Indigenous Updates- August 2025

APS-Indian Education Department would like to share with you our monthly messaging flier in building connections and relationships with our Native American students, families, and communities. Taking this time to celebrate and empower your Indigenous students will create harmonious and supportive schools.

Department Updates

We are looking for our new

SENIOR DIRECTOR: INDIAN EDUCATION PROGRAMS

Check-out the job listing here and spread the word!

The Indian Education Department offers a variety of courses that will be offered and can be taken centrally at Albuquerque High School. Complete this form if you are interested in taking any of the following courses:

Note: If you do not attend Albuquerque High School and/or you current school site does not offer any of the respective courses listed, you are still able to sign up for the listed courses, as arrangements will be made for students who are interested in taking the courses who are from other schools to come to AHS to take the listed courses below.

*** Navajo History & Government w/ Economics & US Government**
*** Zuni I / II**
*** Navajo I / II / III / IV**
*** Native American Leadership (After School Course)**

Click here to request to attend an APS Indian Education Course

***Talk to your School Counselor to Sign-Up**

The Indian Education Department receives funding from Title VI, which requires a completed 506 form for student eligibility and continuation of programs. The Title VI grant funds are used for teacher salaries to provide instruction in: reading and math intervention, Native American Studies, Economics, Government, Leadership, Navajo Government, Navajo Language, and Zuni. The Title VI department with the USDOE requires a student eligibility 506 certification form. **You can help us help our students by encouraging and collecting 506 forms.**

Welcome Back!

As we begin a new academic year, we take a moment to honor and celebrate our Indigenous students, colleagues, and communities. Their cultures, traditions, and perspectives are vital threads in the fabric of our APS community.
We're excited to start this journey together—committed to fostering a supportive, inclusive environment where every voice is respected and valued. Let's draw strength and inspiration from the diverse heritages that shape our classrooms and schools, and work collaboratively toward a year filled with growth, learning, and shared achievement.

Here's to a meaningful and successful year ahead. Welcome back!

THE CASE FOR EDUCATION EQUITY: Understanding the Yazzie/ Martinez Ruling

- The NM Indian Education Act (IEA) is a state constitutional requirement.
  Here is a fact sheet provided by NM Poverty & Law Center.
- The court detailed the major areas of deficiency within the education system requiring immediate attention, including: culturally and linguistically responsive education and curriculum and instructional programs that support this need.
- Here is a summary and timeline on the ruling.
- Here is Judge Singleton's Ruling.

Upcoming Events:

College, Career & Tribal Resource Fair - Sept 20 Berna Facio
9 am - Noon

APS Tribal Summit, Oct 6, Berna Facio 9am - Noon

Urban Indigenous Education Summit, Sun. Oct 31, Berna Facio

Outdoor Learning: A Natural Fit for Curriculum Integration

For Indigenous students in New Mexico, outdoor learning isn't just an educational supplement—it's a transformative, culturally rooted pedagogical approach that revitalizes heritage, fosters identity, nurtures well-being, and positions them as future community leaders and stewards of their land.

Grounded in Place. Rooted in Culture. Growing Academic Success.

Outdoor learning brings curriculum to life by anchoring instruction in place-based and real-world contexts. It naturally supports Culturally Responsive Teaching (CRT) by honoring diverse knowledge systems, validating lived experiences, and creating meaningful connections between students, culture, and content. Every subject area can be enriched through outdoor learning that is intentional, inclusive, and community-centered.

This approach can be used at any Grade Level or discipline such as ELA, Social-Studies & Place-Based Learning, Math, Science, and the Arts.

