



# The Sage School

Welcome to The Sage School application process! Your family is applying to be part of a unique educational experience in the Wood River Valley- in fact, a unique educational experience anywhere. The Sage School is intentionally designed to serve kids during their adolescent journey, to help them know themselves, build community, and to deepen their relationship to our natural environment. We want to do our best to ensure that all partners in this journey- students, parents, guardians, faculty- are united in seeing The Sage School as the right choice. You will notice that our application process is fairly extensive. This begins the journey through ‘intentionality’ that you will get to know as The Sage School. The various parts of the application are also a reflection on our mission itself.

The mission of The Sage School covers the depth and range of experiences and skills we believe are vital to be a functioning adult in our world:

*We honor adolescence as a critical developmental window for learning essential academic, cognitive, social, and emotional skills.*

*The Sage School creates a thriving environment for students through a challenging, authentic curriculum centered on human ecology and engaging experiences designed specifically to promote self-awareness, community responsibility, and a sense of place.*

We spend much of our time exploring the relationship between people and their environment and between people and other people. The Sage journey guides each student to understand who he or she is in the context of his or her time, place, and culture. This approach is academic, social, and personal. We balance our time between traditional subjects like Math, Spanish, and Writing, with a uniquely Sage course called Human Ecology- a trimester-long blend of the Humanities and Science focused on topics designed to engage students at their particular developmental stage. We learn in the classroom, we learn in the community, and we learn in the field. We spend time running around together, and time sitting quietly. We care about each student’s ability to express him or herself clearly and articulately, and we care that he or she knows how to work effectively in order to produce quality work. This will prepare them for college and beyond.

This process is hard work. Students should expect to participate. They should be willing to engage in their education, This road is not easy- it can be frustrating and confusing at times, as becoming an independent thinker and confident community member is never without challenge and always deeply personal. But this process will not be completed alone. Teachers, family members, and friends will all serve as guides along the way.

This process- the adventure that is adolescence- is always exciting. If at any point you have questions, please feel free to contact us at school. Thank you for your interest in The Sage School, we look forward to working together.

Harry Weekes  
Head of School and Director of Financial Aid

Chris McAvoy  
Assistant Head and Director of Admissions



In order to complete the Application Process, please fill out each section of this Application Packet completely and thoroughly. Please submit your application by the due date listed on [www.thesageschool.org](http://www.thesageschool.org).

General Student and Family Information		
Student Name:	Age and Birth Date:	
Grade to which student is applying:	School year for which student is applying:	
Household 1		
Parent(s)/Guardian(s) contact information. Upon enrollment, the school will use this for sending information, emergency contact, and other necessary means of communication.		
Parent/Guardian #1:	Relationship to Child:	
Cell Phone:	Email:	
Parent/Guardian #2:	Relationship to Child:	
Cell Phone:	Email:	
Mailing Address, including Town and Zip:	Home Phone:	
Household 2 or Non-Custodial Household (Only fill out if applicable)		
Parent/Guardian #1:	Relationship to Child:	
Cell Phone:	Email:	
Parent/Guardian #2:	Relationship to Child:	
Cell Phone:	Email:	
Mailing Address, including Town and Zip:	Home Phone:	

When you submit your application, please include (or make arrangements to have sent) the items listed below. An application is not considered complete and will not be reviewed by the committee until all components are complete. Please refer to the checklist below to ensure completion. The list is ordered in terms of the best way to approach applying to the school (i.e. which tasks to do first, second, and so on).

Please contact [chris@thesageschool.org](mailto:chris@thesageschool.org) to arrange a school tour/interview and a student visit day.

**Application Packet Checklist:**

- School Tour and Interview with Admissions Team Member  
Tour and Interview Date and Interviewer(s): \_\_\_\_\_
- Student Visit Day– **YES**.
  - Visit Date: \_\_\_\_\_
- Student Visit Day – **NO**.
  - Reason(s) for not visiting:  
\_\_\_\_\_

(A school visit is not mandatory, but it is strongly suggested.)

