



SAGE RIDGE

SCHOOL

**Opportunity Statement
Head of School Search
Reno, NV
July 2026**

Reno-Tahoe's Top independent,
college-preparatory school for
grades 3-12

Position Overview

Sage Ridge School seeks a dynamic Head of School to continue the legacy of Academic Excellence, Scholarship, Respect, Integrity, Courage, and Community - the pillars continue today and are the central part to the school's culture.



School Overview of Sage Ridge School

Sage Ridge School has a 25-year legacy of graduating students who embrace rigorous scholarship, respect the dignity of individuals, choose integrity, embody courage, cultivate a compassionate community, and ultimately thrive in our global society.



Our Vision: To inspire passion and purpose through the joy of learning

THE SAGE RIDGE DIFFERENCE



Fostering creative thinking and innovative problem-solving



Embodying Sage Ridge's core values - Scholarship, Respect, Integrity, Courage and Community



Everything about our students' experience prepares them to excel in their college of choice and beyond

Who We are at Sage Ridge School

At a Glance:

- Founded in 1998 and nestled on 44 acres in the Mount Rose foothills, it remains Northern Nevada's only independent, non-sectarian, co-educational college preparatory day school.
- 5 Value Pillars (Scholarship, Respect, Integrity, Courage, and Community) encapsulate the school's culture.
- Educates 227 students in grades 3 through 12 and has 35 faculty and 13 staff.
- A fully accredited member of the Northwest Association of Independent Schools.
- Active member of the National Association of Independent Schools, Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development, Association for Advancement of International Education, National/Western Associations for College Admission Counseling, College Board, National Business Officers Association, and Nevada Interscholastic Activities Association.

Accolades include:

- **2024 AP School Honor Roll Platinum Distinction and AP Access Award**
- **Top High School in Nevada and a Top 100 High School in the U.S.**
- **Named Best Private School in the Reno Gazette-Journal's Best of Reno 2024**
- **School review platform Niche rated Sage Ridge #1 rankings for Best Private K-12 School, Best Private High School, and Best College Prep Private High School in the region. Additionally, Sage Ridge was ranked #2 Best College Prep Private High School in Nevada and graded an A+ school.**









The Sage Ridge Difference

- The Sage Ridge Way is a culture deeply embedded in all aspects of the school. Faculty, staff, coaches, and a dedicated parent community go above and beyond to help students reach their highest potential and thrive as young adults. A level of trust and leadership is placed upon students to do the right things and ethically live according to the school's Value Pillars and Honor Code.
- Each fall students attend Outdoor Education Week at different regional locations by grade level, integrating survival skills and socio-emotional learning competencies.
- Each spring students pick two "Sage Session" classes to study over two weeks. Faculty build sessions around their own personal interests to allow students to explore subjects outside the classroom setting.
- Freshmen are required to take a seminar course that teaches them critical thinking, organization and study skills, identifying core values, how to correctly cite sources using MLA, stress management, growth mindset, research methods, and public speaking, and introduction to college counseling. They build upon core life competencies to gain greater confidence, awareness, and social-emotional maturity.
- To get a taste of college life, seniors take a college-level humanities seminar as a capstone history class, write a 15-20 page research essay, and juggle a four-week, 60-hour internship (min. 3 hours per day) in May to discover possible career interests.









Who we are at Sage Ridge School

Sage Ridge School believes that future leaders require both superior intellect and character. The school serves grades 3-12, we are passionate about inspiring our future leaders.

WHOLE SCHOOL

 220+ Students Enrolled in Grades 3-12	 11 Average Class Size	 1:1 Laptop Program: every student has a dedicated laptop computer.
 70% of Faculty have Advanced Degrees	 19 Average Years of Teaching Experience	 75 Minimum hours of Community Service required for Graduation.

CLASS OF 2023

 19 Students in the Class of 2023	 4 Students received National Merit Scholarship recognition	 4.53 Highest weighted GPA (6th Semester)	 3.96 Mean weighted GPA (6th Semester)
 1328 Mean Total SAT Score	 32 Average Composite ACT Score	 100% Graduation Rate	 100% of Graduates Matriculate to College

Sage Session

Each spring, students pick 2-4 "Sage Session" classes to study over a two-week period when students participate in electives and enrichment classes taught by Sage Ridge faculty. These courses enhance students' academic experience and our core curriculum.

During Sage Session:

Students learn from faculty from whom they may not normally have class.

Students choose their courses based on their interests.

Students have a chance to hone learning skills in a new and dynamic environment.

Students get to see teachers excited about teaching a course in which they have an outside interest.

