



The  
**SAGE SCHOOL**  
EXPERIENCE YOUR EDUCATION

# OUR CURRICULUM





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The Sage School's approach to curriculum development starts with the journey of adolescence itself. Each section of our curriculum plays an integral part in the holistic education of our students.

## HUMAN ECOLOGY FOCUS

The interdisciplinary study of human beings and their natural, social, and built environments. This is where we show students how to do it by experience. At The Sage School, this takes the form of connecting History, Science, and Design courses each trimester. The class meets for close to 9 hours per week and is worth 2.25 credits per year. Human ecology is at the center of our mission as a school.

## SAGE SCHOOL GRADUATES

A successful graduate of The Sage School will have spent nearly 10,000 hours working on the above content and skills.

### THEY WILL HAVE:

- + Worked with local and regional experts
- + Made personal commitments to their own growth
- + Developed lasting and meaningful relationships
- + Learned to commit themselves to quality work
- + Learned to see themselves as active members of the social- and eco-systems they inhabit.

Sage School graduates are ready for the challenges of college, work, and life.

## The “Nitty Gritty”

### DESIGN

A combination of Technology, Art, and Design that has students creating materials that range from writing and producing a dramatic production to the creation of a city-wide anti-food waste campaign.

### WRITING

Students develop writing skills to prepare them for college while studying literature that connects to their Human Ecology theme.

### SPANISH

Students are immersed for 50 minutes each day in Organic World Language techniques, where no English is spoken. Students are in multi-ability classrooms and progress through the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages standards and their national assessments.

### MATH

Students progress through a traditional math curriculum at a pace that fits their comprehension levels. Students will need to demonstrate comprehension through multiple means at a high level.

### FIELD STUDIES

Students spend 5 weeks in the field each year engaging in experiential studies of their Human Ecology themes. The 300-mile radius centered on our school is our ‘extended campus’ where students learn from experts in the field, gain key experiences, and connect their learning to real-world and authentic scenarios.

### WORKSHOP

Students engage in a creative expression-based course each week. Alternatively, students can design their own Independent Study (IS) of a topic of their choosing, so long as their proposal meets pre-set standards.

### COMMUNITY ACTION

Two hours per week where students are in service to our community. This is typically a small group experience, but as students become seniors, they design their own year-long community service project.

### WELLNESS

Students also participate in a daily practice, typically consisting of physical outdoor activities designed to engage body and mind, but which also includes quieter practices such as mindfulness.





## THE 7 TASKS OF ADOLESCENCE

The Sage School’s curriculum is designed to use the best knowledge and resources of our times- from our understandings of science and the social sciences- in order to help students explore their own journey from the edge of adolescence (6th grade) to the edge of adulthood (12th grade). The 7 curriculum tasks that follow form the foundation of students’ self-awareness, community responsibility, and sense of place. We honor adolescence as a critical developmental window for learning essential academic, cognitive, social, and emotional skills; the 7 tasks are the means to deliver that.

### UNDERSTANDING SELF

Students begin their journey into adolescence by honing one of the very skills adolescence is known for: self-awareness. Students look at their construction of self through the creation of their autobiographies, family histories, and personal connections to American History. They begin to consciously situate themselves in the surrounding world.

### UNDERSTANDING THE ANCIENTS

Students continue their journey studying the Ancient World- from the foundations of our culture to historical understandings of STEM to cross-cultural studies of ways of looking at the world. This study further situates each student’s understanding of self into an even wider lens.

### UNDERSTANDING SOCIAL SYSTEMS

As students move into a more social phase of adolescence, their curriculum mirrors their own journey. Students look at their brain development as well as the history and psychology that define us as a species. Using the best science and historical research, they study our social interactions.

### UNDERSTANDING ECOLOGICAL SYSTEMS

As students understand increasingly complex relationships, students also turn their energies towards our relationship with natural systems. Students move into utilizing systems thinking principles as their brains are developing the capacities to do increasingly complex reasoning.

## 10-11 BAND

### UNDERSTANDING MODERN SYSTEMS

Students understand and evaluate the many relationships and interactions it takes to create our modern society. They continue to explore systems thinking by looking at the modern world- from food production to energy consumption to resource use. Students understand and evaluate the many relationships and interactions it takes to create our modern society.

### UNDERSTANDING THE AMERICAN SYSTEM

As students prepare to assume responsibilities of citizenship, they turn their attention to the governmental system they reside in. Students spend this year focusing on the systems surrounding being an American- from our understanding of justice to living in the Intermountain West to the foundations of our government.

## 12TH BAND

### UNDERSTANDING THE GLOBAL SYSTEM

Seniors are getting ready to face the world. We spend students’ final year examining current global issues, designing an independent curriculum, and culminating with an immersive study in Ecuador to ‘put it all together.’



