



# FORGE INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

## SEPTEMBER 2, 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](#).



**Forge Spirit Store:** Open now through Sept 8, T-shirts and hoodies with TWO new designs are available for purchase [HERE](#). We will email you when items are ready for pickup at the school. Thank you for supporting Forge!



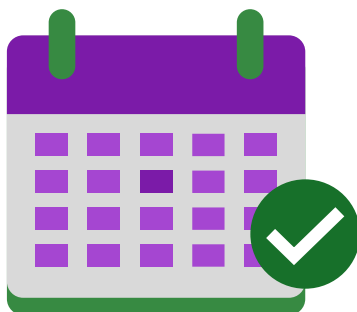
**Parking:** Please use the parking lot if it is necessary to park and walk to the building. The parking lot is the **ONLY** place you are allowed to park and get out of your vehicle and your cooperation is critical to the safety of our students and staff!



**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!](#)



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



### MARK YOUR CALENDAR

**September 5** - Labor Day, No School

**September 9** - Friday School Day!

**September 13** - PTO Meeting

**September 14** - Forge Open House for Prospective Families

**September 16** - Friday Optional Vaccination Clinic

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

### 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 Forge International School,

I hope you are all well. The year has started incredibly strongly at Forge. I was on campus at the beginning of the school day last week with someone who had not visited Forge since the fall of 2019. He immediately noticed and remarked upon the happiness of children and parents, the brightness of the classrooms and the smiles of faculty. Forge is a happy place.

Middleton School District feels that their schools are overcrowded and asked voters to approve a levy for the construction of additional classroom spaces. Even though the levy did not pass, Forge would not receive any of that local funding as a public charter school. In Idaho, public charter schools do not receive money from local property taxes or local school district levies. Forge does more with much less than the districts surrounding the school. When we ask for your help with a fundraising goal it is because we have specific needs aimed at enhancing our school and because the number of families that contribute helps us make a case to foundations and other granting agencies that our families care about their school. Donations in any amount - no matter how large or small - help Forge's students.

At Forge, we purposefully maintain smaller class sizes. We currently have space in most grades, K-10th and we welcome children and families who share our mission and a belief that every child deserves to be prepared for college or a career. As current Forge families, please encourage your friends and acquaintances to enquire about or visit Forge.

I also want to share with each of you the results of Forge's approach and dedication to ensuring every child is a strong reader and mathematician. The team at Forge has been intently focused since February of 2021 on strengthening Forge's approach to reading and the outcomes enjoyed by our students. In light of the impacts of the pandemic on our youngest students, we started with Kindergarten through Third Grade. The results are astounding. Here is how Forge's kindergarteners compared with the kindergarteners in the surrounding districts and across the State in May of 2022.

<b>School or District</b>	<b>Percent of Proficient Readers in Kindergarten</b>
Forge International School	74%
State of Idaho	65%
Middleton School District	57%
Emmett School District	54%
Caldwell School District	53%

Thank you for your support of Forge. We have a great community and it is getting stronger every day.

Best,  
Andy

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



August's learner profile of the month was caring and our students definitely showed how they are caring for each other by making new friends, caring for our campus by cleaning up after themselves, and caring for all of our learners as they are respectful in the classrooms and in the hallways.

Our IB learner profile attribute of the month for September is **INQUIRER**.

*"As an inquirer, we nurture our curiosity, developing skills for inquiry and research. We know how to learn independently and with others. We learn with enthusiasm and sustain our love of learning throughout life."*

How can parents help to develop children who are inquirers at home?

- Visit places that spark inquiry like a museum, park or nature preserve.
- Explore the areas of your child's interest by visiting the library to borrow books.
- Develop an understanding of the Internet. Work with your son or daughter when the Internet is being used and try to instill the understanding that some internet sites are not reputable.
- Model being an inquirer. Ask questions and wonder!
- Praise your child for asking a question
- Have your child jot down their wonders in a journal. Spend time researching these wonders!
- Check out this **Inquirer VIDEO**

Our learner profile recognition assemblies for K-2, 3-5, and 6-10 will take place the week of September 19.

## Back to School Family Night

THANK YOU to all of our families who came out for this fun event! We hope you learned more about the IB and about student life at Forge. Special thanks to all our teachers and staff who put in a long day, and to Forge Tech Support Kriss and his friend Eli were our DJs for the event!



We invite you to look through the following slideshows if you were unable to attend, or would like a review:

- [Culture and Behavior](#)
- [Approaches to Learning](#)
- [Toddle for Parents](#)
- [Conceptual Learning in IB](#)
- [Grading and Assessment](#)

Stay tuned for more Family Engagement Nights like this!





