

IMPACT REPORT 2019 - 2020





OUR MISSION:

Sage Ridge School graduates curious and confident citizens who embrace rigorous scholarship, respect the dignity of individuals, choose integrity, embody courage, cultivate a compassionate community, and ultimately thrive in college and in our global society.

NOTE FROM THE HEAD

Greetings Sage Ridge Families and Friends:

This has been truly an interesting year - one that pushed challenges to new heights. It was a year that demanded we demonstrate courage in the way Hemingway defined it - "grace under pressure." More than ever, our Pillars provided both the foundation and vision for success.

Sage Ridge has proven that Northern Nevada needs a strong independent school that champions liberal arts and sciences and sets up graduates to succeed at top universities and in careers that are making a difference around the world. We are proud to be considered one of the top 1% schools on the esteemed Challenge Index which ranks over 22,000 high schools nationwide. Our graduates were awarded over \$3M in aggregate aid this year.

Our Pillars and mission push well beyond academic excellence. We challenge our students to pursue excellence in the arts and athletics and deepen their commitment to service and community. Our faculty works collaboratively to ensure that we weave our Pillars through our entire curriculum from our inaugural Grade 3 (completing our Lower School) through graduation to provide a comprehensive learning journey. Sage Ridge is working on the leading edge of education through partnering with the prestigious NAIS Strategy Lab and Stanford affiliated Challenge Success.

All our work is supported by our community and the trust our families place in us. We are continually grateful for the unwavering commitment of our board, faculty and staff and for the generous support of our donors and volunteers. This became especially important as we addressed the challenges of the pandemic. Truman claimed, "America was not built on fear. America was built on courage, on imagination and unbeatable determination to do the job at hand." Sage Ridge has shown it has the unbeatable determination to serve our community with excellence.

With gratitude,

Tobin S. Bechtel
Head of School

CLIMBING TO NEW HEIGHTS OF INNOVATION

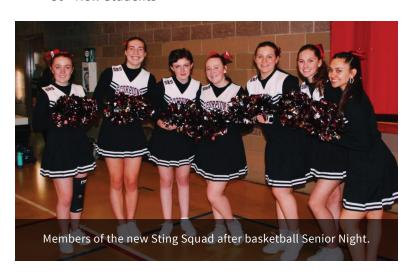
During the 2019-2020 school year, Sage Ridge School deepened its commitment to cultivating tomorrow's leaders and demonstrated agility in an ever-changing environment. Despite challenges faced as the COVID-19 pandemic spread, Sage Ridge School never wavered in keeping standards high on the journey to prepare students for success in college and life.

HIGHLIGHTS OF 2019-2020

- Inaugural Grade 3 (pg. 6)
- Mindful SEAD Social-Emotional Learning Curriculum Implemented
- Varsity Boys Basketball and Varsity Boys Ski Team were NIAA State Academic Team Champions (pg. 8)
- Two New Parent Education Events for the Reno Community
- New Music, Computer Science, and Media Arts Classes Added
- New Sting Squad (inset)
- First Northern Nevada School to Compete in the American Computer Science League
- Latin Students Ranked Nationally in Exams Again
- Two New Outdoor Education Trips (pg. 7)
- First Annual All School Service Day (pg. 10)
- South Sudan Well Completed (opposite page)
- Parent Book Clubs Continued Virtually
- Scorpion School Distance Learning Program (pg. 12)
- Over \$70,000 Raised for the Community Education Emergency Fund (CEEF) (pg. 12)
- Class of 2020 was Awarded \$3M in Aggregate Scholarship/ Merit Aid (pgs. 14-15)
- Carla Ramazan ('17) was awarded a Truman Scholarship (pg. 16)

The entire Sage Ridge School community has exemplified fervent dedication to continual improvement and adapted to virtual learning with ease while maintaining stability. Sage Ridge School moves into the 2020-2021 school year with excitement to implement all that has been learned.

- Flexible In-Person and Virtual Learning Options
- Two Additional Updated Classrooms and Sun Shades for Outdoor Classrooms
- Expansion of our Award-Winning Music Program
- New Software Engineering Course
- 3 New Faculty Members in Visual Art, Chemistry, and Theatre
- 30+ New Students





WELCOMING THE NEW

Our new initiatives and developments further solidified our commitment to providing the strongest college preparatory experience for the Reno area.

