4:00 pm at Forge, so please come by to say hello and meet your teacher(s) for the upcoming school year!

SUPPLIES FOR KINDERGARTEN - 5TH

SUPPLIES FOR 6TH - 9TH

2021-22 PARENT/STUDENT HANDBOOK

We look forward to a new school year with your student, and a strong family-school partnership provides the most successful and safest experience for our students. A critical component of that is clear communication and understanding. Families, please sit down with your student(s) and thoroughly read through the **Parent/Student Handbook** together. The Handbook contains imperative information about our school culture, expectations, policies, and procedures. After reading carefully with your student, please complete the following electronic Acknowledgment Form found **HERE**. Thank you for your time toward completing this important task!

Food Service/Kitchen needs a part-time kitchen assistant! Are you interested in working part-time at your child's school with this FUN bunch? Hours are Monday - Thursday from 12 - 4 pm, you can find more info **HERE**!

FORGEPTO

Forge has such an amazing community of parents! You can follow along with what's happening with our PTO or just ask general questions on their Facebook page **HERE**. Also, you can **sign up for their mailing list** to receive important information about PTO news and events. More to come in our next newsletter, stay tuned!

FORGE EXPEDITIONS

We are excited to announce our official first full year of **Forge Expeditions Outdoor Education**! This year we hope to create affordable and exciting outdoor excursions for our Forge students year round. We hope to have a trip almost every month this school year! Our trips will include activities such as day hiking, backpacking, mountain biking, excursions to Bogus, and much more. Through outdoor education, Forge students will be introduced to new outdoor activities and learn how to be stewards of the outdoors. These trips will serve mostly grades 4-9, but will grow with our program. More details about this Fall's trips will be in next month's newsletter. We are currently working on grants to gather materials and funds for our program, and owe a huge thank you to a special Forge mother for volunteering her time and expertise with the grant-writing process. If you have any inquiries about how you can support our outdoor education program please reach out to the head coordinator: Megan Furois at megan.furois@forgeintl.org