Each grade level is working hard on their first Unit of Inquiry. Each year the elementary students learn through 6 different Units of Inquiry (4 for Kinder). Each Unit of Inquiry falls under one of the 6 Transdisciplinary Themes. Throughout the school year, these 6 units guide and connect student thinking under a greater theme that is broad, balanced, and conceptual. Here are the first units for our PYP students this year:

- Kinder- Who We Are: The way people communicate influences their communities
- Grade 1- Who We Are: Roles and rules make a community strong
- Grade 2- Sharing the Planet: Water affects all aspects of life on Earth
- Grade 3- Who We Are: Laws have the responsibility to protect rights for all
- Grade 4- Who We Are: Interactions across cultures influence and shape the communities we live in
- Grade 5- How We Express Ourselves: We express our thoughts and ideas through innovative creativity

Ask your student about what they are learning about in their Unit of Inquiry!



Congratulations to our August Award winners for the Learner Profile "Caring"! We had fun presenting these awards to our Caring Forge students during assemblies on Thursday.

## FORGE DAY OF SERVICE SEPTEMBER 9



This year, our one day of **Friday school on September 9th** will be a day focused on learning through service and giving back to our community! We have fun projects planned for all our students. PYP will participate in activities such as working outside around campus and on our garden boxes, making cards for people in our community, etc. MYP students will be taking a field trip to the Idaho Anne Frank Human Rights Memorial for guided tours, along with undertaking some cleanup along the greenbelt, and other service opportunities. Stay tuned to hear more about this special day!



# LIFE IN THE MYP

Learner Profile (LP) nominations will be done a little differently this year in MYP. Instead of teachers nominating deserving students, our **students are voting for peers** from their advisory classes! One student from each advisory class will be named for each LP attribute. At our end-of-month LP assembly, those students will participate in Minute-to-Win-It games to earn points for their advisory classes! Points will be accumulated throughout the year and will go toward the advisory competitions for our now-annual end-of-year Medieval Tournament.



MYP students named “Caring” by their peers for the month of August are: Layne D. (10th); Isabel L. (9th); Hannah R. and Preston S. (8th); Tianna R., Liam H., Kohen R., and Aurie P. (6th-7th).

In other voting news... all MYP grades held Student Council elections this past Wednesday. A number of risk-taking candidates wrote and delivered inspiring speeches in front of rooms packed full of their peers. All grade levels voted to elect two peers to represent their grades on Forge MYP’s Student Council this year. Student Council representatives will meet regularly this year to plan fundraisers, events, and activities to help benefit the MYP.

**Congratulations** to our 2022-23 Student Council:

- 6th graders Maggie M. and Aurora D.
- 7th graders Chloe C., Lillian R., and Aurie P
- 8th graders Chatham N. and Daniel V.
- 9th grader Jonah C.
- 10th graders Hannah D. and Braxton A.

We are so excited to see how your leadership benefits our school!

As always, you can find more news on our MYP Blog, **Bonfire at Forge**.



## HOW TO HELP OUR FORGE COMMUNITY



**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:

**September 9th**- Our first movie Night, Bug's Life. Gym Doors open at 6:30 pm, movie starts at 7:00 pm- Concessions available to Purchase

**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

## FORGE EXPEDITIONS

Our first expedition for the school year backpacking in the Frank Church Wilderness was a blast! We spent 2 nights at Langer Lake on August 26-28th with our adventurous campers. We learned to fly fish from Senor Mega, and climbed Ruffneck Peak where we were able to visit with a ranger who's stationed at a lookout tower up there!



Our next trip is over Fall Break September 23-27th. We will be spending 4 nights and 5 days in the Deschutes National Forest near Bend, Oregon. We plan to explore both urban and outdoor spaces and designed this trip to give students a diverse look into the incredible OR Cascade mountains as well as experience a college campus tour and spend an afternoon in the front country exploring the beautiful Old Mill District of Bend, OR. You can find more info about this trip **HERE.**

# ENRICHMENT AT FORGE

## **Middle School Girls Volleyball**

Our season is off to a GREAT start! Our team had two games this week and would LOVE to see you at one of their upcoming games:

**September 8** - Falcon Ridge @ Forge 4:30

**September 14** @Vision Charter 4:15

A HUGE thank you to our wonderful coach, Elvina Hewitt! Here is some info from her:



I am thrilled to have the opportunity to share the amazing sport of volleyball with your girls. The majority of the team is new to the sport and so I am focusing on keeping this season instructional, engaging and most importantly, fun. I hope these young women will be inspired to continue to play for many years to come.

I played volleyball at Brown University where I was a 4-year starter and 2-year captain. While at Brown, I assisted with various summer camps for middle school and high school-aged girls.

We recently moved from California to Idaho and are so happy to be here. I have three little girls ages 5, 4, and 22 months. My oldest just started Kindergarten at Forge and we are so delighted to be a part of this community."

**Cross Country** - Practices have started and all students in 6-10th grades are welcome to join us! The season runs August 15th-October 12th after school on Monday-Thursdays. We're looking forward to tentatively attending the following meets and will update times and locations as they are confirmed. You can learn more [here!](#)

Wed 9/14- Middleton

Wed 9/21- Payette

Wed 9/28- Melba

**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. 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).**