INAUGURAL GRADE 3

Sage Ridge launched the school's inaugural Grade 3 with seventeen enthusiastic students. A team of administrators and faculty worked closely with our new Grade 3 teacher, Mrs. Vanelda Bratt, to develop a curriculum that reflects the school's signature experiences. As with all of our grade levels, the Grade 3 curriculum nurtures curiosity and intellect, stimulates the development of character, encourages critical thinking, and celebrates a passion for learning. Sage Ridge is proud of all the ways these youngest students quickly began mastering their studies and contributing to the school in countless ways.

Sage Ridge has been expanding lower grades over time. This addition of Grade 3 completes the Lower School as a Grade 3-5 entity. Grades 4 and 5 were added in 2016 and 2005, respectively. Our Middle School consists of Grades 6-8 and the Upper School is represented by Grades 9-12.





GATHERING WITH OUR COMMUNITY

On November 6, 2019 Sage Ridge School welcomed both grandparents and veterans on campus for a full-day event of gratitude and celebration. In this new combination of traditions, the school hosted grandparents on campus in the morning with performances, breakfast, class activities, and tours. In the afternoon, veterans joined students on campus for speeches about the past, present and future of the military and were honored for their service. Through exposure to different perspectives, walks of life, and career choices, students were encouraged to embrace and celebrate both ancestry and service.

NEW GRADE 12 OUTDOOR EDUCATION TRIP

In October 2019 a new senior Outdoor Education trip was launched to Lassen Volcanic National Park in Northern California. The senior class explored sulfur pools, hiked Lassen Peak, and had a campfire each night. Grade 10 also ventured out on a new trip this year which took them whitewater rafting down the American River. Outdoor Education week is a pivotal moment each year for every student in every grade that builds long-term community, resiliency, and an appreciation for the natural world in our students.



BUILDING CONFIDENT LEADERS

Participation in both the Arts and Athletics inspires students to practice courage through self expression. Students at Sage Ridge are not afraid of the hard work required to drive their success in these rewarding extracurricular opportunities.

EXPANDING HORIZONS THROUGH THE ARTS

Last fall, the Sage Ridge theatre program put on the musical *Matilda*, based on the book by Roald Dahl. Traditionally, the plays and musicals are performed by students from grades 6 through 12. *Matilda* provided a unique opportunity. Since the play employs so many young characters, students from grade 5 joined in as well. This was a very special production with actors making close friendships and connections across all grade levels! With the arrival of our new music teacher, Dominic Vitale, our music program received new creative energy and was awarded the Support Music Merit Award by the NAMM Foundation. Guitar playing has become an inspiring outlet for students as music theory, sound recording, and sight-reading have all been incorporated into the curriculum.

"Music education is a big part of the unique student experience at Sage Ridge. Mr. Vitale's lessons inspire creativity and collaboration. We study music across many eras and genres, learning cultural literacy while having a great time. Music at Sage Ridge has been an amazing experience." — Robert Schader ('25)





Despite a truncated spring season, Sage Ridge remains committed to excellence in athletics, just as it is committed to excellence in all key elements of education which address the whole student. Sage Ridge strongly supports the development of scholar athletes. We are proud to have received multiple Nevada Interscholastic Activities Association (NIAA) State All-Academic Team awards and have sent multiple graduates on scholarship to compete in D1 universities. Our teams are continually becoming more competitive and our coaches are building programs that are being noticed across the NIAA and TAH-NEVA leagues. Most importantly, our scholar athletes compete with integrity, courage, and respect.



PUTTING CURRICULUM INTO ACTION

Through community service, Sage Ridge students apply knowledge and grow as citizens of the world. Service is woven throughout all grade levels, and is an integral requirement for graduation. Community partnerships, paired with our growing Innovation Lab, expand opportunities for student growth and exploration.

