



# FORGE INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 19, 2022



**Kitchen Volunteers:** We need volunteers to help in our busy kitchen and cafeteria in both the morning and at lunch! You can sign up [here](#).



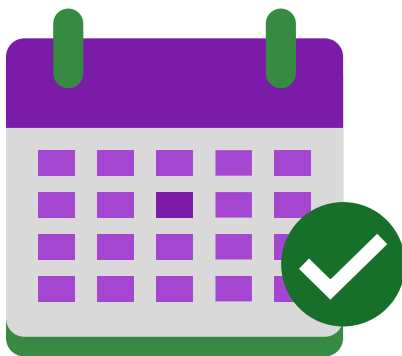
**Enrollment:** We still have openings for more students in most grade levels! We would love for you to share this opportunity with your friends and help build our Forge community. They can learn more [HERE!](#) Please also follow us on social media, any posts that you like or share helps us reach more families. Thank you!



**Hiring:** We are still looking for an Elementary Spanish Teacher and Speech Language Pathologist. You can find more info [HERE](#).



**Adverse Weather:** As we transition to fall and prepare for winter, please ensure your student arrives at school dressed for the weather. Students need to be prepared to be [outside](#) for drop-off, recesses, lunch, and pick-up in all but the most extreme weather. Dressing in layers is highly recommended!



## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

**September 26-30** - Fall Break, No School!

**Oct 6** - End of 1st Quarter

**Oct 20-21** - Parent/Teacher Conferences

**Oct 10-20** - PTO Canned Food Drive

**Oct 24-27** - Spirit Week

**November 5** - Forge PTO Harvest Party

## STAY IN TOUCH



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

## OUR MISSION

“ Forge International School engages students within an inclusive international 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 Sage and Forge International Schools,

Inclusion and inclusivity are at the heart of our mission at Sage and Forge. We are schools for all and especially those people that share our schools' mission and the locally rooted, globally minded education framework of the International Baccalaureate. As part of celebrating and recognizing the diversity of thought, culture and expression we enjoy in our country, I draw your attention to the start of Hispanic Heritage Month in the United States.

According to [hispanicheritagemonth.gov](http://hispanicheritagemonth.gov):

*"Each year, Americans observe National Hispanic Heritage Month from September 15 to October 15, by celebrating the histories, cultures and contributions of American citizens whose ancestors came from Spain, Mexico, the Caribbean and Central and South America.*

*The observation started in 1968 as Hispanic Heritage Week under President Lyndon Johnson and was expanded by President Ronald Reagan in 1988 to cover a 30-day period starting on September 15 and ending on October 15. It was enacted into law on August 17, 1988, on the approval of Public Law 100-402.*

*The day of September 15 is significant because it is the anniversary of independence for Latin American countries Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua. In addition, Mexico and Chile celebrate their independence days on September 16 and September 18, respectively. Also, Columbus Day or Día de la Raza, which is October 12, falls within this 30-day period."*

Please check out the following resources for more information on Hispanic people's contributions to the strength of our country, our democracy and our collective prosperity:

[Department of Education](#) has many great resources for learning  
[New York Public Library](#) offers reading recommendations for all ages

[Hispanic Cultural Center of Idaho](#) in Nampa

[Idaho Hispanic Chamber of Commerce](#) advertises these great local events:

- [Celebrando a México](#) at the Idaho Botanical Garden on 9/18
- [¡Fiesta! Celebrating Idaho's Hispanic Heritage](#) at the Idaho History Museum

I also encourage you to support Hispanic-owned businesses. You can find more information about these local businesses in [this directory](#).

Un Saludo!  
Andy



## A NOTE FROM HEAD OF SCHOOL, DARCI STELZNER:



### Why is the IB Different:

In Idaho, School of Choice options are plentiful. From traditional public and private schools to magnets and charters, we are SO incredibly glad you have found Forge International and all we have to offer to our learning community.

### What makes us special?

- We are fully accredited as a K-12 school. through Cognia, which brings a valuable mark of distinction recognized around the world.
- Through IB, we are fully authorized in the PYP and are a candidate school in the MYP. We will be moving forward to secure the DP program in 2023.
- We have a robust outdoor education program, athletics, and clubs.
- Our small community ensures ALL students' needs are met; academically, socially, and emotionally.

