



The Sage School

Welcome to The Sage School application process. Your family is applying to be part of a unique educational experience here in the Wood River Valley- in fact, a unique educational experience anywhere. The Sage School was intentionally designed around a set of goals to serve kids during their adolescent journey and to help them know themselves and develop their relationship to our natural environment. We want to do our best to ensure that all partners in this journey- students, parents or guardians, faculty- are united in seeing The Sage School as the right choice for the right reasons. One of the things you will notice is that our application process is fairly extensive, requiring interviews, a school visit, writing a set of essays, and getting to know the school as best you can. 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.

What this means on the ground is we spend much of our time exploring the relationship between people and their environment, between people and people, and, ideally, getting each student to really understand who he or she is in the context of his or her time, place, and culture. This approach is academic, it is social, it is personal. We balance our time between traditional subjects like Math and Spanish and Writing, and large chunks of time called Human Ecology Block, which is a trimester-long blend of the Humanities and Science, focused on topics designed to engage students where they are in their development. We are in the classroom, we are in the community, and we are 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.

And this is hard work. Students should expect to participate. They should be willing to engage in their education, and to take an active role in their educational experience. 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. And this process will not be completed alone. Teachers, family members, and friends will all be part of the ‘production team’.

This process- the adventure that is adolescence- is always exciting. If at any point in this process 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 in the time ahead.

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.

General Student and Family Information:

Student Name: _____ Age and Birth Date: _____
Grade to which student is applying: _____

Parent(s)/Guardian(s) contact information. Upon enrollment, the school will use this for sending information, emergency contact, and other necessary means of communication.

Household #1

Parent/Guardian #1: _____ Relationship to Child: _____
Phone: _____ Email: _____
Parent/Guardian #2: _____ Relationship to Child: _____
Phone: _____ Email: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Household #2 or Non-Custodial Household (Only fill out if applicable)

Parent/Guardian #1: _____ Relationship to Child: _____
Phone: _____ Email: _____
Parent/Guardian #2: _____ Relationship to Child: _____
Phone: _____ Email: _____

Mailing Address: _____

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 have been completed. Please refer to the checklist below to ensure completion. Also, the list is ordered in terms of the best way to approach applying to the school- in order of which to do first.

Application Packet Checklist:

- Interview with Staff
 - o Interview Date and Interviewer(s): _____
- School Visit – **YES**.
 - o Visit Date: _____
- School Visit – **NO**.
 - o Reason(s) for not visiting: _____

(A school visit is not mandatory, but it is strongly suggested.)
- Student Completed **Essay Questions**
- Completed **Parent Essay Questions**
- Completed **Self-Assessment, Activities and Other Information**
- Submitted **Copies of Latest Grade and/or Assessment Reports from the child’s school**
- 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 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.

Student Information

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.

Self-Assessment

Sage School teachers frequently ask students to analyze and reflect on their own work. We also strive to guide students in producing both high quality work, and also in developing a high quality process for creating this work.

Using a specific example, characterize the quality of your work in a specific area in which you are doing well.	
Using a specific example, characterize the quality of your work in a specific area where you are being challenged or feel that you are struggling.	
How did you approach this?	
What was the result?	
Where do you need the most help, currently?	
What is one of the things you do best?	

FOR STUDENTS ENTERING GRADES 6, 7, OR 8

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.

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.

- 1) **Mission** – What does The Sage School mission mean to you?
- 2) **Human Ecology and a Sense of Place**
 - a) Describe a natural environment where you feel most comfortable; why?
 - b) What role does the natural world play in your life?
 - c) If you could be one type of organism in our area, what would you be? Why?
- 3) **Self-Awareness**
 - a) How do you learn best?
 - b) How are you intelligent?
 - c) Why are you interested in The Sage School? How will you contribute to it?
 - d) Describe a moment when you know you are being your best self. What does that look like?
- 4) **Community Responsibility**
 - a) If you could change anything about our community, what would it be? Why? How would you change it?
 - b) What is the best thing about the community we live in? Describe it and show why you think it is so.
 - c) Describe a time when you have lived in a community that really worked well together (this could be a family, a team, a class, etc.). What did it feel like? Why did it work?
 - d) Describe a time when someone made you feel welcome in an uncomfortable situation. What did you learn from this? Did you change anything?

FOR STUDENTS ENTERING GRADES 9, 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.

CATEGORY 1 – Mission

1. What does The Sage School mission mean to you?

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 and why.
2. How does the natural environment inform who you are?
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 are involved with it.
2. Define a community to which you belong and describe your responsibility to that community.
3. Describe a time when you have lived in a community that really worked well together (this could be a family, a team, a class, etc.). What did it feel like? Why did it work?
4. Describe a time when someone made you feel welcome in an uncomfortable situation. What did you learn from this? Did you change anything?

Other Information

During their time at The Sage School, students are expected to complete independent, elective work. 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.

Elective Work – Course Title and Description

Comments – Use the space below to write a comment from the perspective of one of your teachers. What would this teacher say about you and your work?

Academic and/or Behavioral Concerns – If you have had any academic, behavioral, or disciplinary issues, please use the space below to describe and discuss those issues.

Additional Information – Is there anything we left out of the above that you would like to highlight?

Parent Information

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 describe your child as clearly as you can. In your description, please include what subjects, topics, and activities appear to come easily to your child, as well as what challenges him or her. Use any stories, examples from school or at home, a “play history” (a description of how your child plays, from when he or she was younger until today), or whatever anecdotes and illustrations you think appropriate.**
- 2. Describe a recent instance where your child was lost in work. What was he or she doing? Was it for school? Why was he or she so engaged in the work?**
- 3. What are your hopes for your child in education? In life? How does Sage fit those hopes?**
- 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.**
- 6. Has your child had any academic or behavioral concerns, or otherwise been referred for educational testing?**
- 7. If there are topics not included in the above questions, please feel free to add additional information.**

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 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.

Nondiscriminatory Statement

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.