



FORGE INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 23, 2022

WELCOME BACK!



School Photos: If your MYP student had their school photo taken on August 4th, prints and/or forms to order prints will be sent home this week! Lifetouch unfortunately did not show up today for PYP school photos and MYP retakes, so stay tuned for a newly scheduled date.



Attendance: Please email the school at attendance@forgeintl.org by 9:00 AM to let us know if your student will be absent that day with their name, grade, and reason for their absence. Failure to do so will trigger an automated phone call to let you know that your student was marked absent. Please keep your student(s) home if they are experiencing symptoms of illness.



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](#).



Transportation: We have asked that all parents fill out the transportation form, if you haven't done so it can be found [here](#). You can see more details and view the traffic flow instructions for pickup and drop-off [here](#).



Forge Spirit Store: We will have items for sale online later this week, watch or inbox for an email with instructions how to order!



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

August 25 - Family Back-to-school night

September 5 - Labor Day, No School

September 9 - Friday School Day!

September 13 - PTO Meeting

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 Sage and Forge International Schools,

Welcome back to school! I enjoyed our first week at both schools immensely. It was a joy to see your smiles, hear about your summer adventures and answer questions about the school year ahead.

We have important goals for our schools this year and I want to share those with you. These goals are intended to be catalysts for action that result in continuous improvements over a long period of time. We think these goals will help achieve our mission, improve outcomes, reinforce systems of support and place a clear focus on relationships and a sense of belonging.

Each year, our schools will develop finer-grained goals that support the attainment of these Network goals at Sage and Forge. **Here are our Network's goals:**

- We will ensure that every student is literate as a reader, writer and mathematician so that they can fully engage with the International Baccalaureate and their world.*
- We will use measurable and observable data to drive improvements that deliver the best possible academic and social-emotional outcomes for our students.*
- We will ensure that our school's stakeholders feel/know that they are engaged by and feel a sense of belonging to our schools.*
- We will ensure that our communities have the broadest possible access to and participation in our IB programs.*

I also want to express our dedication to the safety of your children and our staff on campus. Our caring and supportive staff, our systems of support for our students, and the safe pick up and drop off of our students each day are all part of that safety plan. Unfortunately, we also have to consider the safety of everyone on campus in a continuing era of gun violence directed at schools. We take this seriously. Our doors are locked. We do have people at the front doors. We do have and we continue to evaluate our physical security and our procedures in the event of such violence.

We will continue to communicate with you as we evaluate, update, and practice measures to keep everyone on campus as safe as we can. The safety of our campuses and community is a collective responsibility and every member of our community has an important role to play in keeping each other safe.

On the theme of community and our collective responsibility to each other, we are committed to engaging with our parents, students and community to strengthen our relationships. I look forward to seeing you at Back to School Night, College Night (at Sage), and Parent-Teacher Conferences soon. Please reach out to your school leaders and teachers to express your interest in volunteering to help in our lunchroom, classrooms, and on the playground.

All the best,
Andy

A NOTE FROM HEAD OF SCHOOL, DARCI STELZNER:



Welcome back to our existing families and welcome to our new families! We are so glad to see everyone. The first 2+ weeks have been so lovely at Forge. We have started the year strong and will continue to model proper expectations as we begin to build rigor. By choosing Forge International, your student will engage in an inclusive International Baccalaureate learning community and will be challenged to take risks and contribute locally and globally through open-minded inquiry. To read more about IB, [click here](#).

At Forge, we are fully authorized as an IB World School for the PYP. The PYP stands for Primary Years Programme and is grades K-5. Our MYP (Middle Years Programme) is a candidate school, which means we have fulfilled the requirements of the initial application and will move towards authorization at the beginning of 2023-2024. The MYP consists of grades 6-10. Grades 11-12, which we will be adding in subsequent years, is called the Diploma Programme, or DP. We will be working on our initial candidacy application toward the end of this school year.

Please make plans to come to our open house on August 25 from 5pm-8pm. Teachers will be sharing information about their classroom and more information about IB.