### The IB's programs are different from other curricula because they:

- encourage students of all ages to think critically and challenge assumptions
- develop independently of government and national systems, incorporating quality practice from research and our global community of schools
- encourage students of all ages to consider both local and global contexts
- develop multilingual students.

## IDAHO'S EMPOWERING PARENTS GRANT



This program provides eligible families with grant funds for use towards educational services and devices to help students recover from the learning loss caused by the Covid-19 pandemic. The Empowering Parents program is similar to 2020's Strong Families, Strong Students program. The application is NOW OPEN and the first wave of grants will be awarded to eligible families with an adjusted gross income of \$60,000 per year or less.

Details on subsequent waves of awards can be found on [their website](#) and in these FAQ docs: [English](#) & [Espanol](#) . They expect there will be a high demand for these funds, and time is of the essence for applicants in this program. [Here is a tutorial](#) on completing the application. Direct support is available at [help@withodyssey.com](mailto:help@withodyssey.com) or call 208-768-8132.

## WE'RE HIRING!

**ParaProfessional** - Paras work with students through individual, small group, and/or whole group instruction. 7.5 hrs per day, Mon-Thurs. 148-day calendar, same as students and a great job for Forge parents and grandparents! \$14-\$15/hour with a \$655 HIRING BONUS! Additional job information can be found [HERE](#).

Action is an integral part of the PYP program’s learning process and of guiding students towards international mindedness. Students taking action in the PYP also lays the groundwork for community service in the MYP and beyond. There are numerous ways that our PYP students take action as a result of their learning. Sometimes this action is a change in behavior, attitude, or thinking. Other times it is more visible in working to inspire or support others, or providing service.

On Friday, September 9th, PYP students spent the day providing service to our school and to members of our community. All PYP students showed appreciation and care for Forge by painting rocks to beautify our courtyard space and also working in our new garden beds to plant a fall garden.



Grade 3 students visited the Humane Society and Grade 4 students made cards and performed songs for residents of a local elderly care home here in Middleton. It is inspiring to see all of the ways our students are taking action and serving others!

### A visit from Mayor Rule!

We were very excited to welcome Middleton's Mayor to Forge last week! He met with some lucky PYP students and answered some great questions they had. We really appreciate the Mayor's support for Forge and for education!



# LIFE IN THE MYP

Service is an integral part of the IB, and MYP educators seek to incorporate service opportunities throughout our units. Labor Day week gave us the chance to do something unique and special on the Friday of that week, our only Friday of school all year. Forge MYP held our annual Service Day on Friday, September 9th. Staff and students from grades 6-10 traveled to the Anne Frank Idaho Human Rights Memorial in downtown Boise, where we were split into groups and taken on guided tours.



When we weren't touring, we donned plastic gloves and gathered up trash from around the greenbelt to throw away properly. After lunch at the park, 6th and 7th graders headed back to Forge to participate in a variety of service-related sessions. They made cat toys, dog treats, and thank-you cards for firefighters and police officers. 8th through 10th grades stayed in Boise with coolers full of cold water bottles to solicit donations for the Pet Adoption League of Emmett. We ended up raising more than \$370 to help the shelter!



**Outsiders Greasers vs. Socs Day** - 7th graders are reading the book *The Outsiders* and we're discussing the differences between the two groups in the novel. This **Thursday, Sept 22nd**, Students are invited to dress up as either a Greaser (leather or jean jacket, jeans, greased-back hair, boots or sneakers, etc.) or a Soc (khakis, plaid button-ups, preppy, etc.) that day.

As part of our **A Long Walk to Water** Interdisciplinary Unit we have planned several upcoming special events for the 6th and 7th graders:

- Thursday, 9/22: field trip to Picadilly to test water quality
- Thursday, 10/20: 6th Grade IDU commercial performances
- Thursday, 10/27: 6th Grade IDU board game fun

As always, you can find more news on our MYP Blog, **[Bonfire at Forge.](#)**



## SUPPORTING FORGE

We are so grateful for our wonderful Forge communities and the support you offer our great school! If you are looking to help, here are a few ways to do so:



When families are searching for a new school or are moving into a new area, many take to the internet to look for options. You can help them discover Forge by leaving a review on [Niche.com](https://www.niche.com) and [Greatschools](https://www.greatschools.org). We also appreciate you following us on social media, and liking and sharing our posts! New families and full seats mean more opportunities for ALL our forge students, and you are a key partner in that!



