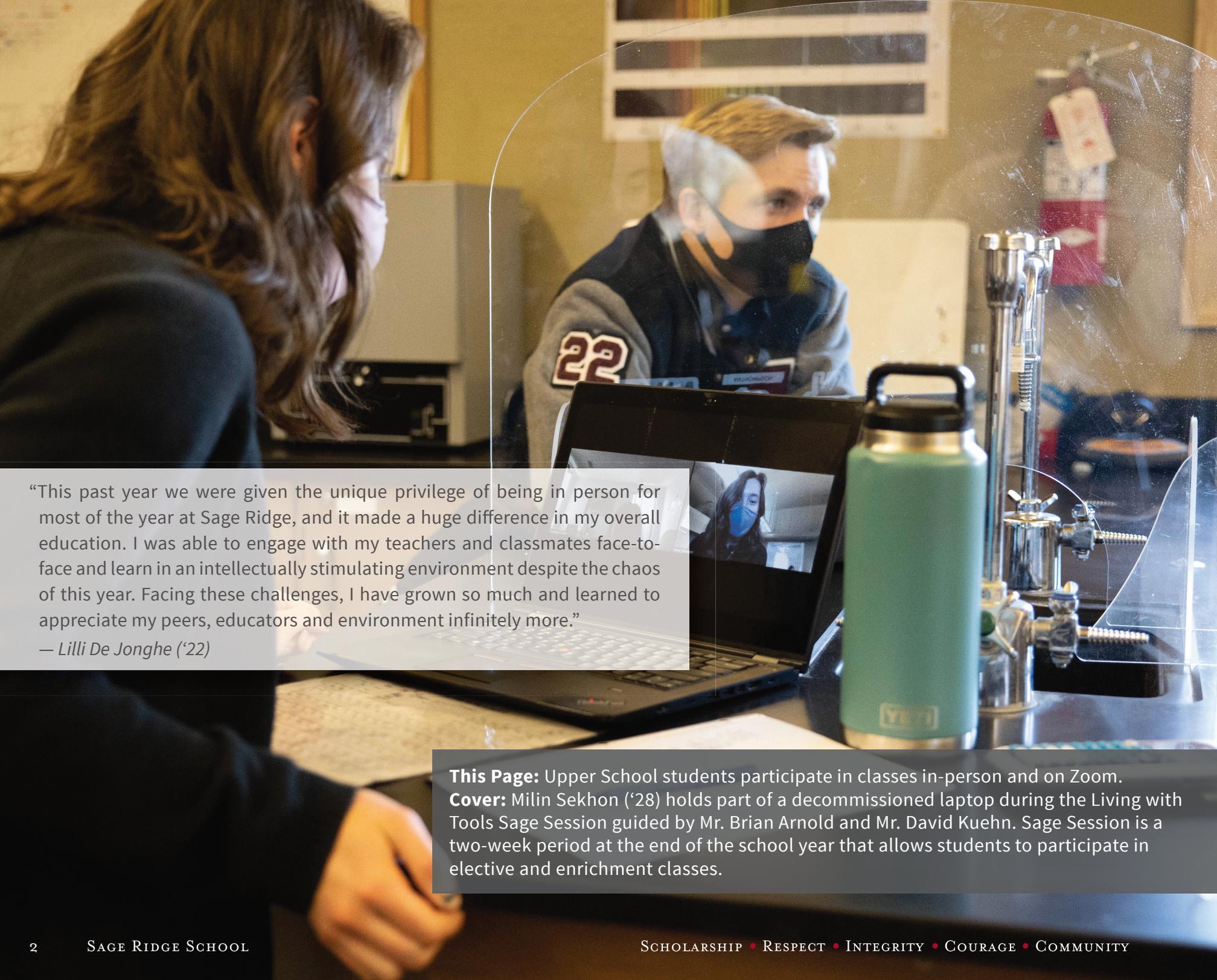




SAGE RIDGE SCHOOL



IMPACT REPORT | 2020 - 2021



“This past year we were given the unique privilege of being in person for most of the year at Sage Ridge, and it made a huge difference in my overall education. I was able to engage with my teachers and classmates face-to-face and learn in an intellectually stimulating environment despite the chaos of this year. Facing these challenges, I have grown so much and learned to appreciate my peers, educators and environment infinitely more.”