FIRST ANNUAL ALL SCHOOL SERVICE DAY

On February 5, 2020, Sage Ridge School organized the first annual All School Community Service Day. Every student in grades 3-12 set aside classroom learning for the day and served the community in some way. On campus service projects included making toys for shelter animals, organizing food donations, folding paper cranes, creating marketing for a can drive, assembling packs of school supplies for local kids, modifying an electric car for a child with disabilities, and creating thank you cards for armed services personnel. Most students in grades 8-12 traveled off campus to volunteer with grade 1 buddies, assist elderly seniors with technology, clear invasive species, prep meal packs, organize thrift store inventory, plant gardens, and paint low income housing. It was an impactful start to a wonderful new tradition that continues to lay the groundwork for cultivating students who embrace a life of service to others.







Over the summer of 2019, the Innovation Lab - generously sponsored by The Edwin L. Wiegand Trust - was moved to a larger space allowing all robotics and innovation equipment to be consolidated. This brings us closer to a true makerspace designed and dedicated to hands-on student creativity, an essential element in our 21st century technology curriculum. Last winter, the school received an additional grant from the E.L. Wiegand Foundation for faculty professional development in the use of innovative technology. In addition, teachers consistently incorporate equipment and software available in the Innovation lab into lesson plans across subject areas and grade levels.

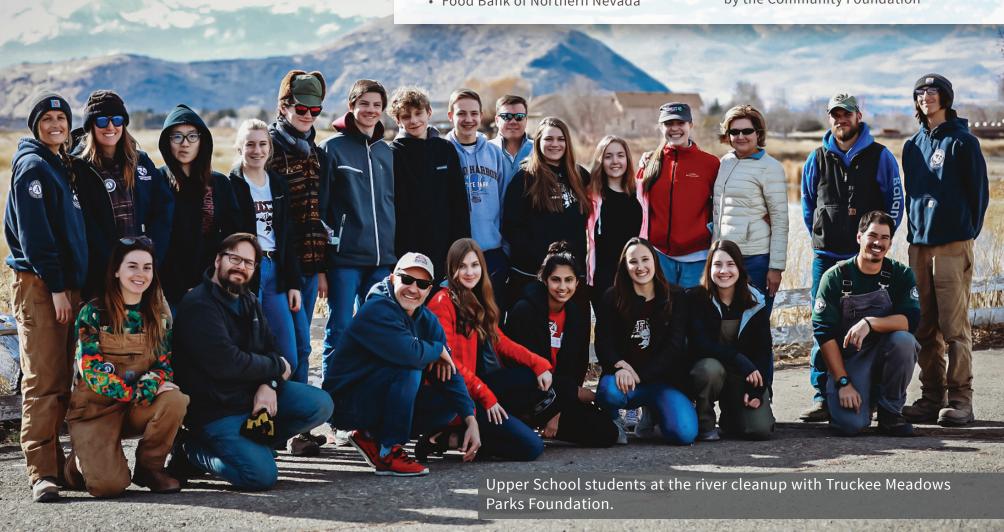
By applying their understanding of the engineering design process and various technological skills, a team of students modified an electric ride-on car for a child with physical disabilities. Through Go Baby Go - a national program to modify cars for these special missions - and in partnership with Renown Hospital, our students were able to provide a young, local girl with a solution to her mobility issues that will build a strong foundation for brain development.

SERVICE DAY PARTNERING ORGANIZATIONS

Sage Ridge School was proud to serve with the following organizations during our first annual All School Community Service Day:

- 1000 Cranes for Hope
- Bernice Mathews Elementary School
- CANstruction
- Catholic Charities of Northern Nevada
- Go Baby Go project for Renown Hospital
- Food Bank of Northern Nevada

- SPCA of Northern Nevada
- Reno Senior Living at Sky Peaks
- Truckee Meadows Parks Foundation
- Urban Roots Garden
- Village on Sage Street recently funded by the Community Foundation



OUR COVID-19 RESPONSE

On the day before the March Spring Break, students were instructed to take all their belongings home "just in case." Over the course of Spring Break, the state of Nevada closed all schools. In response, Sage Ridge launched Scorpion School, a virtual distance learning program that served students through the end of the school year.