Thank you, Darci Stelzner

Back to School Family Night



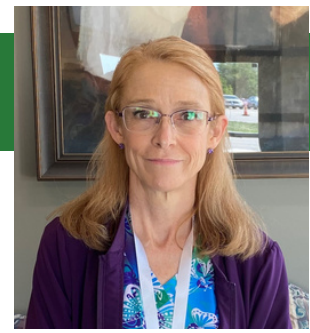
Thursday, August 25th 5:00-8:00 PM

We invite all families of students to join us for a **FUN family Night** full of information and community at Forge! Food trucks will be available starting at 5:00. **Windy's Whip and Drizzle** will serve burgers and fries, and **Sweet Bees Cookie Company** will have sweet treats available.

- You can find the schedule of the 20-minute [mini sessions here](#) and the room numbers where they will be held. Take a look beforehand to highlight ones that interest you.
- **PYP sessions** are geared toward really getting an understanding of how your child's classroom looks, sounds, and feels throughout the day. Teachers will be covering their big units for the year, important IB information, Toddle (our learning platform that parents will often interact with), reading, and math.
- **MYP sessions** contain a lot of information about the IB: conceptual learning, Toddle, grading and assessment, approaches to learning skills ('how' students learn), differentiated instruction, and culture and behavior.
- Meet your students' program directors, teachers, and tour (or revisit!) their classrooms
- Tables will be set up with information about Athletics, PTO, RTI Intervention, Special Education, and our school counselor's programs.

We look forward to seeing you there!

FROM THE OFFICE OF NURSE BLEW



Hello Forge parents! I'm so happy to be back here at Forge International School as our full-time nurse. My primary job, with your help, is to try to keep kids healthy and IN school as much as possible. At times, they really need to go home or stay home if truly not feeling well. I'd be grateful for any information you have about your child's health needs, habits, etc. For example, if they often get tummy aches from test anxiety, have a history of constipation, etc. If they have any new health conditions that arise that were not initially put on their Enrollment Health info, please email me at the address below.

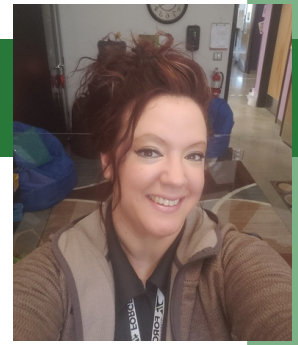
Please review the "**Forge Student Handbook**" for guidelines on when to keep kids home from school. If they test positive for Covid, please visit the CDC link for guidance and also email me.

- The CDC recently updated its Covid guidelines, which are focused on preventing serious illness which is most likely to occur in those that are most vulnerable. They no longer recommend that everyone needs to quarantine at home if they have been exposed to someone with Covid. Instead, please monitor for any symptoms that may potentially be Covid and test if they arise. Per CDC recommendations we will still require a Covid-positive person to stay home for a FULL 5 days, returning on day 6 if mostly symptom-free. Since most people will still test positive after 5 days, they must wear a mask if they return to school before 10 days pass. I do again have a supply of home Covid test kits available if needed for anyone in your household.
 - With any illness, we want to prevent the spread as much as possible. Please keep your child home when they have a fever over 100 degrees or they haven't been fever-free for at least 24 hours (without Tylenol, Motrin, etc). Keep them home if they have a cough, runny/stuffy nose, lack energy, or symptoms that are uncomfortable to them or will disrupt their learning. Please remind them to cover their cough and use hand sanitizer and/or wash hands often.
 - At this time we are not requiring mask wear but there are still some people that choose to do so in order to protect themselves or possibly vulnerable loved ones. We will all respect their right to do so.
 - We DO NOT give students vaccines OF ANY KIND at school. We will host an optional vaccine clinic again this year on Friday, September 16th, tentatively for 10:00 am-12:00 pm. This is only for those that choose to receive a vaccine/booster for things such as the Flu, Covid, Tdap, etc. This will be offered to Forge staff, students, and anyone in their families.

Please contact me if you have any questions or concerns. I look forward to meeting all our wonderful parents and guardians, whether in person or through email. Thanks!

Lorinda Blew RN, BS
lorinda.blew@forgeintl.org
Nurse Blew's Office: 208-606-0395

FROM OUR SCHOOL COUNSELOR JOY KAPLAN



Hello Parents! I work with all Forge students in K-10th grades, supporting social-emotional learning, providing education on how to handle emotions and work through conflict, setting healthy coping skills, supporting life skills that are needed, along with advocating for student needs and support. Parents are also a big part of that connection as I navigate getting to know our newcomers, support our returning students, and foster the growth of them all emotionally, mentally, and academically.