— Lilli De Jonghe ('22)

This Page: Upper School students participate in classes in-person and on Zoom.
Cover: Milin Sekhon ('28) holds part of a decommissioned laptop during the Living with Tools Sage Session guided by Mr. Brian Arnold and Mr. David Kuehn. Sage Session is a two-week period at the end of the school year that allows students to participate in elective and enrichment classes.



NOTE FROM THE HEAD

Greetings Sage Ridge Families and Friends:

As I reflect on this school year, I am proud to report that the Sage Ridge School community has stayed the course during the COVID-19 pandemic while making big plans for its future.

Our mission to instill our Pillars of Scholarship, Respect, Integrity, Courage and Community in our students has never been more important amid promising enrollment numbers for the 2021-2022 school year. Our faculty and staff make this possible, and I am thankful to work alongside exceptionally skilled people who are passionate about bolstering our academic, athletic and arts programs.

Despite the challenges all schools faced, all 21 members of the class of 2021 persevered in their academic efforts, were accepted to four-year colleges, and earned \$3.75 million in aggregate aid. I hope they will return to our campus next year to see how much its footprint has grown.

The Achieve, Innovate and Magnify Campaign — the AIM Campaign — has an ambitious goal to unite the school and Reno communities by building an attractive, modern Student Activity Center. I can think of no better way to symbolize resilience during a pandemic than by envisioning a new gathering place to inspire students, faculty and visitors.

Creating a Student Activity Center (SAC) is about much more than just building a new facility — it is about fulfilling our mission. Sage Ridge is well known for the academic challenge offered to its students, and Scholarship will always be one of our key five Pillars. The SAC will give our students opportunities to be involved in a wide range of activities to engage their minds and bodies. It will be the heart and home for the entire campus. It will be a place we can host tournaments, celebrate as a whole community and extend hospitality to the wider community.

Civil rights leader Coretta Scott King said that “The greatness of a community is most accurately measured by the compassionate actions of its members.” Compassionate action comes in many forms. I continually remind myself that our children are always watching and learning from our words and actions. We must model compassion for them through our engagement with our community, by showing up and participating.

With Gratitude,

Tobin S. Bechtel
Head of School

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.

IN THE CLASSROOM AND BEYOND

During the 2020-2021 school year, Sage Ridge students expanded the reach of their impact.

HIGHLIGHTS OF 2020-2021 (CHRONOLOGICALLY FROM AUGUST 2020 TO JUNE 2021)

- Considered one of the top 1% schools on the Challenge Index, which ranks more than 22,000 high schools nationwide
- Initiated Challenge Success partnership with Stanford University
- Won Best Private School in The Reno Gazette Journal's 2021 Best of Reno Awards
- Griffin Lovato ('21) named a 2021 National Merit Scholarship finalist
- Nate Mulvaney ('21) earned the Golden Scorpion award — given for the fourth time in school history
- Four debaters finished in the top spot in the Northern Nevada Forensics League tournaments. A Lincoln Douglas debater and a Public Forum team qualified for National Speech and Debate Association Nationals
- Hosted community-wide flu and COVID-19 vaccine clinics
- Tobin Bechtel was awarded administrator of the year by the Nevada Music Educators Association
- Leila Moassessi ('21) earned spot on "Athletes of the Week," The Reno Gazette Journal's list of top high school athletes for the week of March 29-April 3
- Winner of the American Heart Association's first-ever "School of the North" Competition (page 11)
- Multiple students earned awards during the Junior Classical League State Convention hosted virtually by Sage Ridge School in April
- All-school Field Day returned in April 2021 (opposite page)
- Assembled in small groups to meet members of the 152nd Airlift Wing Unit of the Nevada Air National Guard in honor of Veterans Day (inset)
- Latin students ranked nationally in exams again
- The 21-member Class of 2021 earned \$3.75 million in aggregate aid (page 6)
- Austin Schler ('21) earned the Service Award for completing a patio area on campus for his Eagle Scout project (more about Austin on page 7)
- More than \$210,000 raised for the Annual Fund (page 23)
- More than \$1,942,147 received for the AIM (Achieve, Innovate and Magnify) Capital Campaign in this fiscal year (page 23)
- 72 new students



A TEAM EFFORT

Field Day, held in April, was the largest all-school event attempted since the pandemic struck. Teachers coordinated an action-packed but safe day of outside activities. Teams of students in grades 3-12 worked together to complete challenges such as tug of war, egg and spoon races and more. The Field Day tradition reinforces our Pillars of Respect, Courage and Community.

SCHOLARSHIP

Our Pillar of Scholarship was upheld in 2020-2021 by maintaining a top-notch college preparatory experience through on-campus and distance learning options.