SCORPION SCHOOL

Sage Ridge School regarded the campus closure as a call to innovate and expand, rather than an excuse to forgo our mission. In a quick pivot, teachers recreated their curriculum in a virtual environment and Scorpion School was launched. Scorpion School served all students through live online classes and other digital platforms in a robust and engaging program. Student learning continued and a sense of community was sustained through this difficult time of social distancing. The program's success was an incredible tribute to the steadfast dedication of the Sage Ridge faculty and staff to uphold the learning standards of our curriculum despite any challenges faced. The new aptitudes and pedagogy discovered during this time will continue to enrich our programs as we evolve.





COMMUNITY EMERGENCY EDUCATION FUND (CEEF)

In May, the Community Emergency Education Fund (CEEF) was created by the families of Sage Ridge School to help other families in our community who were affected by income loss due to COVID-19. These funds were then distributed to current families via an application process to assist with tuition and other school-related costs in order to help students remain at Sage Ridge School during this unprecedented time. With a generous \$30,000 match, our community raised over \$70,000 for this temporary fund.

SCORPION SCHOOL REFLECTIONS

"My first day of Scorpion School was awesome...Whenever I needed support or had a question, the teachers replied within minutes, which made it easier to understand the content we were learning."

— Hayley Burns ('26)

"Although some of our community went into Scorpion School with nervous thoughts, the transition has been made very well.

Students across grade levels had positive attitudes, even with the disruption that COVID-19 brought to our school."

— Kira Romberg ('22)

"My hope as I join my students on this journey detour is that we can support each other and find something we wouldn't have if we had stayed on the expected route. The engagement is high...It is a partnership in more ways than ever."

— Jennifer Kuehn, English Teacher

"I journey with my students by talking to them as conscious actors in their own lives; ones who are worried about what is happening, and are doing the best within the circumstances...I ask them, listen to their answers, and then improve what we are doing based on their feedback."

— Bret Thibault, Math Teacher



Christopher Miller (SRS '16, Yale '20) and other alumni helped distribute the senior gifts to the Class of 2020 due to shelter-in-place restriction on large gatherings.

SAGE RIDGE SCHOOL



Elena Albregts †† University of California, Santa Barbara

Thesis: Anorexia Nervosa is Contagious as a Cold **Office:** President/Prefecture

Enrolled at SRS Since 2012



Sophie Bell Lewis & Clark College

Thesis: n/a
Enrolled at SRS Since 2015



Siena Hall †† United States Naval Academy

Thesis: Hannibal Barca: A Lesson in Bold, Brilliant

Leadership

Office: Prefecture

Enrolled at SRS Since 2014



Colin Klein ††
Boston College

Thesis: *Terrorangriff:* The Fact and Fiction of Second World War Bombing

Office: Class Representative/

Enrolled at SRS Since 2017

Honor Council Chair



Madeleine Lewis ††
Southern Methodist
University (Honors Program)

Thesis: Doping: A Backstage Chemical Competition

Office: Vice President/

Prefecture

Enrolled at SRS Since 2012



Ruo Yu Catlin Liu[†] University of California, San Diego

Thesis: Psychopathy and Childhood Trauma: A Recipe for Murder?

Enrolled at SRS Since 2015



Jessenia Lopez Garcia Truckee Meadows Community College

Thesis: Undocumented Immigrants

Enrolled at SRS Since 2016



Sophia Moreno Truckee Meadows Community College

Thesis: Media Takeover: How the Media Affects Body Image

Enrolled at SRS Since 2017



Varun Pandit †
University of Nevada,
Reno (Honors Program)

Thesis: The Role and Potential of Artificial Intelligence in Healthcare

Enrolled at SRS Since 2015



Cade Rombardo ††
Louisiana State University

Thesis: Measuring Monopolies' Power in the New Gilded Age

Enrolled at SRS Since 2015

CLASS OF 2020



Aryan Shukla †† University of Southern California

Thesis: Separate but Unified: An Analysis of the Christian Right's Influence on Public Policy Since the Reagan Era

Office: Prefecture

Enrolled at SRS Since 2014



Luxin Sun ††
Gap Year

Thesis: The Language Situation in Latvia

Enrolled at SRS Since 2018



Max Sierzenski †† University of Delaware (Honors Program)

Thesis: Digitized Technology: A Strong and Stable Connection Between the Patient and Healthcare Provider

Office: Class Representative/ Honor Council

Enrolled at SRS Since 2017



Julian Vlad † Chapman University

Thesis: Discovering the True Potential of Cartoons

Enrolled at SRS Since 2013







ESTABLISHING THE LEGACY OF SAGE RIDGE ALUMNI

Sage Ridge alumni are dynamic leaders who impact the world with their strong character and sharp minds. We are proud of the ways they have taken their education and created innovative change.

