

Indigenous Insight-er

Winter 2021

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Department Name Change

You may have noticed over the last few weeks that our email signatures look a little different. And if you are following our department's Facebook group, you may have read a question posed by our staff: What's in a name? Does "Indian Education" feel like the right name for our department? Should we change our name?

The term "Indian" is still used today by many, including public instruction, federal laws, and by tribal people/entities themselves. However, many recognize the inaccuracy of the term "Indian" and no longer use the term to describe ourselves even when it's paired with the more descriptive "American Indian." Many prefer to be referred to by their specific tribe or by Native American or more broadly, Indigenous. We understand that we do not speak for every one so when referring to an individual your safest bet is to simply ask them what descriptor they prefer.

When we posed this question to students and our community members the overwhelming response was in support of the name change. After several discussions within our staff and with community input we have selected a name that we feel better suits us: Native American Student Services.

We see this change as an opportunity to educate and empower our community.

From the MCPS Native American Student Services Department,

Glenda, Ray, Melissa, Lewis, Duran, and Dacia

"Let us put our minds together to see what we can build for our children"

- Chief Sitting Bull, Hunkpapa Lakota

2020 - 2021 Staff Contact Information & School Assignments

Name	Title	Phone 728-2400	Email	Assigned Schools
Amy Shattuck	Federal Programs Director	ext. 1054	avshattuck@mcpsmt.org	
Matt Bell	NAS Teacher	ext. 8634	mkbell@mcpsmt.org	Big Sky HS, Willard
Duran Caferro	Native American Specialist	ext. 1064	dcaferro@mcpsmt.org	Big Sky, Hawthorne, Jeanette Rankin
Dacia Griego	Native American Specialist	ext. 1068	dgriego@mcpsmt.org	Chief Charlo, Franklin, Rattlesnake, Russell
Melissa Hammett	Native American Specialist	ext. 1028	mshammett@mcpsmt.org	Seeley Swan HS, Washington MS
Ray Kingfisher	Native American Specialist	ext. 1047	rdkingfisher@mcpsmt.org	CS Porter, Hellgate HS, Meadow Hill, Sentinel HS
Lewis YellowRobe	Native American Specialist	ext. 1049	lyellowrobe@mcpsmt.org	Jefferson, Lewis & Clark, Lowell, Paxson
Glenda Weasel	Title VI/Data Support/ Native American Specialist	ext. 1063	gfweasel@mcpsmt.org	Willard Alternative HS

2020 - 2021 Event Calendar

Event	Date	Time	Location
Native American Heritage Day—Movie Night	Wednesday, September 23, 2020	5:30 - 8:30 PM	Ogren Park at Allegiance Field (Contact: Melissa Hammett)
Virtual Halloween Wellness Week	Wednesday, October 28th, 2020	5:00 - 7:00 pm	Online Event (Contact: Dacia Griego)
Winter Gathering	Friday, December 11, 2020	6:00-8:00 PM	Online Event (Contact: Ray Kingfisher)
Family Fun Time	Thursdays, January 7th, 14th, 21st, 28th; February 4th, 11th, 2021	6:00-8:00pm	Online Event (Contact: Lewis YellowRobe)
Native Youth Powwow	Saturday, March 27, 2021	Grand Entry 12:00 and 6:00 PM	Sentinel High School (Contact: Glenda Weasel)
Title VI Public Hearing	TBA		MCPS Admin Building—Rm 14 (Contact: Glenda Weasel)
Graduating Senior Dinner	Thursday, May 13, 2021	6:00-8:00 PM	Double Tree By Hilton Hotel Missoula Edgewater 100 Madison St. Missoula, MT 59802 (406)728-3100 (Contact: Glenda)
End of the Year Gathering	TBA		(Contact: Duran Caferro)

New Location

The Native American Student Services Department has moved!
You can now find us at:

**909 South Avenue West
Building B, Room 120
Missoula, MT 59801**



Our phone numbers and email addresses remain the same.

KIDS CLUB
at **EMPowerplace**
NOURISHING BODIES & MINDS

Free drop-in tech hub & meal site for school aged neighborhood kids.

Homework Help, Free Lunch, Science Activities & More!

Mondays • 11AM - 2PM
EmPower Place
1720 Wyoming St.

Kids Club begins Monday, Feb. 1st!

Reserve your seat today!
Seats filled on a first come, first served basis. Drop-ins welcome, registration recommended.