Teachers have an opportunity to share their knowledge and skills about a subject they might not typically teach at SRS.



Three Schools, One Campus

Lower School

Grades 3-5

Flexible, personalized engagement is the priority of our self-contained, lower school classrooms.

Our youngest scholars are always active.

They are hungry for knowledge and our teachers keep pace with their eagerness through a myriad of techniques that encourage hands-on engagement and critical thinking.

Our Lower School teachers meaningfully challenge students, while supporting the individual needs of each child and communicating directly with parents. Students start on the path toward independence in an environment emphasizing organization and self-reflection. Computer fluency, writing skills, and public speaking are seamlessly integrated across the curriculum. Engaging classroom activities makes learning both innovative and fun.

- Classrooms are equipped with computers for every student for Grades 3-5.
- Students take physical education and have a daily rotation of arts (music, theatre, or visual art) and coding classes.
- Laboratory science classes are part of our core curriculum.
- Spanish classes begin in grade 3 and receive instruction twice a week.
- Students acquire study and organizational skills and engage in collaborative learning.
- Advanced math is available for accelerated learners.

Middle School

Grades 6-8

While early adolescence is often considered a difficult time in a child's life, Sage Ridge teachers see it as a rich and rewarding time of growth.

Our teachers meet the challenges of these years because they possess content knowledge, teaching expertise, and a deep understanding of how to support social-emotional learning. Students enter grade 7 as concrete observers and leave grade 8 with the capacity to analyze and think abstractly about complex problems while developing a strong sense of self.

- Laptops are fully integrated into our grades 6-8 curriculum.
- Students take physical education and have a daily rotation of arts (music, theater, or visual art) and computer programming classes.
- Computer programming classes focus on Robotics and JavaScript.
- Laboratory science classes are part of our core curriculum.
- Advanced math is available for accelerated learners.
- Foreign language classes continue in grade 6, with students taking one semester each of Latin and Spanish. Starting in grade 7, students choose one language on which to focus.



Three Schools, One Campus

Upper School

Grades 9-12

At Sage Ridge we understand that our Upper School launches a student's future. High school is a time for students to discover their passions while engaging in rigorous critical thinking and gaining mastery of academic disciplines. Leadership skills are cultivated through vast opportunities to create a lasting impact. Captain a sport. Start a club. Become the Editor-in-Chief. Propose an Independent Study. Gather support for your Student Government campaign. Sit on the state board for the Junior Classical League. Star in the play. Present at a research conference. Intern at Tesla.

Everything about the high school experience prepares students to excel in their college of choice.

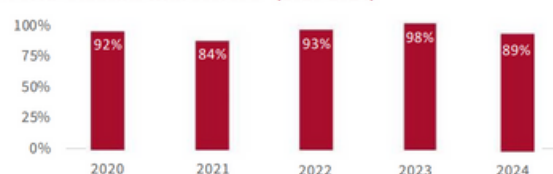
- Freshman Seminar equips students with critical thinking tools and sharpens public speaking skills.
- Advanced science classes prepare students for pre-medical college tracks or research positions early on in their college careers.
- Computer science and engineering classes enable students to take full advantage of our Innovation Lab.
- International students add a global dimension.
- Full-time college counselor takes a four-year approach to college counseling and knows every student well.
- Senior Seminar exposes students to a college-level seminar in preparation for their next step.
- Senior Thesis challenges seniors to write and defend a 15-20 page research essay.
- Senior Internship allows students to gain real-world experience in the field of their choice.

Our average AP pass rate is 87%, but we don't run the same AP program as everyone else. You may hear other high school students say they are taking 5-7 AP classes a year. But are they really taking a college-level class? Our AP classes result in students who can pass their AP exams, thus validating our curriculum as equivalent to a real college course. In addition, all our students who receive AP credit on their transcripts are required to sit for the exam. This means that our pass rates are the highest in the region even with all our AP students taking the exams!

Honors and Advanced Placement (AP) Courses

- 62% of our high school students take Honors courses
- 50% of our high school students take AP courses
- 100% of students enrolled in an AP course sit for the AP exam
- Students must earn a 90 percent or higher grade in all their classes before being allowed to enroll in these courses

% of AP Students With Scores 3+ (2020-2024)



I took a biology class at UNR over the summer, and the professor originally didn't want to let me join because I hadn't taken college chemistry yet. From her experience, high school chemistry classes usually didn't prep kids enough for her class. Once I was in the class, I didn't have any issues with the chemistry sections. The professor mentioned that she was impressed, specifically mentioning that my chemistry background (from SRS) was extremely strong, especially considering that it was only a high school class. This proves how college preparatory it was.