ON HER WAY TO IMPACT PUBLIC HEALTH

Last spring, Carla Ramazan ('17) received the Truman Scholarship while studying political science and Spanish at the University of Texas-Dallas. Passionate about reproductive health and public policy, Carla will graduate in 2021 and then pursue graduate studies with the support of the Truman Scholarship. She plans to complete a masters degree in public policy abroad and then return to the United States to attend law school, with the end goal of running for office. She is on her way to great things, and we are so proud. Congratulations, Carla!

"My SRS education has played a role in my academic success in college and even in winning the Truman. Teachers like Dr. McGann and Mr. Sloyan worked wonders in terms of improving my writing skills, and I have no doubt that my Truman application stood out because of what they taught me."

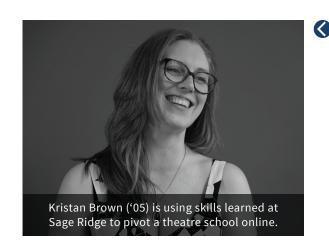
— Carla Ramazan ('17)



PIVOTING INTO UNCHARTED TERRITORY

Rigorous acting training is not typically conducted online, but in the middle of a global pandemic that is exactly what Kristan Brown ('05) has been implementing for the Terry Knickerbocker Studio in Brooklyn, New York. Relying on flexibility and agility, the studio has not lost a single student and a sense of community is winning out despite all odds. Kristan credits Sage Ridge School with teaching her to be an avid researcher and to engage with curiosity, both essential skills to her work right now.

Kristan remembers the early days of Sage Ridge as being permeated by a start-up culture of cooperative creation. After graduating from Sage Ridge School, Kristan attended Whitman College and then earned an MFA in Acting from Rutgers. Next, she moved to New York City where she started a theatre company and eventually found her way into studio management. Despite current challenges, Kristan is finding fulfillment in helping others have a creative training experience and supportive transition into professional acting careers.





2019-2020 FISCAL YEAR IN REVIEW

Strong financial management is essential to the long-term success of our not-for-profit school. Sage Ridge School remains debt-free and dedicated to sustainable growth.

STUDENT ENROLLMENT

232 students were enrolled for the 2019-2020 school year

TUITION ASSISTANCE

Financial Aid: 47 students supported
Sage Ridge Scholars: 5 scholars supported
Total Assistance Awarded = \$623,840

OPERATING BUDGET

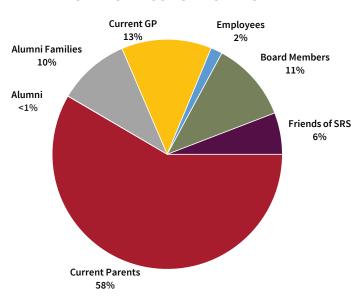
Total Revenue \$5,305,369 Total Expenses \$5,097,927

FUNDRAISING TOTALS

Annual Fund = \$194,358 Opportunity Fund = \$74,450 Restricted Funds = \$202,260 CEEF = in excess of \$70,000

100% of the Sage Ridge School employees and board members donated showing their commitment to the school and its mission.