For more information contact: **Monie Corona -** IED Environmental Education Resource Teacher, Los Padillas Wildlife Sanctuary
(505) 884-6392
ramona.corona@aps.edu

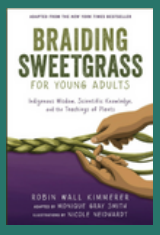
Try using a Nature Journal:

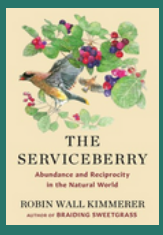
- Use this for ideas on integrating place-based learning in any discipline or grade level.
- Five Finger Breathing Technique
- Five Things you can see observation technique
- Educator Resources
- I Notice.. I Wonder..
- Nature Scavenger Game
- Trail Treasures

Plan a Field Trip to the Sandia Mountain Natural History Museum - or explore trails virtually:

- Instagram
- YouTube
- Facebook

Indigenous Wisdom:





Lesson one: Indigenize your Curriculum

Celebrate National Navajo Code Talkers Day

Navajo Code Talkers: A Guide to First-Person Narratives in the Veterans History Project

Code Talker by Joseph Bruchac

Reporting on Navajo Code Talkers: Lesson Plan | The Warrior Tradition

Navajo Code Talkers of World War II (2018) | Documentary

Miguel Trujillo commemorated at Isleta Pueblo

Miguel Trujillo and the Pursuit of Native Voting Rights

Indian Pueblo Cultural Center: Martin & Miguel Lesson Plan

Who Was Jim Thorpe, Native American Athlete And Olympian?

Jim Thorpe's Bright Path: Lesson Plan

Native Americans in Sports

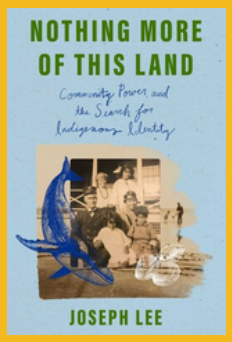
Culturally Responsive Resources

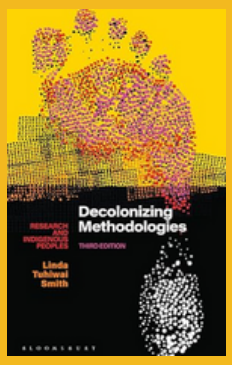
Helpful reflections to consider when selecting Native American lessons or activities.
Be mindful of where and by whom resources have come from. Is it written in past tense?
Is the creator a Native person?
Are othering or stereotypical terms used?
Be critical of sites like TeacherspayTeachers.

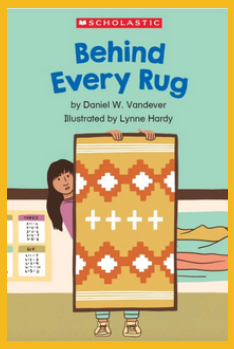
When in doubt check out: American Indians in Children's Literature by Debbie Reese

Indigenize your library

- We Weave
- Stitches of Tradition (Gashkigwaaso Tradition)
- Behind Every Rug
- Borders
- Rabbit Chase
- Why Indigenous Literatures Matter
- The Summer of Bitter and Sweat
- Walking in Two Worlds (The Floraverse)
- The Missing Morningstar: And Other Stories
- Beyond the Glittering World: An Anthology of Indigenous Feminisms and Futurisms
- Nothing More of This Land: Community, Power, and the Search for Indigenous Identity
- The Cherokee: People, Culture, and History
- Our Story of Eagle Woman Sacagawea: They Got it Wrong
- REDress: Art, Action, and the Power of Presence
- An Indigenous Peoples History of the United States
- Decolonizing Methodologies: Research and Indigenous Peoples
- Reclaiming Youth at Risk (Native Values/ Circle of Courage)







"Indigenous literatures hold a profound significance that is deeply rooted in the cultural and historical contexts from which they emerge. These literatures embody the rich traditions, values, and worldviews of Indigenous peoples, serving not only as a medium of artistic expression but also as a crucial vehicle for preserving and transmitting culture. Indigenous writing encompasses a diverse array of forms, from traditional oral storytelling and poetry to contemporary novels and digital media. Each form represents a unique aspect of the Indigenous experience, reflecting the myriad ways in which these communities understand and interact with the world." - Daniel Heath Justice (Cherokee)

Resources

- Tips for Teachers: Developing Instructional Materials about American Indians
- Native American Resources NM
- Encyclopedic Resources for Projects on American Indians
- NDN Girls Book Club
- Indigenous Reads Rising
- Thoughts from Polly's Granddaughter
- What if Everything We Know about Sacagawea is Wrong
- "Not" Recommended Books
- APS Indian Education Dept