For more info, our full safety protocols and registration info, contact Education Coordinator Kristi Havlik at (406) 549-0543 or kristi@missoulafoodbank.org.

MISSOULA PUBLIC LIBRARY
MISSOULA FOOD BANK & COMMUNITY CENTER
spectrUM

KIDS STUDY CLUB starting Monday, 10/26

MASKS AND DISTANCING REQUIRED AT ALL TIMES. PROGRAM CAPPED AT 15 YOUTH AT A TIME!

Free drop-in tech hub and meal site for youth in 3rd grade thru High School!

Monday-Thursday from 3-6 PM
starting Monday, October 26th!

Burns Street Center
1500 Burns Street, 59802

FOR MORE INFO, VISIT [NMCDC.ORG](https://www.nmcdc.org) OR SHOW UP DURING PROGRAM HOURS!

*study
read
draw
hang out
eat good food!*

Thursday Game Night



MCPS Indian Education Department invites students and families to join us Thursday nights in January and February 2021 for a family game night.

=====

BINGO & KAHOOT TRIVIA

January 7 and 21 & February 4, 2021 - 5:30 - 7:30 p.m.

Live Zoom Room - <https://meet.google.com/qtd-ahrb-zbp>

January 4, see <https://www.facebook.com/groups/MCPSIndianEducationDept> for link.

SOUP AND STORIES WITH ELDERS & BINGO

Restoring Our Relationships Wellness Series

Sponsored by All Nations Health Center

January 14 and 28 & February 11, 2021 - 5:30 - 7:30 p.m.

See Events Page at: facebook.com/allnationsmissoula



Forward Thinking. High Achieving.



Sponsored by MCPS Indian Education Department & All Nations Health Center



RESTORING OUR
RELATIONSHIPS SERIES:

SOUP & STORIES

5:30 - 7:30 PM
THURSDAYS IN JANUARY
ON ZOOM

- Jan 14 - Tony Incashola (Salish)
- Jan 28 - Vernon Finley (Kootenai)

Enjoy an evening of family and community. All Nations Health Center will provide a soup recipe for families to cook together, followed by a story from a Tribal Elder, then bingo with MCPS Indian Ed!

The evening's schedule will be:

- 5:30-6 short nutrition lesson from Dietician, Érica Rubino
- 6-6:30 story from featured elder
- 6:30-7:30 Bingo and trivia with MCPS Indian Ed

Register at: bit.ly/2MMyjNi

More info at: Facebook/allnationsmissoula



Melissa's Healing Circle by Melissa Hammett

My time with Covid-19:

This year I have learned so much about a pandemic and how the effects it can have on families. It has no discrimination on race, color, religion, age, or whether you are female or male. From contracting a virus, testing for Covid, contact tracing, timeline of the virus, symptoms, people at risk, infectious period, how covid affects your body, etc.

We thought we were taking all the precautions with our family to ensure that we would not get Covid-19. We didn't go eat out, we wiped down areas or used hand sanitizer when we were out of our house, followed social distance, we only went to work, grocery store, & places that were deemed safe. We constantly cleaned our home and wiped down common areas in our cars and home. We wore our masks, always. Constantly talked to our kids about taking precautions at school. But in November 2020 our family contracted Covid. Most of November, my family was in quarantine. Meaning that two family members who live in my home contracted it. So they quarantined to their rooms for 10-14 days. But that meant the rest of the family had to quarantine too. Then a few days later a few more got sick with covid, then the rest of us including me a few days later getting Covid after that. At this point we were all sick except for three of my family members. Two lived in our home and the other lived elsewhere. So by the time the first members were getting over their covid and got out of quarantine, the rest of us were still in quarantine. That's about 3-4 weeks quarantine period. Out of my family, 3 never got Covid and the six of us got sick.

Being in isolation in quarantine, sick with headaches, fatigue, cough, fever, loss of taste and smell, diarrhea, congestion, etc. messes with your mental state. We were lucky to have friends, family, and All Nations Health Center help us during this time.