ACADEMICS STILL STRONG

When meeting in person was not possible, our community seamlessly transitioned to distance learning. Our small class sizes eventually allowed us to have on-campus instruction in accordance with the state's COVID-19 guidelines. We installed partitions between desks, rearranged classrooms and created outdoor learning spaces to encourage social distancing.



Students gather under a sunshade for class.

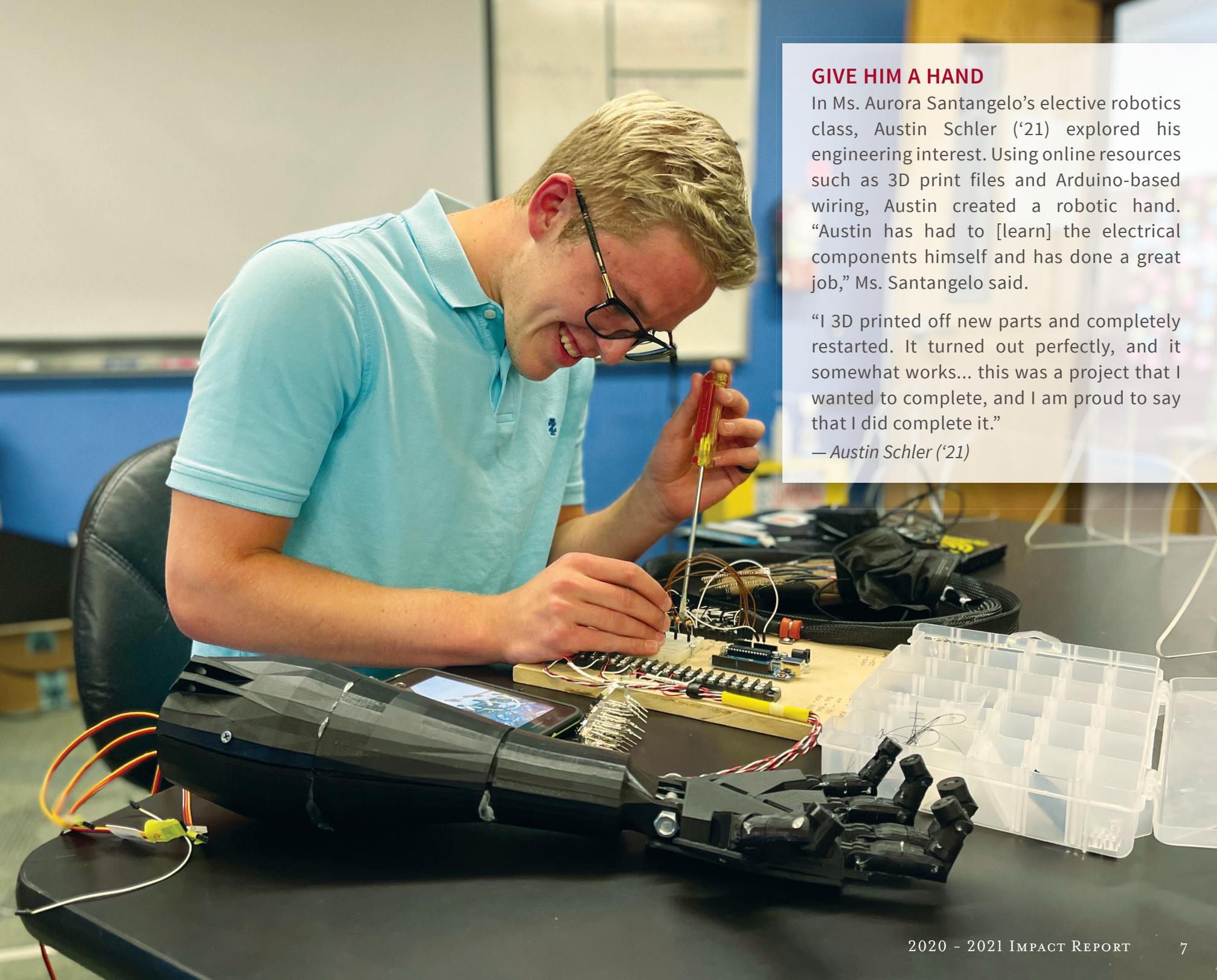


Student Max Walta ('30) participates in class.