- Aryan Shukla ('20)



The Position

The selection of the next Head of School represents a pivotal moment for Sage Ridge. Careful research and feedback reveals both a strong foundation of academic excellence and a desire for growth and evolution. By carefully considering these themes and priorities, the search committee will identify a leader who can build upon the school's strengths, address its challenges, and guide Sage Ridge toward a bright future.

School Strengths & Areas to Preserve

Sage Ridge School possesses a strong foundation built on key strengths that define its identity and contribute to its success. The next Head of School will inherit a legacy of academic excellence, a close-knit community, and a commitment to individualized attention – all vital aspects to preserve and enhance.

Academic Rigor

Academic excellence is the cornerstone of Sage Ridge School. The community consistently recognizes the school's dedication to providing a challenging and enriching academic experience. The next Head of School will be a champion for academic rigor, ensuring that the curriculum remains relevant, engaging, and prepares students for success in college and beyond. This commitment to high standards fosters a culture of intellectual curiosity and a love of learning that permeates the entire school.

Sense of Community

Sage Ridge is more than just a school; it's a close-knit and supportive community where everyone feels valued and known. This sense of belonging is frequently praised by students, faculty, and parents alike. As one community member eloquently stated, "Sage Ridge School provides a sense of community among students and faculty," fostering an environment of respect, connection, and shared success. The next Head of School will be a steward of this valuable culture, nurturing relationships, promoting inclusivity, and ensuring that Sage Ridge remains a place where everyone feels supported and celebrated.

Individualized Attention and Support

The small class sizes and personalized approach at Sage Ridge are essential to its success. This creates a nurturing learning environment where students receive the individualized attention and support they need to thrive. The next Head of School will champion this approach, ensuring that every student feels seen, heard, and empowered to reach their full potential.

School Pillars

The school's pillars (Scholarship, Respect, Integrity, Courage, Community) – the core values and guiding principles that define its identity – are deeply cherished by the community. The next Head of School will embrace and uphold these pillars, ensuring that they continue to guide the school's decision-making and shape its future. They will be a champion for the school's mission, inspiring students, faculty, and staff to live out these values in their daily lives.

By preserving and building upon these strengths, the next Head of School will ensure that Sage Ridge School continues to provide an exceptional educational experience that fosters academic excellence, personal growth, and a strong sense of community.

Opportunities & Challenges

The next Head of School at Sage Ridge will step into a thriving learning community with a strong 26 year history of academic excellence and a deep commitment to student growth. This is an exceptional opportunity for a visionary leader to build upon the school's successes and guide it towards an even brighter future.

Enrollment and Outreach

The next Head of School will play a key role in ensuring enrollment stability and growth, maximizing the use of our beautiful campus and facilities. They will also be a passionate advocate for independent education, educating the Reno/Tahoe region about the unique benefits of a Sage Ridge education. This includes:

- Developing and implementing effective enrollment management strategies to attract and retain mission-aligned students, with emphasis on the lower school, upper school, and retention from 8th to 9th grade.
- Building relationships with feeder schools and community organizations to expand the school's reach.
- Articulating a compelling vision for the future of Sage Ridge that resonates with prospective families.

Recruit, Support, Evaluate, and Retain Outstanding Teachers and Staff

Recognizing that exceptional teachers are the heart of any great school, the next Head of School will prioritize attracting, supporting, and retaining a talented and dedicated faculty and staff. This includes:

- Creating a positive and supportive work environment where teachers feel valued and empowered.
- Providing ongoing professional development opportunities to foster growth and innovation.
- Implementing effective evaluation and mentorship programs to ensure high-quality instruction.

Culture of Philanthropy

The next Head of School will be a champion for philanthropy, cultivating a culture of giving within the Sage Ridge community. This involves:

- Educating constituents about the importance of philanthropic support in sustaining and enhancing the school's programs and initiatives.
- Building strong relationships with all constituents, particularly alumni, alumni parents, and historical donors.
- Laying the groundwork and executing the school's next capital campaign to secure resources for future growth and innovation.

Provide Stability, Growth, and Vision

The next Head of School will provide steady leadership, guiding the school towards continued growth and a bright future. This includes:

- Maintaining and enhancing academic excellence through a rigorous and engaging curriculum.
- Encouraging creative thought and innovation, including exploring the potential of AI in education.
- Articulating a clear and inspiring personal vision for Sage Ridge School, positioning it as a leader in 21st-century education.

This is a unique opportunity for a passionate and visionary leader to make a lasting impact on the lives of students and shape the future of Sage Ridge School.