Covid affected each one of us differently. Some with a little worse symptoms than others. But we got over it. My case was mild and I am thankful for that. To this day my taste and smell come and go. I often have a metallic taste which is gross. This is just my immediate family here in Missoula. My family back home in Browning contracted Covid. Most of them got over it with mild symptoms. My dad and sister had a tougher time with Covid. They had to be sent to Benefis in Great Falls. My dad was able to recover and was released. My sister on the other hand, succumbed to Covid on New Year's Eve. She was in the hospital for little over 5 weeks. She was on a ventilator for about 3 weeks. I learned terminology like PRONE, ARDS (Acute Respiratory Distress Syndrome), tracheostomy, good and bad levels of O₂, PaO₂ levels, intubation, ventilator, Peep, Extracorporeal membrane oxygenation (ECMO) treatment, and cardiac arrest. My sister was only 43 years old. She was healthy and the only thing she had issues with was her lungs and oxygen. This is what Covid did to her. Never in my life did I think I or family would go through something like this death from a virus during a pandemic.

My sister left behind a husband, a son, and a family who loved her dearly. She was just a few months away from the vaccine. She was an x-ray tech specializing in computerized tomography (CT) scan and learning to conduct mammograms. So she would have been one of the first essential employees to receive the vaccine.

We are so thankful for the All Nations Health Center for all the support to our family in a time of need during quarantine. The Missoula County Public School Native American Student Services are grateful to All Nations for including us in their vaccine distribution as essential workers.

Melissa Hammett

mshammett@mcpsmt.org



Elizabeth L. Grant-Edwards



**ARE YOU WORRIED
ABOUT COVID-19
AND ITS IMPACTS ON
YOUR STUDENT AND
YOUR FAMILY?**



FREE COVID-19 SUPPORT

**IT'S FREE, ANONYMOUS,
AND CONFIDENTIAL!**

Everyone is impacted by the effects of COVID-19. Thousands of Montanans are facing challenges unlike any they have ever experienced. If you are experiencing emotions such as anxiety, depression, stress, sadness, or fear, you are not alone. Seeking support resources, education, and simply reaching out are all positive steps that you can take.

WHAT WE DO:

Listen without judgement

Offer emotional support • Comfort, console

Offer information and education on stress and coping

Direct callers to additional support and community resources

Provide complete confidentiality – this is a free service, and you will never be asked to give your name, asked for health insurance, or asked to pay a fee of any kind

Montana Crisis Recovery is a COVID-19 specific Crisis Call Center. A Crisis Counselor will offer free and anonymous support and is just one call away.

**For more information, please call (877) 503-0833
or visit montanacrisisrecovery.com**

HOURS OF OPERATION: Monday - Friday 10 AM-10 PM


If you are having thoughts of suicide, please contact (800) 273-TALK or (800) 273-8255. You can also text "MT" to 741741

COVID-19 Resources at All Nations Health Center

Our community is fortunate to have resources available through All Nations Health Center. If you or your household have had to isolate or quarantine due to COVID-19 exposure or a positive test, please go to <https://www.allnations.health/covidsupport/> Fill out the COVID response survey to alert the All Nations team of your needs. One of their team members will call and set up a no-contact delivery of a COVID care package, including traditional medicines and funding for essential items. They serve residents of Missoula and Ravalli County.

All Nations Health Center has also started administering the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine in a phased approach. If you believe that you meet the criteria for Urban Indian eligibility and are interested in receiving the vaccine through All Nations, please fill out the survey at www.allnations.health/covid-vaccine-survey to be put on the waitlist. They will contact individuals from this wait list as they become eligible to be vaccinated.

COVID-19 ISOLATION RESOURCES AND FUNDING



All Nations Health Center is offering COVID-19 Care Packages: Bear Root tea, elderberry syrup, sweetgrass, alcohol wipes, and funding for isolation necessities. We serve residents of Missoula and Ravalli County

IF YOU OR YOUR HOUSEHOLD HAVE BEEN AFFECTED BY COVID-19 (QUARANTINED OR ISOLATED)... FOLLOW THESE STEPS


01
Stay home and isolate from others as much as possible

02
Fill out our COVID support survey @ allnations.health/covidsupport

03
One of our team members will call you for a no-contact delivery

- To be eligible to receive a COVID-19 vaccine at All Nations, individuals must be American Indian, Alaska Native, or a first- or second-degree descendant, and they must reside in Missoula or Ravalli counties. Additionally, they must be registered as a client before receiving the first dose of their vaccine. Please register as a client or update your contact information if you're already registered. New registrations and updates can be completed online at <https://www.allnations.health/registration/> or by phone at 406-829-9515.