LIFELONG LEARNERS

Sage Ridge faculty members are proud to shape enthusiastic students' curious minds. The Lower School nurtures young learners in grades 3-5. The Middle School prepares grades 6-8 for the college preparatory experience in the Upper School. Grades 9-12 constitute the Upper School, where students may take honors-level courses and more than a dozen Advanced Placement classes. About two-thirds of Upper School students take honors courses, and one-half take AP courses. The Class of 2021 was accepted to 84 colleges and earned \$3.75 million in aggregate aid.



GIVE HIM A HAND

In Ms. Aurora Santangelo's elective robotics class, Austin Schler ('21) explored his engineering interest. Using online resources such as 3D print files and Arduino-based wiring, Austin created a robotic hand. "Austin has had to [learn] the electrical components himself and has done a great job," Ms. Santangelo said.

"I 3D printed off new parts and completely restarted. It turned out perfectly, and it somewhat works... this was a project that I wanted to complete, and I am proud to say that I did complete it."

— Austin Schler ('21)

RESPECT, INTEGRITY, COURAGE

Students who participate in our Arts and Athletics programs courageously express themselves and their talents while balancing academic responsibilities and modeling integrity and teamwork for their peers.

CELEBRATING THE ARTS

This spring, SRS Theatre Productions presented the satirical comedy “I Hate Shakespeare!” in the outdoor amphitheater with a livestreaming option. The show featured students in grades 6 through 12 who resourcefully brought live theatre back to campus under the guidance of Ms. Keely Cobb, Theatre Director.

The music program was awarded the Support Music Merit Award by the NAMM Foundation for the second consecutive year. In the visual arts program, Thara Sundaram ('26) was the youngest competitor in the Congressional Art Competition, earning special permission to enter the traditionally high school-level contest. Her piece represented our home state of Nevada. Thara, Rhea Skaria ('25) and Scarlett Lopiccolo ('25) earned honors in the Scholastic Art and Writing Awards.



Shaun Green ('24) and Amelie Harvey ('21) perform in “I Hate Shakespeare!”



Students celebrate the end of the track and field season with the Upper School girls team receiving second place locally and runner-up regionally. The boys team received first place locally and the regional NIAA title.



COMPETING THROUGH ADVERSITY

Our student-athletes remained committed to excellence on and off the field of competition despite COVID-19-related cancellations. Sage Ridge School’s athletics programs were one of the first to resume summer workouts after the state eased restrictions. Despite restrictions, students found ways to stay active. Our basketball programs continued voluntary workouts to focus on off-season skill development and conditioning work. Nate Mulvaney ('21) created and shared soccer tutorials on YouTube, and Rhys Ferrito ('28) recovered from a broken arm to make a name for himself in running. Student-athletes earned multiple honors from the Nevada Interscholastic Activities Association (NIAA) and the Tah-Neva Athletic League.



Signing Day 2021



Flynn Lundeen ('21) will join the men's swimming team at Rochester Institute of Technology in New York.



Leila Moassessi ('21) will play on the women's golf team at Occidental College in Los Angeles, California.

2020-2021 ATHLETIC HIGHLIGHTS:

- Alex Power ('22) named to Scholastic All-American Swim Team.
- Rhys Ferrito ('28) competed in the cross-country USATF Youth Nationals.
- The Grade 8 Girls Volleyball Team named the 2020-2021 Tah-Neva Division 1 Champions.
- Logan Reeves ('22) earned first place overall in the 2020-2021 NIAA 4A State Ski Racing Championship, including first place in giant slalom. Sydney Strominger ('24) earned 8th place in giant slalom.
- The Upper School Girls and Boys Soccer teams competed in the 2A Division for the first time in school history.
- The Upper School Girls Volleyball Team made it to the NIAA 1A West Regionals.
- The Upper School Boys Swimming Team took gold in the NIAA 3A Regional 200 Freestyle Relay championship.
- Despite cancelled seasons, the Middle School and Upper School Basketball Teams continued with conditioning workouts to improve their skills and sharpen every aspect of their game.

COMMUNITY

Students put our curriculum into action to support local and global initiatives.

A GLOBAL EFFORT

The Last Straw Club, our student-led environmental awareness group, participated in the 20,000 Trees Initiative. Five trees were planted in partnership with Full Belly Brasil, a nonprofit spearheaded by Sage Ridge alumnus John Dewald ('13) to promote food donations and clean drinking water to families in the South American country. Each tree planted results in an extra pound of food for a family in need. Full Belly Brasil — which is spelled with an “s” to conform to the Portuguese language — partners with food distributors to donate soon-to-expire ingredients that can no longer be sold. The Sage Ridge experience came full circle when Nhi Phan ('21) and Isabella Nunez ('21) completed their senior internships with Full Belly Brasil.