Profile of the Next Head of School

Desired Qualities and Experience in a New Head of School

Sage Ridge School seeks a Head of School who embodies the very essence of transformative leadership. This individual will be a visionary, a collaborator, and a champion for the school's mission and values. They will possess a deep understanding of independent school education, a passion for fostering intellectual curiosity, and an unwavering commitment to the holistic development of each student.

The ideal candidate will be an experienced educator with a proven track record of success in independent school leadership. They will bring a global mindset, appreciating diverse perspectives and preparing students for an interconnected world. Authenticity, charisma, and approachability will define their leadership style, creating a welcoming and inclusive environment where every student feels seen, heard, and valued.

The next Head of School will be an inspiring figure who motivates students, faculty, and staff to reach their full potential. They will be a servant leader, prioritizing the needs of the community and fostering a collaborative and supportive culture. Operationally savvy and strategically minded, they will possess the skills and vision to guide Sage Ridge School towards a thriving future.

This individual will be a team builder, bringing people together to achieve common goals. They will be an innovator, embracing new ideas and approaches to education. Strong communication skills will be essential, allowing them to effectively articulate the school's vision and connect with various stakeholders. They will be a storyteller, capable of weaving a compelling narrative that captures the essence of Sage Ridge School and inspires others to join its journey.

Above all, the next Head of School will be a person of high integrity, committed to ethical decision-making and leading by example. They will possess staying power and longevity, demonstrating a commitment to the long-term success of the school and its community.

Sage Ridge School seeks a Head of School who embodies these qualities and is ready to embrace the exciting opportunity to lead this exceptional school into a bright future.

About Reno-Tahoe

Known as the Biggest Little City in the World, Reno, Nevada, is the fourth largest city in Nevada with small-town charm and big-city amenities. Tourists and residents alike are drawn in by the region's natural beauty, outdoor recreation, ski resorts, and boating, not to mention its many world-class casinos and resorts. While living in Reno, NV, you'll feel the spirit of the American West still resides in this beautiful city nestled in the mountains.

The Reno cost of living is very affordable, especially for a larger city. Low taxes are one of the many benefits of living in Reno. Nevada does not have an individual income tax, estate tax, or inheritance tax. The Reno sales tax rate is 8.265%. Reno experiences a semi-arid climate, characterized by its dry conditions with four distinct seasons. The city receives around 22 inches of snowfall annually. The average annual rainfall is modest, at about 7 inches.

Downtown Reno is the heart of the city, pulsating with a vibrant nightlife and rich cultural scene that attracts both visitors and locals. Known for its iconic casinos and entertainment venues, the area offers an exciting mix of live music, theater performances, and art galleries. The Truckee River Walk is a major attraction, providing a scenic route along the river with quaint cafes and shops. Downtown Reno residents appreciate the convenience of urban living with easy access to public transportation, a walkable community, and entertainment easily within reach.

The city is just a short drive from the Lake Tahoe area, home to the largest alpine lake in North America and renowned for its stunning vistas and outdoor adventures. The Truckee River flows through Reno, offering picturesque shores and water recreation.

Historically known for its gaming, leisure, and entertainment sectors, the city has diversified significantly. Reno offers jobs in many industries, including healthcare, technology, and clean energy. The city is home to several tech companies and advanced manufacturing companies, bolstered by its strategic location and business-friendly environment. Over the past decade, the Reno metropolitan area has become one of America's major tech centers. It's attracted large-scale investments from Google, Microsoft, Apple, Amazon, Tesla, and more. You'll still find gambling and leisure are major sources of Reno jobs. The region's ski resorts, casinos, and spas are among the largest employers in the metropolitan area.

Reno, Nevada, emerged in the 1860s as a small community along the Truckee River, driven by its strategic location as a trade and transport hub. Its transformation into a major railroad hub in the late 19th century spurred significant growth. With the rise of casinos and its proximity to Lake Tahoe, Reno became known for its unique blend of recreation, entertainment, and scenic beauty.

To Apply

Interested candidates should submit electronically in one email and as separate documents (preferably PDFs) the following materials:

- A cover letter expressing interest in this position
- A current resume / CV
- A list of five professional references

As the process moves forward, selected candidates may be asked to submit:

- Writing samples specific for this search
- Complete a battery of competency assessments
- Complete a candidate questionnaire

Review of candidate materials will begin immediately. Candidates are invited to contact the consultants and to submit a resume and cover letter as soon as possible to:

Tim Viands

President & Founder

tim@indyschoolconsultancy.com

*Please do not contact the school directly.



**For inquiries,
contact us.**

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(440) 361-9880

