MCPS NATIVE AMERICAN STUDENT SERVICES

THE IEFA BULLETIN

SEPTEMBER 2025

Upcoming PIR Opportunities



NOW-September 17: OUTRAGE: Missing And Murdered Indigenous People in Montana with Artist Brian Maguire

Click here to learn more about the course

PD Portal #17273

9/17 Introduction to Indian Education for All

Click here to learn more about the course

PD Portal #17278

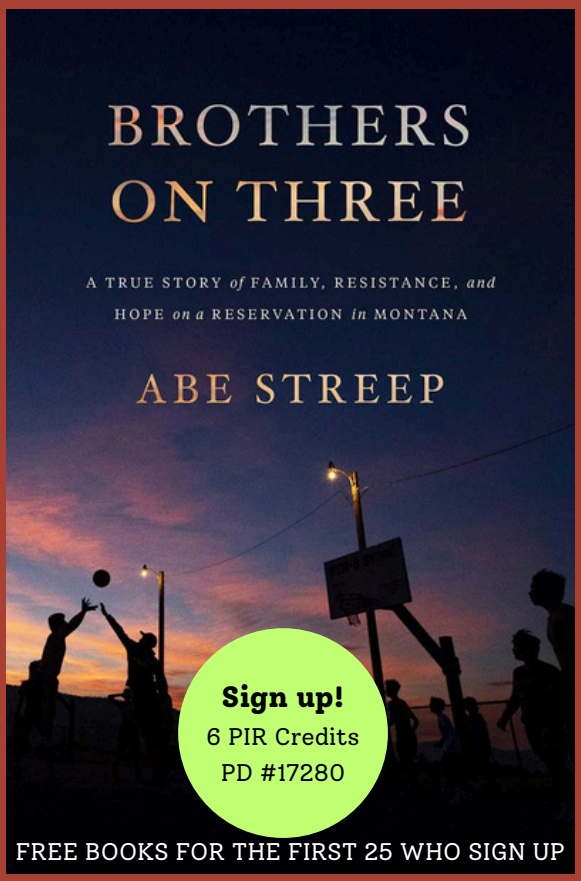
9/23 Unpacking the Essential Understandings

Click here to learn more about the course

PD Portal #17279

THE IEFA BOOK CLUB

October 2025



From journalist Abe Streep, a story of coming-of-age on a reservation in the American West and a team uniting a community.

March 11, 2017, was a night to remember: in front of the hopeful eyes of thousands of friends, family members, and fans, the Arlee Warriors would finally bring the high school basketball state championship title home to the Flathead Indian Reservation. The game would become the stuff of legend, with the boys revered as local heroes. The team's place in Montana history was now cemented, but for starters Will Mesteth, Jr. and Phillip Malatare, life would keep moving on—senior year was just beginning.

In Brothers on Three, we follow Phil and Will, along with their teammates, coaches, and families, as they balance the pressures of adolescence, shoulder the dreams of their community, and chart their own individual courses for the future.

Brothers on Three is not simply a story about high school basketball, state championships, and a winning team. It is a book about community, and it is about boys on the cusp of adulthood finding their way through the intersecting worlds they inhabit and forging their own paths to personhood.

THE IEFA BULLETIN

Meet your IEFA Coaches

EK - 5 : Keila Cross

kcross@mcpsmt.org
Extension 1049
Admin B



6 - 12 : Charlie Struna

cstruna@mcpsmt.org
Extension 1068
Admin B



We're here to help you with all things Indian Education for All!
We can help you: create lessons, understand challenging materials, answer questions, provide feedback or model instruction, find high-quality teaching materials, and connect you to elders, knowledge keepers and other opportunities.

NASS SPECIALISTS

provide direct services to students in MCPS schools through culture connections, mentoring, and relationship building



TRENA OLD PERSON
Lewis and Clark, WMS, HHS, SHS, Willard

LEIGH MALATARE
Franklin, JRE, Rattlesnake, MHMS, Porter, BSHS





ALI NORTH
Chief Charlo, Hawthorne, Lowell, Paxson, Russell,

MCPS Land Acknowledgement: The Original Stewards of the Land

We acknowledge that we are gathered on indigenous territory. The Missoula and Bitterroot Valleys are the original homelands of the Séliš (Salish) and Qĺispe (Pend d'Oreille/Kalispel) people who inhabited this land since time immemorial. This area was also frequented by other tribes including the Ksanka (Kootenai), Niitsitapi (Blackfeet), Newe (Shoshone), Apsáalooke (Crow), and Ka'igwu (Kiowa).
We honor the original stewards of this land and their descendants; many of whom continue to live, work, teach, and learn in this community. We are committed to showing gratitude for the land and its indigenous people by respecting and remembering this in our thoughts and actions.

THE IEFA BULLETIN

Glacier National Park Trip for Grades 9-12

September 7-9



We received a homelands grant from the Hopa Foundation to take 20 Native American students to Glacier National Park. Students will learn about the importance of the area to the Blackfeet by meeting Blackfeet elders, hiking with GNP rangers and engaging in campfire activities. Students have already signed up for this event, and next month's newsletter will show some of the highlights. Stay tuned! Thanks to Matt Keenan and Kelly Engen for helping the NASS department chaperon this amazing trip.



JOIN US

American Indian Heritage Day Round Dance

September 26, 6-9 pm

C.S. Porter Middle School

A round dance is a social dance where everyone is invited to participate! There are a variety of dances for all ages and abilities to enjoy. Round dances are a time to reconcile differences, rekindle and make new friendships and, of course, celebrate!