GIVING BY CONSTITUENTS



YEAR ENDING 6/30/20

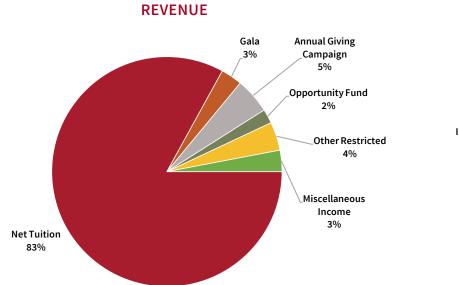


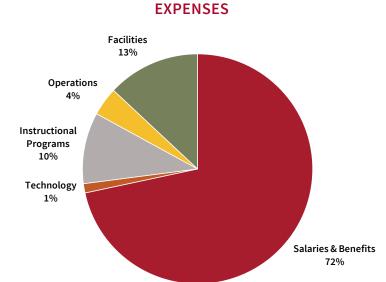






2019-2020 FISCAL YEAR IN REVIEW





YEAR ENDING 6/30/20









DONOR RECOGNITION

Your generosity allows Sage Ridge School to grow, innovate, and inspire the next generation of leaders in our world. Our mission is fueled by gratitude for the supporters that enable us to continue to provide and expand enriching education in the Reno-Tahoe region.

\$150,000 & Up

Cory and Deborah Clemetson

\$50,000-\$149,999

Rob and Ermelinda Cashell Ted and Erin Mulvaney

\$25,000-\$49,999

Robert and Sallie Armstrong
Atlantis Casino Resort Spa
Dr. Peter Althausen & Dr. Kristen MacLeod
Robert and Patricia Moore
Champion Chevrolet
E.L. Wiegand Foundation

\$15,000-\$24,999

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\$10,000-\$14,999

Rex and Carmel Briggs Pourya and Jennifer Dehnadi David ('05) and Liv Hoffman Stanko Family Dr. Renny and Sarah Uppal

\$5,000-\$9,999

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Dr. Richard and Mary Ann Welcome

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Joseph Evans and Kim Aldrich
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Steve and Robin Welch

\$1,000-\$2,499

Anonymous
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Edna B. & Bruno Benna Foundation
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John and Kristine Erving;
In Honor of Ted & Erin Mulvaney
Dr. Max and April Gratrix

Dr. Michael and Dr. Barbara Heaphy, Jr.

Ashley Quinn Fund held at

Parasol Tahoe Community Foundation Tina Marcilla-Kenyherz Jeff and Norma Kilbourn Daniel and Pauline Klein

Nathan and Susan Lewis

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Newman Family Susanne Pennington Robin C. Ravazzini

Scott Reddy and Dr. Minmin Song Jim Savage and Jane Farish

Dr. Lali and Simmi Sekhon

Steve and Diane Smith

Richard and Cathy Trachok II

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Tuhin and Kavitha Verma

Brian Wallace and Michelle Gallivan-Wallace

Welcome Family Trust

Dr. Peter Wise

Susanne and Gloria Young Foundation

\$1-\$999

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Robert and Gail Aldrich

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Kati Bell Walter Bell Ralph Bothe

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Eric Braun and Selena Willoughby-Braun ('07)

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Gary Brown

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Roberto Ferrito and Megan Schuster

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Carl Lane Risa Lang

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Sheila Lindsay

Dr. Erickson and Dr. Emelita Liwanag

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Aurora Santangelo

Charles and Michelle Sherven Shachin and Savita Shukla

Robert Simms

John and Yuki Sloyan Carol Smith-Nichols Dr. Dave and Robin Soran Alexandra Jean Stanko ('19)

Linda Stanton

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John M. Stiglich Georgette Stormo

Parker and Megan Stremmel

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Josiann Trainor

Dr. Surendra and Dr. Kamlesh Varma

Dominic Vitale
Dr. Alison Westfall
Brian and Ruth Whiting
Lance Yuan and Shelly Xu
Yi Zhou and Rong Liu

GIFT IN KIND DONORS

Thank you to Sage Ridge families and friends and to local businesses who donated during the 2019-2020 school year.