**Mind the Gap** is Forge International's **annual fundraising campaign** where we invite our Forge Community to support the excellent education we provide. As a School of Choice, Forge does not receive ANY funding from local tax dollars. As you may know, the state of Idaho is ranked LAST in the nation for per-pupil spending. Our students deserve better! This year our goal is \$30,000, which amounts to about \$75 per student. Please consider supporting your school with what feels comfortable for your family. We appreciate all contributions, small or big! Donations are entitled to generous tax benefits and you may receive a tax credit of up to 50%. Also, check with your employer...many area organizations such as Micron match gifts which DOUBLE your donation! **[Learn more HERE.](#)**



**Join our PTO** - you can get involved by emailing [forgepto@gmail.com](mailto:forgepto@gmail.com). You can follow their [Facebook page here](#). Here are some of our fun upcoming events:

**October 14th** - 2nd Movie Night

**October - Food Drive.** October 10th - 20th. Donations will go to the Middleton Food Bank, the grade level winner of the Canned Food Drive picks the November movie.

**October 20th & 21st** - Parent Teacher Conferences, PTO will provide Soup

**October 24th-28th** - Spirit Week



**Kitchen Volunteers:** We need volunteers to help in our busy kitchen and cafeteria in both the morning and at lunch! You can sign up [here](#).



**Forge Spirit Store:** You have until midnight tonight to order from the current [Forge Spirit Store](#)! Items will then be sent off for fulfillment with our vendor, and we will email you when items are ready to be picked up from the school. We will do another store in November to order gifts for Christmas!

# ENRICHMENT AT FORGE

## Girls Basketball registration is open!

We invite girls in 6th, 7th and 8th of all ability levels to register! The team(s) will be coached by Arin Jeffs and Jarret Ellsworth, both of whom have many years of experience both playing and coaching! It is a competitive team or teams, depending on the number of players.

- **Practices** begin on Monday, October 3rd, and are Monday-Thursday from 4:00-6:00pm.
- **Scholarships** are available
- You can find more information [HERE](#)



**Cross Country** had their first meet last week at Middleton and did great! We're so proud of our runners for their hard work. We even competed against our partner school, Sage International. Hannah Denton is a 10th grader at Forge and competed in the JV race, making her our first-ever high school athlete to compete! The fact that she joined the sport on her own and competed by herself is truly being a risk-taker and she worked hard throughout the whole race. You can learn more about Cross Country here, and below is our schedule of upcoming meets:

Wed 9/21- Payette      Thur 10/6- Meridian  
Wed 9/28- Melba      Wed 10/12- Nampa



**Competitive Snow Team:** Forge is looking for a coach for this year's **Snow Team!** Under the organization of [Bogus Basin Ski Education Foundation](#), Forge offers the opportunity for students to take part in Alpine, Nordic and Snowboard competitions. Coaches only volunteer a few hours per week and will receive a free season's pass to Bogus Basin for their work! The Season runs January through February this winter. Please reach out to Megan Furois at [megan.furois@forgeintl.org](mailto:megan.furois@forgeintl.org) if you're interested and would like to learn more!

**Middleton Music Academy-** Now is the time to sign up for after-school Music lessons for this school year! Middleton Music Academy offers classes right here at Forge:

- Voice ensemble on Mondays
- Violin/Viola ensemble on Tuesdays
- Guitar basics on Wednesdays
- Brighter Notes Piano on Thursdays



Private lessons are also available at different times throughout the week (Guitar, Piano, Voice, Strings, Drums). Forge students get a discount for any group class and registration fees, and also receive registration preference. Classes are also open to the general public as well and spots are filling up! Please email [info@middletonmusicacademy.com](mailto:info@middletonmusicacademy.com) to secure your spot!

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**Community Opportunities - You can find other activities offered in our community here! If you know of anything you would like to add, please email it to [info@forgeintl.org](mailto:info@forgeintl.org).**