I welcome those of you that are new to Forge! We are off to a great start this year, and it has been wonderful seeing all of our new students. I am working hard to learn everyone's names!

One priority of mine is to make sure that you as families feel supported, and if there are needs or concerns regarding your child's social-emotional wellness please feel free to reach out. I look forward to seeing everyone at Family Back to School Night on August 25th, I will have a booth set up so please be sure to stop by. I have a ton of resources, handouts, and materials available for you.

Here are a few to get you started, you can click on the following links to view them:

- [Canyon County Resource Guide](#)
- [Medicaid YES Program "Youth Empowerment Services" for adolescents](#)
- [Internet Safety Resources for Parents, things to know regarding Online Usage for Children & Teens](#)

In August all K-5th students are learning about [Kelso's Choice](#) and how our conflict wheel teaches us different strategies to solve small problems. There are free parent resources at the link above regarding our social-emotional lessons regarding Kelso and making good choices.



Stay tuned for more information about Prevention Awareness Week in September, and Red Ribbon week in October!

Thank you,
Joy Kaplan, School Counselor

LIFE IN THE PYP



Primary Years
Programme

We have had a wonderful start to the school year in Kinder through Grade 5 classes! It has been great to see all of the students back in our hallways, playgrounds and learning spaces. Our PYP students and teachers spent the first week of school building classroom communities, establishing routines, and enjoying seeing old friends and meeting new ones as well. This week, all classes have been eagerly diving into their grade-level content. We are starting MAP testing, so be sure your students are well fed and well rested in the morning! We are so impressed with our students' kindness, thoughtfulness, creativity and curiosity. It is going to be a great year!

LIFE IN THE MYP

Forge 6th - 10th graders are off to a great start! In advisory classes, students have set up their binders for success and learned how to keep a planner/agenda to help with organization. Parents, we love to see your signatures in the planners each day so we know you've seen the Must-Dos students have for each of their classes! Please ask them to share with you what they've been learning. Students have also been exploring what makes Forge and the MYP unique: the Learner Profile, ATLS, and how grading and assessment are different than more traditional schools. The MYP uses common language throughout the program, so students will hear these terms every year, in every class! Math MAP testing took place recently, and we're testing Reading this week. Parents, please make sure your student has a pair of wireless earbuds or headphones available to them at school. Also, students need to have fully charged Chromebooks every day in order to be successful. Looking forward to a wonderful year ahead!



You can always find more from 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! To help "bridge the gap" between the funding we receive and what it actually costs to operate our K-10 School, we need YOUR help to raise \$25,000 for this school year, which is about \$100 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. 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

ENRICHMENT AT FORGE

Students participating in Forge enrichment programs have an opportunity to enhance and extend their education while having FUN! The following activities are currently available to students:

- **Sole Kids** - All students in K-6th grades - September 12th-November 5th after school on Mondays and Wednesdays. SoleKIDs runners will train twice a week for approximately 1.5 hours a day to complete the Sole KIDs 5K. [Learn more here.](#)
- **Middle School Girls Volleyball** - Girls in 6th-8th grades - Begins August 15th. Practices after school Monday-Thursday from 4:00-6:00 pm. We are still looking for a part-time volunteer coach, reach out to jarret.ellsworth@forgeintl.org if interested in helping!
Upcoming games:
August 29th @home Centennial Baptist 3:30 B Team 4:30 A team
September 1st @Horseshoe Bend 4:15 A team
- **Cross Country** - All students in 6-10th grades. August 15th-October 12th after school on Monday-Thursdays. Cross country encourages a love for running, and students practice together to compete in meets against other schools around the Treasure Valley. [Learn more here.](#)



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 to secure your spot!

Forge Expeditions:

We are excited to offer fun outdoor experiences again this year to Forge students in 4th grade and up. Our goal is to create outdoor adventure for children of all skill levels and experiences to be introduced to new ways of enjoying and learning about nature. Our first backpacking trip to the Frank Church Wilderness takes place this weekend, Aug. 26-28 with the MYP and is full, but we can't wait to tell you all about our experience! You can find more about upcoming excursions [HERE](#).

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.