Acro Enso Anonymous

Jeffrey and Linh Bank

Batch Cupcakery

Tobin Bechtel

Beer NV Taproom & Spirits

Chris and Joy Benna

Bistro 7

Jay and Laura Bushman

Enrique and Tiffany Carmona

Patrick Casey

Jens Peter and Winni Clausen

Corv and Deborah Clemetson

The Club at ArrowCreek

Michael Cyetich

DoughBoys Donuts

Dreampilot Films

Eric Eads

Ferrito Family

Fly High Adventure Park

The Freckled Frog

GarWoods Grill & Pier

Glazer's Southern Wine & Spirits

Great Full Gardens

Honig Vineyard & Winery

Dr. Whitney Hovenic

In 'N' Out

Kimball Iverson

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Kilbourn Family

Melissa Kirkwood

Lake Tahoe Shakespeare Festival

Lands' End

Damon and Debbi Lehr

Massage Envy

Mark and Cathy Maurer

Kevin and Jenny McClenahan

McCormack Plastic Surgery

Midtown Printing

Minato Sushi & Bar

Moo Dang Thai Restaurant

Mount Rose Ski Area

Mountain Meadow Camp

National Automobile Museum

National Championship Air Races

Natural Paws

Nothing Bundt Cakes

O'Gara Orthodontics

Oregon Shakespeare Festival

Pan American Silver Corp.

Peppermill Resort Spa Casino

Pitts Orthodontics

Raley's at Galena Junction

Reno 1868 FC

Reno Sportsdome

Liberty Food Group-Mark Estee

NevDex Properties

Nothing to It!

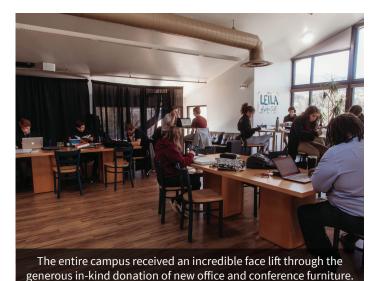
Pier 39

Rick Pillon and Linda Stanton

Renaissance Reno

Reno Aces

GJ Rhodes Gift & Home Kent and Tonya Robison



The ROW -

Eldorado | Circus Circus | Silver Legacy

Sacramento Kings

Roundabout Grill

Sage Ridge School

San Francisco Museums of Fine Art

The Sarkissian Family

Scheels

Shoe

Sierra Gold Seafood

Sierra Nevada Basketball

Somersett Golf & Country Club

South Creek Pizza

SRS Class of 2028

Starbucks-Galena Junction

The Stone House Café

Jaclyn Strominger Tahoe Blue Vodka

Total Wine & More

Michelle Gallivan-Wallace

Wasabi Japanese Restaurant & Sushi Bar

Wasting Arrows

Whispering Vine

Whitney Peak Hotel

Wild Wild Wash

WinCo Foods Yogurt Beach

Dr. Damon Zavala

GIVING OPPORTUNITIES

ANNUAL FUND

The Sage Ridge Annual Fund Campaign is the school's primary philanthropic appeal and our foundation for philanthropy. The Annual Fund supports the people and programs that make the school experience so special. Unrestricted gifts help Sage Ridge School most because they give flexibility to school leadership to place the money where it will serve the best purpose. These gifts are important because they help provide for the myriad opportunities our students are afforded.

THE OPPORTUNITY FUND — SAGE RIDGE SCHOLARS

Sage Ridge Scholars are high-achieving, mission-appropriate students from socioeconomically diverse backgrounds. The Sage Ridge Scholars program was established in 2000 with support from the Redfield Foundation and other generous donors. Awardees receive full tuition and supplies for grades 9-12. Sage Ridge currently supports five Sage Ridge Scholars, with 10 total students having benefited from the program since its inception.

GALA

The Gala is our biggest annual fundraiser of the year, and a favorite event among our community. These celebratory events provide us with an opportunity to engage with our vibrant community. Funds are raised through table sponsorships, donations, silent/live auction bidding, and fund-a-need drives to support initiatives aimed at enhancing campus life. Please plan to join us at our 2021 Gala.





Donations for the 2020-2021 fiscal year can be made at:

SAGERIDGE.ORG/GIVE

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT!



EXPERIENCE UNWAVERING COMMITMENT TO THE CULTIVATION OF INTELLECT & CHARACTER.

RENO'S ONLY NON-SECTARIAN, INDEPENDENT SCHOOL SERVING GRADES 3-12. SAGE RIDGE SCHOOL IS A 501(C)(3) CHARITABLE ORGANIZATION.

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