



## OUR PURPOSE



Mission: To support and strengthen positive educational outcomes for our Indigenous students by promoting culturally responsive instruction, family and student engagement along with partnerships with MPS departments, schools as well as the broader community.

## OUR VISION

Indigenous students are empowered to reach their full potential through educational experiences that value their cultural identities.

As Indigenous people, our values, customs and traditions are at the center of our identity, many of which have been historically restricted or disregarded. The Indigenous Education Department is committed to ensuring positive steps are taken and continuous education is being offered to our students, staff and communities to better understand and serve our students and families to promote unity and inclusion.

## CONTACT US

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# Here, at Bismarck Public Schools

YOU  
MATTER.



## We strive for our students to:

- Feel a sense of belonging
- Have and show pride in their identity
- Honor Traditional Knowledge
- Honor Kinship - Be a good relative
- Have Healthy Connections
- Are supported in self-determination toward their Choice Ready journey

**Group with a cultural responsive coordinator, focused on topics like: cultural values, healthy communication, conflict resolution techniques, general talking circle and more.**



**Assistance for students who are new to the district, or new to a school within the district.**



**Assist and guide our students successfully graduate and be choice ready.**



**Assistance in development of Culturally Relevant curriculum topics, and material.**





## OUR HISTORY

Bismarck Public Schools Indigenous Education has served students well over 40 years, through the treaty obligation to provide educational support and resources through the Johnson O'Malley program, and Title VI. In the past, the work and implementation of the use of resources for our Indigenous Students fell on the shoulders of an identified principal in the district. This has now changed to include an Indigenous Education Director, and three Cultural Responsive Coordinators, along with an Indigenous Education Curriculum Specialist. By growing our department and aligning the work to be equitable while serving our Indigenous students, we have been able to collaborate with various partners and stake holders to best serve the needs of our Indigenous Students more directly and intentionally.

## WHAT WE DO

### CIRCLE FORWARD GROUPS

These groups are strengths-based, solution focused and student-centered. The groups are designed to promote inclusivity, celebration of culture and nurture our students' sense of belonging and identity. We want our students to celebrate who they are, where they come from and feel support from fellow students, staff and others who are invited to join in during circle group.

### EVENTS & SPEAKERS

Indigenous culture is beautiful. From our story-telling elders, to our beautifully designed beadwork, our norms, values and customs are some of the most cherished aspects of who we are as Indigenous People. We share that knowledge and awareness through events, speakers, dancers, cultural knowledge keepers, and artists. Please connect with your CRC for guidance and request for a speaker or event to come to your school.

### FEE AND COST-RELATED HELP

The Indigenous Education Department is committed to ensuring that our students are afforded opportunities for activities, events, and can cover approved course fees and college/career associated costs. Our goal is to ensure our students are Choice Ready alongside their peers. Please connect with a CRC for more info.

Helping our kids soar  
**ALL STUDENTS**  
 DESERVE TO THRIVE



## Together, we can.

The BPS Indigenous Education Department is committed to serving our students, staff, faculty, educators and district as a community, strengths-based team to Listen, Inform, Support, Teach, Empower and Navigate the mission toward inclusive, equitable and respectful work with all.

## Our Priority is Identity

Identity is a crucial part of who we are. As indigenous people we share values, culture and knowledge of our ancestors that align with community, doing what is right and passing that on to our next generations.

## Your walk with us

We want to walk alongside you to empower our students, educate our communities both in and out of the school walls, while building toward a bright and honorable future. Education is an avenue we take toward our goals in life, and we are here for every step on that path.