- All Nations is currently vaccinating Group B of their vaccination plan, which includes elders who are 70 and older, frontline essential workers and healthcare personnel. If you are in this group and would like to be vaccinated at All Nations, please fill out the survey at www.allnations.health/covid-vaccine-survey or call 406-829-9515 to be put on the waitlist.



Want to get a COVID-19 VACCINE at All Nations?

Fill out this survey:
www.allnations.health/covid-vaccine-survey

Vaccines are by appointment only

To be eligible, you must:

- Reside in Missoula or Ravalli county
- Be American Indian, Alaska Native, or a first or second degree descendant
- Be a registered client with All Nations

Visit www.allnations.health/registration or call 406-829-9515 to register or update your registration

COVID-19 Vaccine at All Nations

All Nations has begun receiving the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine and we are excited to offer this vaccine in our clinic. Distribution will occur in multiple phases as outlined in the table below. For eligibility criteria and additional descriptions of each priority group, please visit www.allnations.health/covid-vaccine-plan. If you have questions or you need to register with us, please call 406-829-9515.

Group	Populations Included	Start Date
Group A	• All Nations staff	Dec 31, 2020
Group B	• AIAN elders 70+ • AIAN healthcare personnel • AIAN tier 1 essential workers	Jan 8, 2021
Group C	• AIAN elders 55+ • AIAN age 16-69 with tier 1 medical conditions • AIAN age 16-69 experiencing homelessness • AIAN tier 2 essential workers	TBD
Group D	• AIAN age 16-54 with tier 2 medical conditions • AIAN age 16-54 residing in congregate care and correctional facilities	TBD
Group E	• All other AIAN individuals in Missoula and Ravalli counties not included in Groups A-D	TBD
Group F	• Non-AIAN individuals, prioritized in the same order as groups B-D	TBD

Ok! Niksookowaaksi Tsa Niitaapi? By Raymond D. Kingfisher

(Hello My Relatives How is it Going?)

Ok! niksookowaaksi,

I hope you are all healthy and well. I encourage you all to stick to the Covid protocols, masks and good hygiene. The vaccine is making its way around and things are looking up. Prayers to all those families that have lost loved ones due to the pandemic.

I am currently working remotely using Google Classroom. I have amassed a great amount of Native American resources and knowledge, from the internet and the UM Library. The attendance after the Christmas break has not been good. I have been reaching out to students encouraging them to complete and hand in assignments. In the Google Classroom, I have been doing live feeds from 11-1pm, early on the students would stop in and say hello and see what was going on. Lately, hardly any students, I have just been recording the sessions and posting them as an assignment for the students to view later on. I hope for a better following this next semester.



I was blessed to get the first dose of the vaccine. I did not have any side effects nor did I feel different after receiving it. I am up for the next dose in the coming days. I hope I continue to get none of the side effects. Now, I am looking at getting back into the schools and meeting with students on a daily basis. Make sure they seek me out.

I am hoping we can get back in the gyms and have some fun. Getting the students together, safely, is good medicine. It would be good to get an adult open gym as well, ennit? The Native Youth Advisory Board is off and running. We have some students that are joining the meetings and inputting what they would like to see for the Native American youth and Community. The ANHC Native Connections will start some good programming and activities for them to stay busy. It is for ages 15-24, a great opportunity to start out your "board" career.

We now have a great Native American Language resources Facebook page. Please feel free to use the material to better your tribal language. I am hoping to interview some tribal language speakers so we can dig deeper into the meanings of the words.

Now that the first semester is done, let us focus on the new semester and getting the students back on a good learning track. I hope the NA students that fell behind, rebound as fast as the others. I hope we can all smile and laugh at each other, in person, soon. Keep your heads up and continue on. Have a wonderful day.

Ray



Join us on Facebook!

[Facebook.com/groups/mcpsNativeAmericanStudentServices](https://www.facebook.com/groups/mcpsNativeAmericanStudentServices)

[Facebook.com/groups/mcpsmtTribalLanguages](https://www.facebook.com/groups/mcpsmtTribalLanguages)

Data Guru by Glenda Weasel

Good Day to Everyone.

I would like to welcome all the families back to the 2020-2021 School year.

A Happy New Year to all. Suffice to say, it was kinda hard to get back in- to the

work mode from the Christmas Holidays. For the start of the work week I am working with Shirley Lindburg, Gifted Ed/ELL Coordinator on creating a template worksheet to coordinate our data for our Native American students in the English Language Learner (ELL) Program.