Volunteers beautify campus during our Garden Party, during which five trees were planted for The Last Straw Club's partnership with Full Belly Brasil.



Students pose with the Valentine's Day cards they made for the Meals on Wheels program.



FROM THE HEART

The COVID-19 pandemic underscored the importance of community service and compassion for others. In February, Lower and Middle School students continued an eight-year tradition by creating 500 Valentine's Day cards to include with Meals on Wheels deliveries. Our Junior Classical League partnered with Nevada JCL and Keep Truckee Meadows Beautiful to clean up Miguel Ribera Park. Students also designed and painted a Karma Box to be stocked with supplies to be donated to those in need.

SCHOOL OF THE NORTH

Sage Ridge was dubbed the first-ever “School of the North” by the American Heart Association for being the top fundraising school in the region for The Kids Heart Challenge. Through the program, students learn to keep their hearts and minds healthy while making a difference by raising money to help children with heart problems. Students earned the privilege of sliming school leaders by raising more than \$9,000.



Head of School, Tobin Bechtel, takes a bow after being slimed.

ACHIEVE, INNOVATE, MAGNIFY

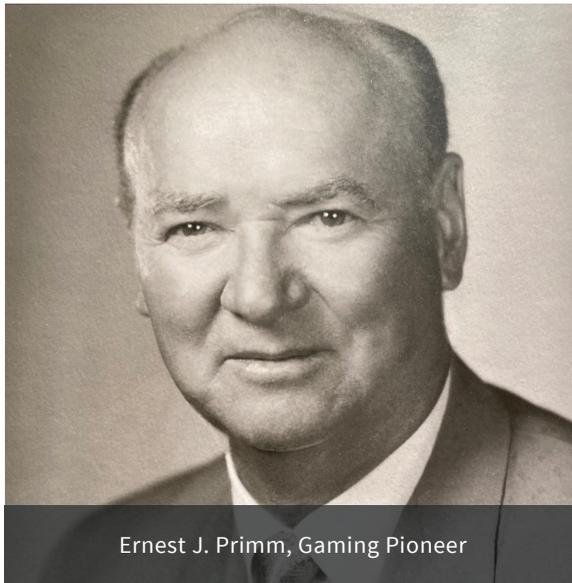
Sage Ridge School is committed to expanding the campus to better serve the educational and facility needs of the growing community.

ANTICIPATING THE FUTURE

The first phase of the AIM (Achieve, Innovate and Magnify) Capital Campaign is the 24,004-square-foot Student Activity Center (SAC). It will feature a 13,000-square-foot gymnasium with a maple hardwood floor and bleacher seating for 756 as well as a state-of-the-art fitness center, modern locker rooms, athletic office, concessions stand, concourse, Hall of Fame and several multipurpose academic and social lounges. The SAC will serve as a venue for both Sage Ridge School and the community — for youth sports tournaments, academic competitions and special events. Future AIM phase plans include a Knowledge Lab and a Performing Arts Theater.



A rendering of the Student Activity Center



Ernest J. Primm, Gaming Pioneer



HONORING A NEVADA LEGEND

The SAC gymnasium will be named after Northern Nevada gaming legend Ernest J. Primm, known by most people as Ernie. Members of Primm’s family spanning multiple generations as well as close friends collectively raised and pledged over \$2 million toward funding the \$7 million SAC. A lounge space will also be named in his honor.

“Ernie’s contributions to both the Reno business and gaming community and to Northern Nevada are immeasurable,” said Sallie Armstrong, Sage Ridge School’s Board President. “Ernie’s impact on Reno makes this gift meaningful in many ways — it ties Reno’s past to Sage Ridge’s present and future and in a way that reminds our students and community to honor and recognize those who paved the way. Ernie was a community leader and one of Reno’s early entrepreneurs who worked hard to achieve and accomplish all he did. Sage Ridge, each and every day, teaches our students to be leaders and provides them a path to achieve, innovate, and inspire others.”



STUDENT ACTIVITY CENTER REFLECTIONS

“As I visualize playing on this home court, I see our community rally together to support our wonderful athletes.”

— Maggie Soran ('23)

“As a debate coach, it means that we can participate in our debate league. We can actually host debates. That’s going to be huge for the school and just huge for our community. I can’t wait to walk in the doors of this place.”

