



Sage Mahwah News and Events

2025-2026 Volume 2



WELCOME TO THE NEW YEAR!

Happy New Year and welcome to 2026! As we turn the page to a new year, we take pride in all that our community has accomplished together. These past months have been filled with learning, reflection and growth - both big and small. Here at Sage Alliance, every day offers opportunities to practice patience, kindness, and understanding - toward ourselves and others. We've seen incredible examples of perseverance, empathy, and courage from our students, and we're so thankful for the dedication and care shown by our staff and families in supporting them every step of the way. January is a time to celebrate how far we've come and to set new goals for the months ahead. Together, let's make 2026 a year filled with growth, gratitude, and possibility. We're so glad to share this journey with all of you!

UPCOMING DATES AND EVENTS

1/19: School closed for Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

2/13: Schoolwide Day of Service (12:00 dismissal)

2/16 - 2/17: School closed for Presidents' Day

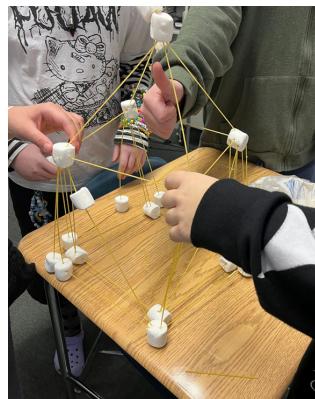
***2/18:** School closed for students (Staff Development Day)
*schedule change

3/30 - 4/6: School closed for Spring Break

WE'RE ON THE SAME TEAM!

We are excited to announce our new Advisory Program! Advisory is a structured meeting time between small groups of staff and students that occur bi-weekly to monthly. During these meetings, staff and students engage in fun activities designed around learning to be kind and inclusive, respectful, and, in the process, instill students with pride and a sense of belonging in where they go to school and with their peers.

The main goal of Advisory is to build community within the building and provide a third space in addition to academics and individual/group therapy for staff and students to collaborate, have their voices heard, and engage in meaningful activities. During the first few meetings, "We're on the Same Team" was the topic, and students bonded over choosing team names and mascots for their groups. They have also participated in a team building challenge, as well as a holiday door decorating contest, both of which allowed them the chance to reflect on how they worked together as a group. Thank you to Mr. Johnson and the Advisory Team!



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MUSIC IN THE WINTER AIR

Our annual Winter Showcase celebrates the musical growth and talent of our students. Throughout the semester, students work diligently in Mr. Bertelli's music classes, learning new skills, building confidence, and preparing pieces to share. A key part of this event is the teamwork involved. Students practice listening to one another, keeping rhythm together, and supporting their peers. Their cooperation and respect for one another were just as impressive as the music itself.

During the afternoon performance, parents, staff, and students enjoyed musical selections that highlighted each student's hard work and creativity. For many, this was also an opportunity to step outside their comfort zones by performing on stage! We are so proud of our students for their dedication, bravery, and teamwork, and thank Mr. Bertelli for all of his dedication to our students!



STARS OF CHARACTER SHINE BRIGHT!

In December, students and staff joined together for our Stars of Character assembly, a special event held twice each year to celebrate students who demonstrate outstanding character. This longstanding tradition celebrates the core values that make our school community at Sage Mahwah so special. During the assembly, six students were recognized for exemplifying the Six Pillars of Character - Trustworthiness, Respect, Responsibility, Fairness, Caring, and Citizenship. Staff members vote for the students who best demonstrate these traits, making this recognition especially meaningful. Each of these students serves as a role model for their peers, showing what it means to make positive choices, treat others with kindness, and contribute to a strong, caring school community.

This celebration is a wonderful reminder that character truly counts! Thank you to the Stars of Character committee for leading this initiative, and congratulations to all of our Stars of Character for helping our school shine a little brighter each day!



FALL HIGHLIGHTS

We enjoyed two wonderful community events this fall!

In October, students showed off their creativity during our Halloween celebration, complete with a costume contest and fun classroom activities that encouraged teamwork, confidence, and plenty of laughter. To celebrate Thanksgiving, we came together for our annual feast, sharing a warm meal and reflecting on gratitude. It was a meaningful opportunity for students and staff to connect, appreciate one another, and celebrate the supportive environment we are building together. We are so grateful for these special moments!