

MESSAGE FROM OUR INDIGENOUS EDUCATION DEPARTMENT: FEBRUARY RECAP AND MARCH LOOK AHEAD

Greetings! Boozhoo! Hau' Mitakiyapi! Tashkanito'sha!

Message from the Director



My name is Sashay Schettler, and I serve as the Indian Education Director for Bismarck Public Schools. I am a citizen of the MHA Nation and was born and raised in Bismarck. I graduated from BHS in 2012 and the University of ND in 2017, and am currently working on my master's. Our vision is to honor the seven generations who stand behind us and to build with the intentionality of the next seven generations ahead of us: as we work together to celebrate Indigenous brilliance and empower our youth. Bismarck Public School's Indian Education department aims to provide our district with the tools to support staff and empower our Indigenous youth into the leaders of tomorrow. We do this by promoting culturally relevant instruction, community engagement, and working collaboratively with stakeholders. We condemn racism and discrimination at all levels. Please know that we have been actively working to support our students with mental health and cultural connections. As well as improving internal systems to better support our students and families!

Cultural Responsive Coordinators

Please reach out to your feeder's designated Cultural Responsive Coordinator (CRC) with any support you may need. Our CRCs can help you navigate the school system and work collaboratively with you and the school to address your needs.

Coordinators can:

- Support students and families on their path toward graduation
- Assist with finding and connecting with the community and or school resources
- Advocate for culturally relevant representation in your schools/classrooms
- Provide mentoring opportunities for your students
- Pay for approved student fees
- Arrange for additional supports



Chadwick Kramer: North West Feeder

Hau' Mitakiyapi (Hello my relatives) Chadwick Kramer emaciyapi yelo. I am a citizen of the Standing Rock Nation and my family comes from the Cannonball district. My grandmother was Eva Annie Marie Tail Seewalker or Pretty Feather. Her father was Martin Tail (Seewalker) and her mother was Annie Cross. I serve Indigenous families at the nine BPS buildings in the Northwest feeder: Elkridge, Centennial, Grimsrud, Highland Acres, Liberty, Northridge, and Roosevelt Elementary Schools, Horizon Middle School, and Century High School.

My highlight from February was Jesse White sharing his story with Century Circle Groups. These lessons included how he overcame challenges to excel in school and basketball!

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Donovan Lambert: South Feeder

My name is Donovan Lambert, and I am the South Cultural Responsive Coordinator for BPS. I am an enrolled member of Mni Wakan Oyate (Spirit Lake Nation) and a Marine Corps veteran. I am married with six children, with two attending BPS schools. I have worked in this position for 5 years and am looking forward to an exciting new year. Our department works hard to ensure collaboration across families, administration, teachers, and staff to support culturally relevant practices. South feeder system: BHS, Wachter, Lincoln, Moses, Myhre, Prairie Rose, Solheim, Will-Moore and South Central.

My highlight from February was the Myhre round dance and potato dance! Myhre got to hear from Mr. Jermaine Bell on these dances. Mr. Bell is well known throughout pow wow country and sings with drum groups throughout the country.

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Jason Davis: North East Feeder

My name is Jason Davis, and I am a member of the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa. I served as a teacher for nearly eight years in the Turtle Mountain region. I serve as the Cultural Responsive Coordinator for the NE feeder. I look forward to working with our students every day. I wish to work with our schools and parents to help them achieve their full potential. I am prepared to do whatever is necessary to make this happen. Please feel free to reach out to me if you have any concerns or questions. I will always be available.

This February we shared at the Manchester House that during the winter months, our Indigenous peoples used this time to share stories. Students read the story "Knots on a Counting Rope" and were given time to ask questions about how their families may have shared stories.

North East feeder system: LHS, Simle, Miller, Murphy, Pioneer, Sunrise
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February Highlights

- UTTC vs. BSC Basketball Halftime Dance Presentation- BPS Students had the opportunity to showcase their dance styles in front of the crowd during halftime of the UTTC-BSC basketball games.
- BHS Hidatsa Orange and Mandan Striped Squash Lesson- Dr. Ruth Plenty Sweetgrass She Kills presented to the World Foods class the importance of the squash to the Mandan and Hidatsa peoples. The students had the opportunity to bake squash and add in their own seasoning and taste the squash.
- Quentin Burdick Job Corps Admissions Counselor visit- The admissions counselor came to visit BHS groups and share information about the free opportunities that Job Corps offers for our students to either complete their high school diploma and then learn a trade. It was also shared that the center also assists with job placement and will continue to assist the student after they complete the program.
- Dorothy Moses Starquilt lesson- CRC spoke about the starquilt to the 2nd graders at Dorothy Moses. Students were shown a starquilt in the class and shared the importance of gratitude is with indigenous peoples. Students were then given a starquilt coloring sheet to color and share with someone important in their life.
- UTTC-BPS collaboration of Pow Wow Dancing- UTTC and BPS collaborated with offering Pow Wow Dancing for our students and families. This has been well attended with many eager students looking to learn how to dance. We have had men's traditional dance and women's jingle dress dance offered and will be doing men's grass dance next. We are hoping to continue offering this activity for our youth and families.
- Wachter Middle School girls' group- We shared the importance of knowing and sharing with other students who we are as indigenous students. Our girl students took this a step further and agreed to wear their ribbon skirts to school. All the girls were proud to show their skirts and explain to anyone who may have had questions about their skirts. Our girls walked the school proud that day.
- Evening activities- Pow Wow dancing, Inipi (sweatlodge), Lakota/Dakota Language lessons.
- Groups in the southside feeder
 - o BHS- Boys and girls circle group
 - o Elementary breakfast groups
 - o Middle School lunch groups
- o Individual meeting times with students in all grades
- o PLC meetings at elementary schools
- o Parent engagements throughout each week (assisting with printing job apps, job search, sharing information on school related activities, etc.)
- o Student evening activities (pow wow dancing, sweat, language lessons)

March

- Planning Meeting for Feather tying planning
- Graduating Seniors Meeting
- Cap and Gowns deadline is March 15th. Need height and height sent to your school's Cultural responsive coordinator to cover the cost
- Please look for our survey coming out!
- Celebration of the Spring Equinox
- Dance classes with UTTC
- Youth Coming of Age Summer Opportunity planning

Attention Bismarck-
Mandan Community.
SAVE THE DATE!

Spring Equinox Celebration

BINGO!

MARCH 22nd

5:30pm-8pm

UTTC GYM

**CULTURAL
PRESENTATION!**

ROUND DANCE!

**MEAL
PROVIDED!**