— John Sloyan,
English Teacher

“The opportunities we would have in that space could really help us improve our sense of community through the events we’d be able to run.”

— Emily Dolan,
Upper School Dean of Students

Head of School, Tobin Bechtel, walks along the future site of the Student Activity Center on Sage Ridge’s 40-plus-acre campus.

SAGE RIDGE SCHOOL



Spencer Thomas Abts
Baylor University

Thesis: Is College Worth It?

Internship: Preston Photography

Office: Class Representative

Enrolled at SRS Since 2014



John Calvin Baker[†]
Elon University

Thesis: Government Influence on the Economy: Comparing the Economy of the Great Recession

Internship: Chuck Jones Gallery

Enrolled at SRS Since 2018



Caleb Briggs[†]
Reed College

Thesis: Fundamental Restrictions on the Current State-of-the-art in AI

Internship: Probatorex Inc.

Enrolled at SRS Since 2013



Jared Rex Briggs[†]
University of Portland

Thesis: Steroids; A Demon From Within

Internship: Cornerstone Comprehensive Wealth Management

Enrolled at SRS Since 2013



Jens Emil Clausen^{††}
Santa Clara University

Thesis: An Unfit Economy: The Effects of Mass Automation on a Capitalist Economy

Internship: Uplift Inc.

Enrolled at SRS Since 2015



Amelie Liberty Harvey
University of California, Santa Cruz

Thesis: Systematic Failures in the U.S. Prisons: Why Prison Practices and Inmate Rehabilitation Need To Be Improved

Internship: Around the Stage

Enrolled at SRS Since 2015



Lillian Elizabeth Johnson^{††}
University of Portland

Thesis: Climate Change and the Fashion Industry: Creating a More Sustainable Future

Internship: Girlmade!

Office: Secretary

Enrolled at SRS Since 2016



Brandon Hari Lillaney[†]
Villanova University

Thesis: The Pass/Fail Grading System: Positives, Negatives, and Implementation in American High Schools and Colleges

Internship: Montane Building Group

Office: Class Representative

Enrolled at SRS Since 2013



Griffin Crosby Lovato^{††}
Washington University in St Louis

Thesis: The International Welfare Trap: Foreign Aid Challenges and Reform Solutions

Internship: Immunize Nevada

Office: Honor Council Chair

Enrolled at SRS Since 2015



Flynn Samson Lundeen[†]
Rochester Institute of Technology

Thesis: Emptiness Through Stuff

Internship: PIVOT Creative and Consulting

Enrolled at SRS Since 2013

CLASS OF 2021



Anna Teresa Méndez Leal
Willamette University

Thesis: The Joker as Commentary on American Morality and Hypocrisy

Internship: PBS

Enrolled at SRS Since 2013



Benjamin Todd Miller^{††}
University of Nevada, Reno
(Honors College)

Thesis: Endless Possibilities: Ethics of AI Brain Implanted Technology

Internship: Reno Orthopedic Clinic and Orthopedic Implant Company

Enrolled at SRS Since 2015



Leila Evangelia Ghodsi Moassessi[†]
Occidental College

Thesis: Stuck in a Checkmate: United States' Sanctions Against Iran

Internship: Second Judicial District Court of the State of Nevada

Office: President / Prefecture

Enrolled at SRS Since 2017



Jilliane Christine Mueller[†]
Indiana University,
Bloomington
(Kelley School of Business)

Thesis: Does Social Media Increase Suicides by Cyberbullying?

Internship: AAA Discount Storage

Enrolled at SRS Since 2015



Nathaniel Shimmin Mulvaney^{††}
Duke University

Thesis: Red vs Blue: The Impact of Digital Platforms on Political Polarization

Internship: Uplift Inc.

Office: Honor Council

Enrolled at SRS Since 2013



Isabella Marie Nunez[†]
Boston University

Thesis: The Role of Mass Media in Fueling the Glorification of Serial Murderers

Internship: Full Belly Brasil

Enrolled at SRS Since 2019



Vidhi Girish Pandit^{††}
University of Nevada, Reno
(Honors College)

Thesis: Malaria in Poverty: Diagnostics, Vaccinations, Treatment and its Economic Effect

