Indigenous Updates - August

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.

Welcome Back!

Welcome back! As a new year begins we celebrate our Indigenous students and colleagues. We are excited to embark on this new academic year. Diverse cultures and rich traditions are integral to our APS community, and we celebrate the unique perspectives they bring. As we dive into our roles as educators, remember that heritage is a source of strength and inspiration. Let's work together to build a supportive and inclusive environment where every voice is heard and valued. Here's to a year of growth, learning, and shared success. Welcome back!

Department Updates and Calendar Events

- We are happy to share that we have new programs at our Indigenous Lifeways Center located at Bel Air Elementary. We also have expanded our department with new co-ordinators. More information upcoming.
- Our Zuni Pre-K Immersion program is up and running at the Duranes Elementary School hub.
- Our Navajo (Dine') Immersion Program for Kindergarten is located at Tres Volcanes Community Collaborative School.
- College Career Tribal Resource Fair will be Saturday, September 21, 2024 from 9 - 12 @ Berna Facio.
- National Navajo Code Talker Day August 14
- We will be sharing our upcoming Indigenous Updates Flyer monthly to schools and staff.
- Isleta Pueblo Feast Day Wednesday 8/28

Being Bilingual is a Superpower!

Meet Our Heritage Language Teachers

Pre-K:
- Tina Gasper - Duranes Elem.
- Sheryl Nieto - Duranes Elem.

Elem:
- Rhonda Cordova - TVCC

Mid:
- Alvino Sandoval - McKinley Mid/ Cleveland Mid.
- Charlene Smiley. - TVCC Online, eCademy

HS:
- Jerry Gee - Cibola/Volcano Vista
- Milldred Chiquito - Atrisco/West Mesa
- Swanson Martinez - Highland/Manzano
- Mila Padilla - AHS/ Bel Air
- Charlene Smiley - IAIA Dual Credit

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

Miguel Trujillo commemorated at Isleta Pueblo 8/ 2024

Miguel Trujillo and the Pursuit of Native Voting Rights

Indian Pueblo Cultural Center: Martin & Miguel Lesson Plan

Indigenous Olympians:

Who Was Jim Thorpe, Native American Athlete And Olympian?

Jim Thorpe's Bright Path: Lesson Plan

Indigenous Athletes Take Center Stage at the 2024 Summer Olympics in Paris

Over 50 Indigenous athletes proudly represented their nations

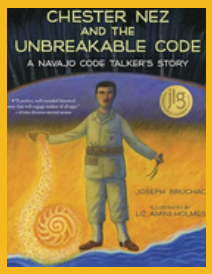
Culturally Responsive Resources

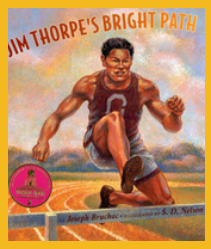
Helpful reflections to consider when selecting Native American lessons or activities.
Be mindful of where and by whom resources have come from. Is it written in past tense?
Is the creator a Native person?
Are othering or stereotypical terms used?
Be critical of sites like TeacherspayTeachers.

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

Indigenize your library

- Jingle Dancer
- Jim Thorpe's Bright Path
- Berry Song
- Tales of the Mighty Code Talkers
- Chester Nez and the Unbreakable Code
- Sweetest Kulu
- Bowwow Powwow
- Finding My Dance
- Ocean Mother
- Winter Counts
- Where They Last Saw Her
- Elatso
- The Marrow Thieves
- My Good Man
- The Summer of Bitter and Sweat
- Walking in Two Worlds (The Floraverse)
- Hearts Unbroken
- Crazy Horse's Girlfriend
- Manmade Monsters
- Murder on the Red River: The Cash Blackbear Mysteries
- The Round House
- Streaming
- As Long as Grass Grows
- Sacred Smokes
- Owls Don't Have to Mean Death
- The Road Back to Sweetgrass
- Mean Spirit
- Black Sun
- An Indigenous Peoples History of the United States
- Decolonizing Methodologies: Research and Indigenous Peoples
- Reclaiming Youth at Risk (Native Values/ Circle of Courage)





Do you have questions for us? Tell us what you think:

Let's Highlight our Students!

Layla Perry, a Jefferson Jets student who won First Place in Robotics/Intelligent Machine category during the National American Indian Science and Engineering Fair in Oklahoma State University, is the face of the 2025 NAISEF application cover.
So proud of her.

- Jay Penn
NAISEF Teacher Sponsor
Jefferson Middle School

Need further help?

Reach out to IED Materials Specialist,
Jill Hutcheson for a tour of our library or for help with Indigenous resources.
jill.jurkiewicz@aps.edu