September RISE meetings for MCPS High Schools
2-3:30 pm
September 3
September 16
September 30

RISE (Resilience in Something Else)
Rise is an OPI sponsored activity for Native high schoolers in Montana. Participating schools get on a zoom meeting together, where the discussion and activity agenda is set by OPI. RISE has a Spring Conference for the kids as well.



MCPS NATIVE AMERICAN STUDENT SERVICES

INDIAN EDUCATION FOR ALL

PIR OPPORTUNITIES

2025-2026 PIR CALENDAR

DATES	LEARNING OPPORTUNITY (Credits offered)
August 28-Sept 16	*Outrage: Missing Murdered Indigenous People in Montana*-- Artist Brian Maguire at The Missoula Art Museum self-paced online-asynchronous (3)
September 17 September 23 October/November TBD	Introduction To Indian Education for All (2) Unpacking the Essential Understandings (2) Indigenous Narratives Through Art: IEFA MAM AND MMAC Museum Tour (4)
October 8 & 22	Book Club-*Brothers on Three* by Abe Streep (6)
November 19	Let's Cook! Traditional Foods and Herbs (3)
January 13 & 27	Book Club-*Crow Mary* by Kathleen Grissom (6)
February 10-24	Identifying and Countering Indigenous Bias, asynchronous (4)
March/April Dates TBD	Understanding and Enjoying Powwows self-paced online + in-person at the MCPS Native Youth Powwow (4)
April 14 & 28	Book Club-*Fire Keeper's Daughter* by Angeline Boulley (6)

Sign up in the PD Portal. More PIR opportunities and info in the monthly IEFA Bulletin.



IEFA Coaching Cycle PIR-Earn 2-12 Flex Credits

WHAT is a coaching cycle PIR?	DATES-YOU PICK!
An IEFA coaching cycle is a structured approach where a coach and teacher collaboratively work to improve instruction and student learning through a series of steps: goal setting, planning, implementation, monitoring, and reflection. We can work on a topic or lesson of your choice or the coach can help you find a lesson to integrate into what you normally do.	These cycles can be anywhere from 2-12 PIR hours, at your convenience. The coach and teacher will work together to create a schedule.

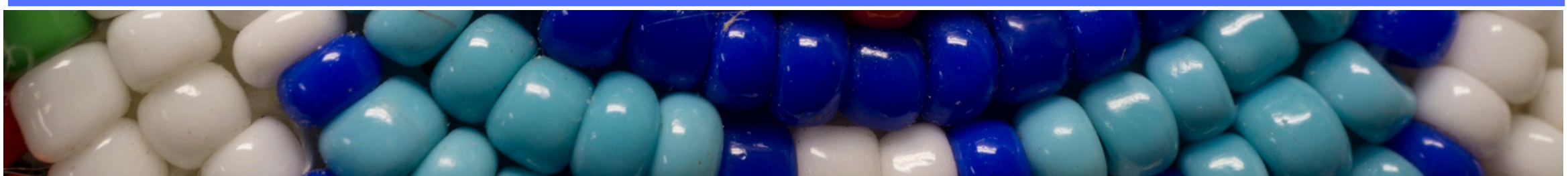
More information available in the PD Portal and monthly IEFA Bulletin.

ATTEND COMMUNITY EVENTS FOR PIR

Engage in cultural events or workshops to broaden your knowledge of Montana's tribal people and their customs. Take your knowledge back to your school or classroom by creating lessons from what you've learned. Talk to an IEFA coach to see how this can work for you.

POWWOWS AND CEREMONIES	MUSEUMS AND CENTERS	HISTORICAL SITES AND LOCAL LANDMARKS

NASS IEFA Instructional Coaches
EK-5: Keila Cross, kcross@mcpsmt.org, ext. 1049
6-12: Charlie Struna, cstruna@mcpsmt.org, ext. 1068



MISSOULA COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

NATIVE AMERICAN STUDENT SERVICES

> > 2025-2026 COMMUNITY EVENTS CALENDAR < <

EVENT NAME	DATE	TIME	VENUE
Back to School BBQ	Monday, Aug. 25	5-6:30 pm	MCPS Admin B
American Indian Heritage Day Round Dance	Friday, Sept. 26	6 - 9 pm	C.S. Porter Middle School
SEPTEMBER 26: AMERICAN INDIAN HERITAGE DAY (MONTANA)			
SEPTEMBER 30: ORANGE SHIRT DAY - NATIONAL DAY OF REMEMBRANCE (US/CANADA)			
OCTOBER 13 INDIGENOUS PEOPLES' DAY (US)			
Halloween Carnival	Tuesday, Oct. 28	6 - 8 pm	Franklin Elementary School
NOVEMBER: NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH			
Moccasin Making Workshop	Monday, Nov. 3 Monday, Nov. 10	5:30-8 pm	MCPS Admin B
Earring Making Workshop	Monday, December 8 Monday, December 15	5:30 -7:30 pm	MCPS Admin B
Bingo	Wednesday, Jan. 14	5:30-7:30 pm	MCPS Admin B
YaYa Dolls Workshop	Monday, Feb.12	5:30 - 7:30 pm	MCPS Admin B
Pouch making Workshop	March 19	5:30 - 7:30 pm	MCPS Admin B
Native Youth Powwow	April 25	12 - 10 pm	Sentinel High School
MAY 5: NATIONAL MISSING & MURDERED INDIGENOUS PERSONS' AWARENESS DAY (US)			
Native Graduates Senior Dinner	Tuesday, May 19	6 - 8 pm	TBA
End of Year Celebration	Tuesday, June 2	5 - 6:30 pm	MCPS Admin B