Internship: University of Nevada, Reno

Office: Vice President / Prefecture

Enrolled at SRS Since 2015



Nhi Thanh Phan^{††}
Pitzer College

Thesis: Her Sexual Freedom, or Lack Thereof

Internship: Full Belly Brasil

Office: Honor Council

Enrolled at SRS Since 2017



Austin Bradley Schler
Boise State University

Thesis: Physical Exercise and Stress Relief

Internship: RIX Industries

Enrolled at SRS Since 2013



Mason Robert Togliatti
University of Nevada, Reno

Thesis: Political Correctness and Comedy

Internship: Burnett Electric

Enrolled at SRS Since 2017



Spencer Ryan Uppal[†]
University of Colorado Boulder
(Leeds School of Business,
Honors Program)

Thesis: Solutions for Concussions in Adolescent Athletes

Internship: Washoe Wealth Advisors

Office: Treasurer / Prefecture

Enrolled at SRS Since 2017

ESTABLISHING THE LEGACY OF SAGE RIDGE ALUMNI

Sage Ridge alumni are leaders who take our Pillars into the world. We are proud of how they use their experience at Sage Ridge to courageously build a legacy for themselves and others.

MAKING HISTORY

Sara Garey-Sage ('11) is using her passion for history to collect pandemic stories as she works toward a doctorate in history at the University of Nevada, Reno. Her work for UNR's Shared History Program documented a common thread of people wanting to help each other through the pandemic.

Sara earned a bachelor's degree in history at the College of William and Mary in 2015 and a master's in history at UNR in 2020. Her academic journey began with a European history class during her sophomore year at Sage Ridge. She was tasked with defending Louis XVI in a mock trial. The French monarch was found guilty in 1793 — but Sara's history class acquitted him.

“That opportunity to learn and utilize primary sources in a more creative manner really opened my eyes to the ways you can study history.”

— Sara Garey-Sage ('11)



Sara Garey-Sage ('11)
is documenting Nevada pandemic stories.



David Hoffman ('05) poses for a family photo.



ENTREPRENEURIAL SPIRIT

A member of Sage Ridge School's third graduating class of nine students, David Hoffman ('05) worked on "The Ridge," the student-led newspaper. To David, this was an early opportunity to explore his entrepreneurial interests. He attended Northwestern University, where he and a group of friends started a company called Next Big Sound that developed one of the first systems to track music trends as the industry shifted to online platforms. The technology proved so useful that David and his co-founders were able to sell the company to Pandora Music in 2015. David left Pandora in 2017 to start a family and a new company called Beam, which matches homeowners with contractors to help with home renovations. David is joining the Sage Ridge Board in 2021.



2020-2021 BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Our Board of Trustees is a dedicated group of professionals who volunteer their time to guide the overall direction and future for Sage Ridge School.

- Sallie Armstrong
- Erin Mulvaney
- Dr. Thomas Burnham
- Ted Mulvaney
- Jens Peter Clausen
- Robin Soran
- Cory Clemetson
- Ranson W. Webster
- Eric Gangloff
- Steve Welch
- Vivian Leal
- Dr. Richard Welcome
- Cathy Maurer

Students wrote about what Integrity means to them, which is one of our Five Pillars.

2020-2021 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

215 students were enrolled for the 2020-2021 school year

TUITION ASSISTANCE

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

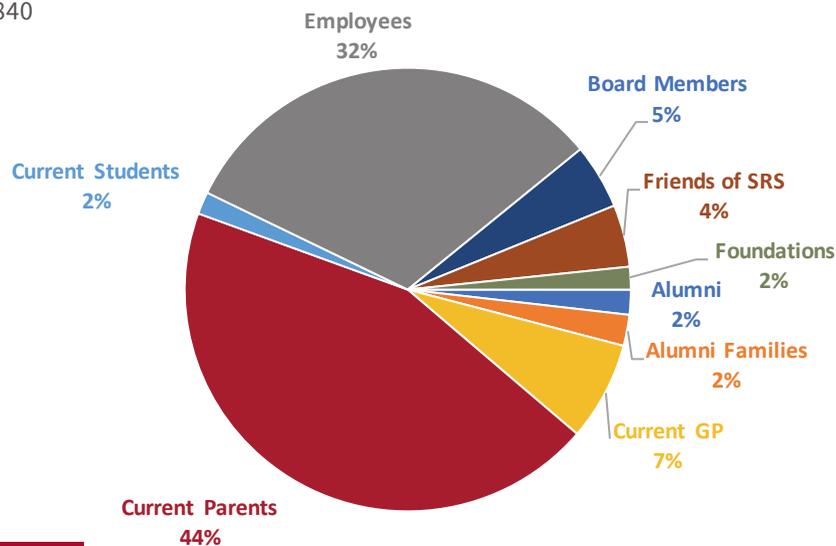
OPERATING BUDGET

Total Revenue \$5,390,269
 Total Expenses \$4,936,712

FUNDRAISING TOTALS

Annual Fund = \$218,983.53
 Opportunity Fund = \$ 93,300.00
 Restricted Funds = \$0
 Gala = \$43,950
 Capital Campaign = \$2,544,060.50