- Completed **Parent Questions**
- Completed **Student Questions**
- Student Completed **Essay Questions**
- Submitted **Copies of Most Recent Grade and/or Assessment Reports from the child’s current school**
- Any relevant IEP or 504 info
- Completed **References** section (with References sending a letter or email to the school)
- Mailed/Delivered Application materials to: The Sage School, PO Box 30, Hailey, ID 83333, or deliver to The Sage School, 1451 Aviation Drive, Hailey, ID 83333 **by due date listed on the website.**

\*\*\*NOTE: The Sage School’s application process is an open and inclusive process. We require neither standardized tests nor an application fee to apply to the school.

## **Parent Questions**

The following questions are to be answered by at least one parent/guardian. When responding, please be sure to indicate clearly which question you are answering.

1. Please share with us a list of your child's strengths. What subjects, topics, and activities appear to come easily to your child? What do they enjoy doing?
2. What challenges your child?
3. Describe a recent instance where your child was lost in work. Or, alternatively, attach a favorite image of your child at play and caption it. What was he or she doing? Why was he or she so engaged in the work?
4. Imagine The Sage School is a total success for your child and for your family. Describe why.
5. Please describe what The Sage School mission means to you or simply answer, why Sage?
6. Has your child had any academic or behavioral concerns, or otherwise been referred for educational testing or counseling?
7. If there are topics not included in the above questions, please feel free to add additional information.

## Student Questions

The following information is to be completed by the student. Students may ask for help in understanding the questions, but all responses should be the student's own and in the student's own handwriting.

1. During their time at The Sage School, students are expected to complete independent, elective work (i.e. a dream course that YOU get to design). These electives are of the students' own initiation and design. In the space below, suggest three types of independent work you might pursue as an elective.

Dream Courses – Course Title and Description

2. Give an example of you learning at your best- what has been a fun and effective project or process?

3. What is one of the things you do best?

3. When do you need help?

4. What else should we know about you?

## **FOR STUDENTS ENTERING GRADES 6 or 7**

### **Essay Questions**

Please **answer one question from each of the following categories**. Your answers should be hand written on lined paper. Clearly identify the Category and Question you are answering, and make sure each of your answers is attached to this sheet. There are no “right” answers to these questions, it is simply a way for us to get to know you a bit.

The Mission of the Sage School is:

*We honor adolescence as a critical developmental window for learning essential academic, cognitive, social, and emotional skills.*

*The Sage School creates a thriving environment for students through a challenging, authentic curriculum centered on human ecology and engaging experiences designed specifically to promote self-awareness, community responsibility, and a sense of place.*

### **CATEGORY 1 – Mission**

1. Why are you interested in coming to The Sage School?

### **CATEGORY 2 - Human Ecology and a Sense of Place**

1. Describe a natural environment where you feel most comfortable; how do you feel when you are there? Why?
2. What role does the natural world play in your life?
3. If you could be one type of plant or animal in our area, what would you be? Why?

### **CATEGORY 3 - Self-Awareness**

1. How do you want to feel at school? Why?
2. Describe a moment when you know you are being your best self. What does that look like?
3. Create something that demonstrates a skill you have and describe it. (For example, you may draw something to reflect your artistic ability; you may create a recipe to show your love for cooking; you may draw a step-by-step guide to a trick you developed snowboarding; and so on....)

### **CATEGORY 4 -Community Responsibility**

1. What is the best thing about the community we live in? Describe it and show why you feel this way.
2. Describe a time when you were part of a community or group that really worked well together (this could be a family, a team, a class, etc.). What did it feel like? Why did it work?
3. Describe a time when someone made you feel welcome in an uncomfortable situation. What did you learn from this?
4. How will you contribute to The Sage School community? What qualities do you bring to a group?