For the rest of the month I will be working on the Title VI data to prepare for the first phase of the grant. I would like to report that I have had three Native American Seniors graduate from Willard this past fall. Woohoo. Congratulations to them on this accomplishment. If you have any other questions please feel free to contact me and I will try my best to help if I can.

Sincerely,

Glenda Weasel

Title VI Indian Education Specialist/Data Support Staff

(406)728-2400 ext. 1063

gfweasel@mcpsmt.org



Call to artists! YWCA Missoula is looking for original art pieces-- including 2D, 3D, mural, multi- and mixed-media forms of art-- to be considered for installation throughout their new building, The Meadowlark. The YWCA will provide \$500 per piece that is accepted.

They are especially seeking representation from Indigenous artists, and aim to have at least half the artwork displayed at The Meadowlark from Indigenous artists.

Learn more and submit art here: <https://ywcamissoula.submittable.com/.../ywca-meadowlark...>

Submissions due by February 28

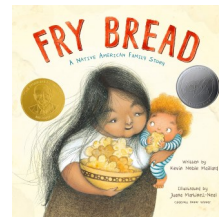
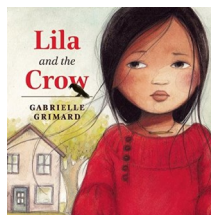
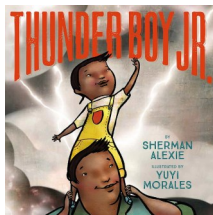
Tansi Nitotem! (Hello Friend!) by Dacia Griego

Tansi! Hello! I am the Native American Education Specialist for Chief Charlo, Franklin, Rattlesnake, and Russell Elementary Schools. I am working remotely this school year and providing online support to my assigned schools.

I have been recording IEFA Read Aloud lessons and sending the videos to the Kindergarten, 1st, and 2nd grade teachers at each of my schools and posting them in my Google Classroom. Here are links to those videos for anyone who would like to share with their children or classrooms.



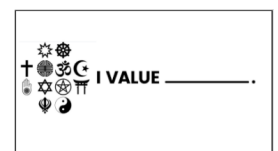
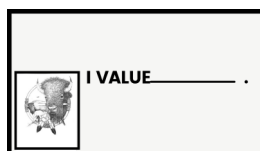
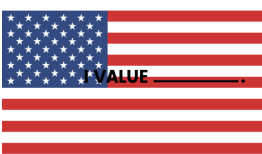
- [Thunder Boy Jr. by Sherman Alexie \(Colville\)](#)
- [Lila and the Crow by Gabrielle Grimard](#)
- [Fry Bread: A Native American Family Story by Kevin Noble Maillard \(Seminole\)](#)



I have sent invitations to students at each of my schools to join my Google Classroom. This is completely optional and is meant to take the place of the lunch groups I would normally host throughout the year. Feel free to send me an email if you would like your student to be added into the classroom.

In addition to my classroom support I have been involved in a district level anti-bias working group called IVALUE. IVALUE is an acronym that stands for Inclusion, Validation, Action, Learning, Understanding, and Equity. The working group's purpose is to help MCPS move forward with creating a more inclusive workplace and school setting. We recognize that members of our school community must learn skills in order to be aware of and interrupt bias related to any marginalized group including (but not limited to) our Native American and Two Spirit community members. Specifically, we want all staff and students to help make MCPS a safe, respectful and responsible learning environment for our staff and students. We presented our progress and timeline to the Board of Trustees on January 26th. I am excited to be part of this important effort and look forward to sharing more about this work as our actions progress.

Best wishes,
Dacia Griego
Native American Education Specialist
dgriego@mcpsmt.org



Stoodis! by Duran Caferro

Hello,

Things are moving along at Big Sky High School.

Big Sky High School Native American lunch group

During our monthly lunch meetings, Native American first year and second year students at Big Sky have given their perspective to a number of issues, ranging from our departments name change to Native American Student Services, to Big Sky High School's school climate.



Native American third year and fourth year students are meeting over lunch as well. They are currently working with Hopa Mountain's Indigenous Scholars of Promise. Through this program, students get guidance and support with scholarships and applications.