GIVING BY CONSTITUENTS



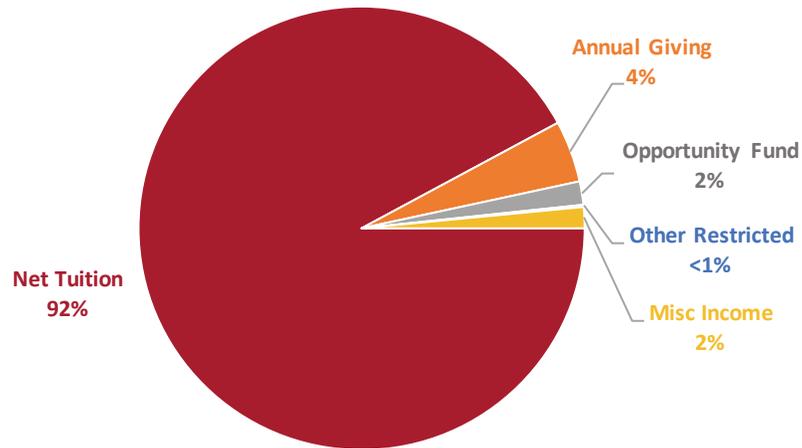
100% of the Sage Ridge School employees and board members donated, showing their commitment to the school and its mission.

YEAR ENDING 6/30/21

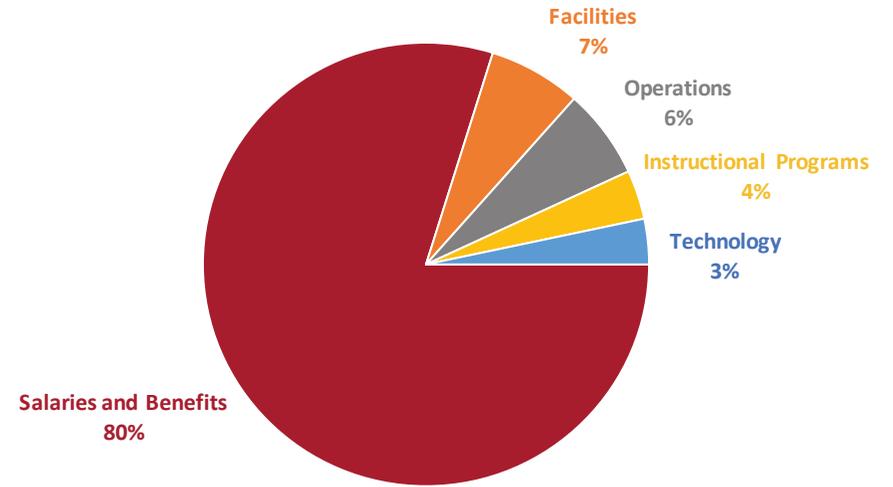


2020-2021 FISCAL YEAR IN REVIEW

REVENUE



EXPENSES



YEAR ENDING 6/30/21



DONOR RECOGNITION

Your generosity allows Sage Ridge School to grow, innovate and inspire the next generation of leaders in our world. Thank you for enabling us to provide and expand enriching educational opportunities and quality facilities in the Reno/Tahoe region.

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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 because they give school leadership the flexibility to allocate money where it will serve the best purpose. Such gifts provide myriad opportunities for students.

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 3 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 2022 Gala on March 5, 2022.

AIM (ACHIEVE, INNOVATE AND MAGNIFY) CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

The AIM Capital Campaign is a three-phase building project to expand Sage Ridge's campus to better serve the educational and facility needs of the growing community. The first phase is the Student Activity Center with a gymnasium at its core. Future phases include a Knowledge Lab and a Performing Arts Theater. [Please visit www.sageridge.org/AIM](http://www.sageridge.org/AIM) for more details.



A spectator cheers during the 2021 Commencement ceremony in the Great Space, which is the home of several school events. The Student Activity Center, which was publicly announced in March 2021, is part of a three-phase campus expansion project to create gathering places beyond the existing Great Space.

DONATIONS FOR THE 2021-2022 FISCAL YEAR CAN BE MADE AT:

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