



HELENA SCHOOL DISTRICT INDIAN EDUCATION



SEPTEMBER, 2020

INDIGENOUS NEWS NOW

Greetings to you all. I hope you all are getting the hang of things with his new school year, as we all know it is a bit different for everyone. As for our Indian Ed. dept. we are trucking along trying to connect with our students as well. If you need assistance with our native students, whether it be online or in-school, let our tutors know so they can be of assistance to you.

Indian Education For All (IEFA), as we all know is a state mandated program for all of Montana public schools. As instructional coaches we try our best to help deliver and educate our teachers to make lessons and integration as easy as possible. The idea is to teach Indian Ed. like it is a natural subject. Our native students do not just get to pick one day to be native but they live it every day. So, we would like to incorporate lessons as much as possible. As native people we connect everything to the earth and the world around us. There is connection to everything living from, plants, earth, sun, air, water, rocks, and animals. Almost anything one can imagine has a story or lesson that could be taught. Having Indian Education allows us to teach in every subject because there is a connection in everything that we do. If we are learning about Greek mythology, then maybe we can have lessons that compare to Native mythology. There is so much out there for Native studies and incorporation. It is just a matter of trying to narrow down the spectrum to get the right lessons for your classroom.

This Friday, September 25, is Native American Heritage Day across the United States. Usually we have the powwow that would otherwise be this weekend, but because of the unusual stuff happening in our world today it is cancelled. I know a lot of students look forward to the demonstration day. One idea for honoring Native American Heritage Day and demonstration day, could be to watch a short powwow video on YouTube with your class. It will still show case all the dancers

and music. It may not be as exciting as seeing dancers in person but it could still serve a purpose.

This is a short film from National Geographic. This is one of the largest powwows in North America It takes place in Albuquerque, NM every year in April. This was the first year it was cancelled because of the Pandemic. Natives from all over North America attend this powwow.

<https://youtu.be/5j1Vt1impIE>

This video is about an older man taking about the different dances and meaning.

<https://youtu.be/w0Qq3HNrvuc>

This is a short PBS video.

https://youtu.be/H5MJQe0Wh_U

This is a video of the drum.

<https://youtu.be/eH92ibxGJlw>

This is a video of the Northern Cree singers.

<https://youtu.be/SD7KpH8B-6g>

There are many videos of powwows on YouTube where you can watch full dance categories; these are just a few I look up for you.

Tipi

This year the Indian Ed department is trying to get the tipi set up at different schools throughout the year. It is a great way for an ice breaker into the subject of Native Americans. We would like to encourage you all to take advantage of this. We have a set up crew who will put it up and take it down. Right now, Warren has the tipi, and Rossiter is the next one on the list. So please do not hesitate in getting ahold of me to get the tipi to your school for a week or so.



The tipi standing at Warren and a few of the setup crew.

Thank you to the ones who volunteered to be liaisons this year. Here are the dates for the first couple of meetings:

October 13, 2020 – first meeting

November 10, 2020 – second meeting

December 8 – third meeting

Resources

Interactive online game grades 3-5 with culture (can be used for upper grades for brush up work)

<https://www.7generationgames.com>

I would recommend this video for all to watch

Living Life in a Circle- TEDTALKS- this is a good video for all students to watch. It is inspirational and gives insight to how the world around us is connected.

https://youtu.be/niRs_VlqzYU

Blackfeet short story

<https://youtu.be/KOHeiQNBa0Y>

Cree short story about the stars

<https://youtu.be/c32oPktzcv>

Yellowstone

<https://www.pbs.org/edens/yellowstone/teach2.html>

NIEA Many online teaching resources including reading, videos, lessons and more for all grade level k-12.

<https://www.niea.org/new-blog-2/virtual-resources>

A recommended film for teachers to watch is INDIAN HORSE. It is on Netflix. It is about boarding schools and generational trauma.

<https://www.netflix.com>