MMIW Self-Defense Classes

Vegas Lawrence Longtree, a fourth year student at Big Sky is teaching self-defense classes for Native American woman and girls for his senior project. Classes will start after spring break. Email or call me to get on the list! If you would like to support the effort to raise awareness of the MMIW issue, there are beautiful t-shirts available to purchase at Ridge Fitness.

Health-Science Academy

Sienna Hill, another fourth year student at Big Sky, is working on a project to recruit more Native American students to Big Sky High School's Health Science Academy (HSA). Recognizing health disparities among Native Americans, Ms. Hill would like to see more of our own studying health and pursuing healthcare careers. In the coming months, Sienna will be meeting with 8th graders to give information on and encouragement to join HSA.

While a lot has changed, many students have demonstrated resilience through the tough times. I encourage all students to keep grinding and remain hopeful for their futures. What brings me hope is seeing so many students take charge of their future and pursue their dreams, no matter what is going on in the world.

Duran Caferro

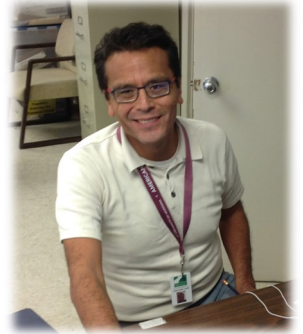
(406)728-2400 ext. 1064

dcaferro@mcpsmt.org

Lewis' Place by Lewis YellowRobe

READ ALOUD

I read Native American Night Before Christmas by Gary Robinson. The story is about Red Shirt who brings presents to families in their tipis. Eight bison pull his sleigh. I showed a video of Santa Claus fancy dancing to pow-wow music.



CULTURE BOXES

I submitted a grant application to the Montana Humanities Foundation to update the Native Culture Boxes the schools use to learn about Plains, Coastal, Woodland, and Desert tribes.

If funded, I'll create a pow-wow box that shows dolls with the dance regalia and accompanying lesson plan to teach basics about dancing and pow-wows.

All boxes will get either a Coastal Plank House, Woodland Long House, Tipi, or Hogan to show housing types among tribes. The Plains box will get Parfleche containers and quillwork. The Coastal Box will get totem pole figurines.

Every box will have updated lesson plans.

Lewis

**JOIN OUR TEAM!
BE OUR NEW...**



- CUSTODIAN**
- CROSSING GUARD**
- KITCHEN HELPER**
- NOON DUTY AIDE**
- PARA EDUCATOR**
- SUBSTITUTE**
- TEACHER**

Missoula County Public Schools
www.mcpsmt.org/employment



MCPS Instructional Schedule Starting 1/25/21

Update: January 18, 2021. Retrieved from <https://www.mcpsmt.org/Page/15088>

At the board meeting on Tuesday, January 12, 2021, the majority of the board voted to move the elementary and high school districts into Phase 2 for the second semester, with the understanding that the District and education staff will develop a safe implementation plan where we make every effort to achieve 5 out of 6 of the infection control measures outlined in the new Harvard Global Health Institute guidance. As we are entering the last week of the semester, the Board supported the development of a transition plan to support this move to Phase 2. Due to the timing of the PIR day (February 8) and the President's Day Holiday (February 15), we have decided to start with 4-day weeks for this transition period. In-school instructional days will be Tuesday - Friday. **Here are the start dates for transition to Phase 2:**

1. Grades K-2: January 26th
2. Grades 3-5: February 2nd
3. Grades 6-8: January 26th
4. Grades 9-12: February 2nd
5. Willard: February 16th (Due to timing of their grading period.)

Mondays: January 25 and February 1 will be reserved as staff preparation days before the shift to Phase 2. Remote learning is not expected on these days. February 8th is a pre-scheduled PIR (staff training) day. February 15th is a school holiday.

1. On-site learning will return to more days for all students, with a shortened day - same as in Phase 1
2. Near to full capacity in schools with modified operations and school activities (modified lunch or recess to limit large grouping)
3. Modified school schedule, shortened day and block schedule to allow for static groupings of students and limit mixing of students
4. Families could choose 100% virtual learning through our MCPS Online Academy.
5. In the event there is a confirmed case, either staff or student, there could be a short term school closure as recommended by MCCHD
6. Limited or modified extra-curricular activities in order to minimize mixing of groups

We will continue to practice five of these six main infection control practices within schools:

1. Universal masking (including while speaking)
2. Hand and bathroom hygiene
3. Achieving 4-6 air changes per hour of "clean" air through any combination of ventilation and filtration
4. 3 ft social distancing for young learners at all levels of community spread
- 6 ft social distancing for high schools when levels of community spread rise above 100, 100,000 daily new cases
5. Robust quarantine policies and contact tracing practices
6. And, where feasible, surveillance/screening testing

(The Harvard guidance recommends sentinel or surveillance testing as an important infection control measure, something not currently available in our community.) MCPS will continue to follow Missoula County's rule adopted by the Board of Health requiring face coverings for all staff and students. The Missoula Online Academy will remain open for the entire school year.