## FOR STUDENTS ENTERING GRADES 8 or 9

### Essay Questions

Please **answer one question from each of the following categories**. Your answers should be hand written on lined paper. Clearly identify the Category and Question you are answering, and make sure each of your answers is attached to this sheet. There are no “right” answers to these questions, it is simply a way for us to get to know you a bit.

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### **CATEGORY 1 – Mission**

1. Why are you interested in coming to The Sage School?

### **CATEGORY 2 - Human Ecology and a Sense of Place**

1. Describe a natural environment where you feel most comfortable; why?
2. What role does the natural world play in your life?
3. How might a sense of place be important to your development?

### **CATEGORY 3 - Self-Awareness**

1. Describe one mistake you have made and what you learned from it.
2. Describe to us what your new classmates will say about you this year. What are the things you will bring to our community?
3. Create something that demonstrates a skill you have and describe it. (For example, you may draw something to reflect your artistic ability; you may create a recipe to show your love for cooking; you may draw a step-by-step guide to a trick you developed snowboarding; and so on....)

### **CATEGORY 4 -Community Responsibility**

1. Describe a time when you were part of a community or group that really worked well together (this could be a family, a team, a class, etc.). What did it feel like? Why did it work?
2. Describe a time when someone made you feel welcome in an uncomfortable situation. What did you learn from this?
3. Describe something you’ve done to make your community (family, school, town, etc.) better. What prompted you to take action?

## **FOR STUDENTS ENTERING GRADES 10 OR 11**

### **Essay Questions**

Please **answer one question from each of the following categories**. Your answers should be hand written on lined paper. Clearly identify the Category and Question you are answering, and make sure each of your answers is attached to this sheet. There are no “right” answers to these questions, it is simply a way for us to get to know you a bit.

#### **CATEGORY 1 – Mission**

1. What does The Sage School mission mean to you? Use some of its key words in your answer.

#### **CATEGORY 2 – Human Ecology and a Sense of Place**

1. Human Ecology is the relationship between humans and the natural, built, and social environment. Choose one of the three- the natural, built, or social environment- and describe a relationship that is particularly impactful to you within one of those environments and explain why.
2. What role does the natural world play in your life?
3. How might a sense of place be important to your development?

#### **CATEGORY 3 – Self-Awareness**

1. Describe one mistake you have made and what you learned from it.
2. Describe to us what your new classmates will say about you this year. What are the things you will bring to our community?
3. Create something that demonstrates a skill you have and describe it. (For example, you may draw something to reflect your artistic ability; you may create a recipe to show your love for cooking; you may draw a step-by-step guide to a trick you developed snowboarding; and so on....)

#### **CATEGORY 4 – Community Responsibility**

1. Identify a need in our community and how you would like to be involved with it, or currently are involved with it.
2. Define a community to which you belong (family, a team, a club, a class, etc.) and describe your responsibility to that community.
3. Describe a time when someone made you feel welcome in an uncomfortable situation. What did you learn from this?

## References

Would you please list (adult) contact information for references in each of the following categories:

1. A **non-family member** who has known you for more than three years.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

2. A **teacher** who has taught you within the last two years.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

3. One **additional person**. This person might know you from a job you had, or be a relative , another teacher, or a friend. The only other caveat is that this person should be an adult.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Please ask each reference to provide a letter of recommendation to The Sage School. This letter may be included with this application, or sent in electronically to [chris@thesageschool.org](mailto:chris@thesageschool.org).

## **Nondiscriminatory Statement**

The Sage School is a nondiscriminatory 501(c)(3) corporation. The Sage School, Inc. admits students of any race, color, religion, gender, gender identity, national and/or ethnic origin, disability, and/or sexual orientation to all of the rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to students at our school. The Sage School, Inc. does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, gender, gender identity, age, national and/or ethnic origin, disability, sexual orientation or other basis prohibited by law in administration of our educational policies, admissions policies, scholarship and loan programs, and athletic and other school-administered programs.