Rapid COVID –19 Testing for HS Students

MCPS is now offering rapid COVID-19 testing on a limited basis to high school students at the MCPS Business Building. We can offer the test to students if they are currently showing symptoms of COVID-19 and they have had symptoms 7 days or less. Our tests are less sensitive if you have no symptoms or have had symptoms for longer than 7 days.

We will schedule testing appointments as staffing and supplies allow. If you would like to have a consent form on file please sign the attached [consent form](#) and return to the secretary at your student's school. This information will be available on our website at www.mcpsmt.org/covid-19. Hard copies will also be available at the main offices at each high school.

If your student becomes symptomatic at home, please do not send them to school.
Keep your student at home and:

1. Call 406-240-4721 to see if a MCPS nurse is available to arrange a test.
2. Call the Missoula City County Health Department at 258-INFO or one of the other testing clinics in Missoula to schedule a test. A list can be found at <https://www.missoulainfo.com/where-to-get-tested>.

Testing hours and location

Monday 8:00 am-3:00 pm
Tuesday-Friday 8:00 am-9:30 am
915 South Avenue West

If scheduled for a test at MCPS, please arrive at your scheduled appointment time, park in front of the building on South Avenue, near the intersection of South and Stephens and call 406-240-4721 to inform the nurse that you have arrived and to give a brief description of your vehicle. The nurse will provide further instruction. Please do not enter the building.

Our goal is to keep sick students and staff out of the schools to reduce transmission of the virus that causes COVID-19.

Thank you for all you do to keep our staff and students safe in school.

**free covid-19
rapid tests
available
for
high school
students**

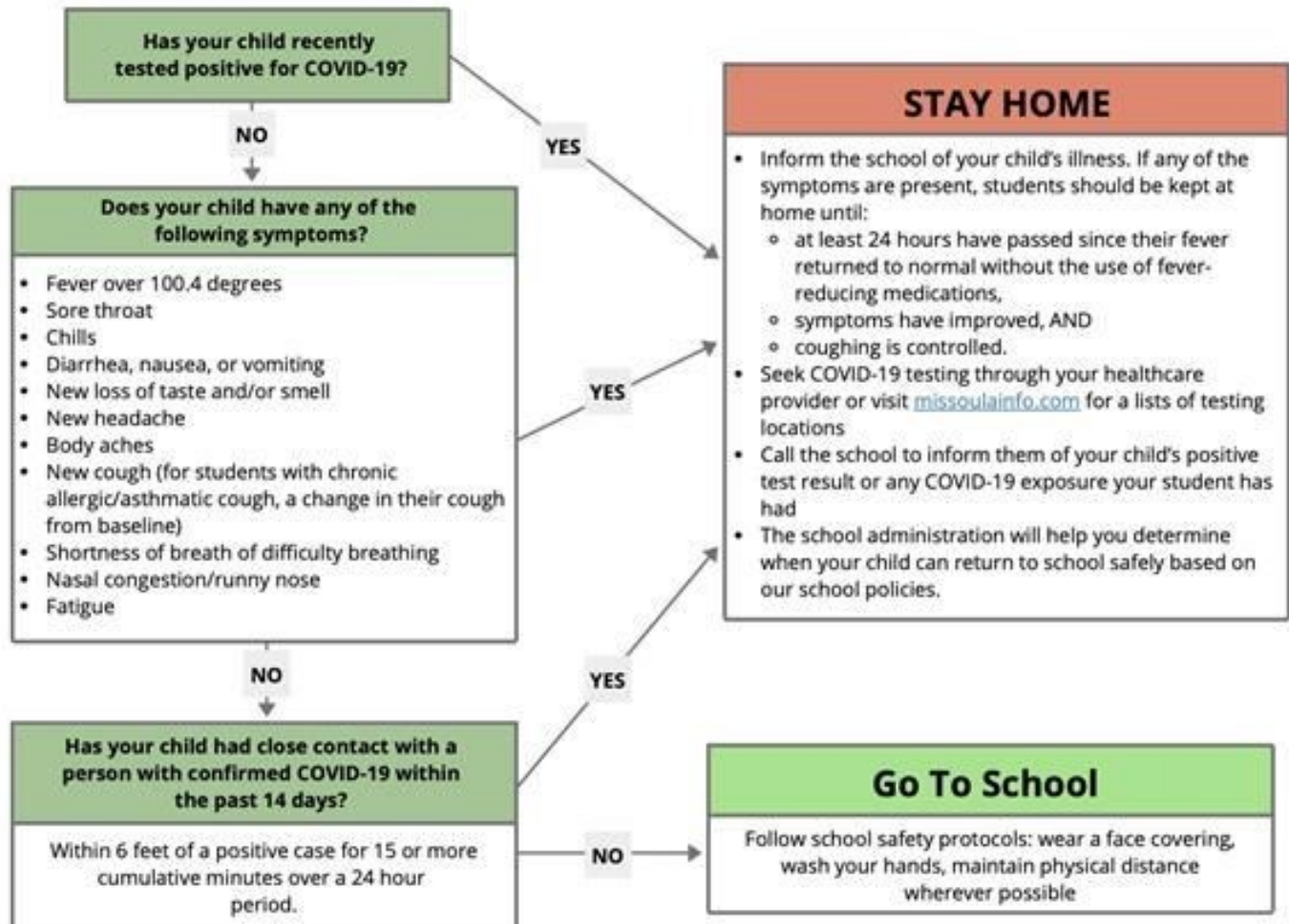
915 SOUTH AVE WEST
MONDAY - 8:00-3:00 PM
TUE-FRI - 8:00-9:30AM

CALL OR TEXT (406)240-4721

TESTING THOSE WITH SYMPTOMS
PARENTAL CONSENT IS NEEDED

MISSOULA COUNTY
PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Beyond Learning. Built Kinship.

CAN MY CHILD GO TO SCHOOL TODAY?



- Board policy [3417 Communicable Diseases](#) and [Communicable Disease: A Guide for Schools in Montana](#) allows MCPS to exclude individuals from school if they exhibit symptoms or are at risk of spreading a communicable disease that is readily transmitted in a school setting.
- We know that many of these symptoms could be the result of other illnesses or conditions.
- We know that many students with these symptoms will miss school more often than usual.
- In order for us to manage the current spike of COVID-19 cases and deal with the cold and flu season, we ask for you to follow these guidelines until further notice.

IF YOUR CHILD IS CONFIRMED WITH COVID-19 OR IDENTIFIED AS A CLOSE CONTACT BY THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT, PLEASE CONTACT THE SCHOOL IMMEDIATELY

Title VI Parent Advisory Committee

The Title VI Parent Advisory Committee (PAC) is made up of parents, students, and teachers within the MCPS Native community. The Title VI PAC provides support to the MCPS Indian Education Dept. throughout the year and hosts the Native Senior Dinner at the end of each school year to honor that year's graduating class of Native American seniors.

There has been a change in roles on PAC in the last few months. Rebecca Bearcub has vacated her role on PAC and assuming her duties is Amber Shaffer, the newly elected Secretary/Treasurer. We have also welcomed Barbara Frank to PAC. She is the principal at Lowell Elementary School and is now serving as our PAC Teacher Representative.

We have one vacancy open for a Parent Representative. Parent/Guardian spots are filled by those who have at least one child who is an MCPS student with a completed Title VI ED 506 Indian Student Eligibility Certification Form. The child can be an enrolled Tribal Member or a 1st or 2nd degree descendent of an enrolled tribal member. PAC members serve for their choice of one, two, or three school years. Please send nominations for Parent Rep to PAC President, Dacia Griego at dgriego@mcpsmt.org

The Title VI PAC has now held two online fundraisers this year with a Thanksgiving Dinner raffle in November and a Holiday Gift Basket raffle in December. We are currently planning a spring fundraiser that will take place in April. We look forward to sharing more information as details are finalized. Please stay tuned!

Due to scheduling conflicts, we have changed our meeting times to the first Wednesday of every month, with our next meeting on February 3rd. We will be planning for our spring fundraiser and finalizing plans for the Native Senior Dinner.

Everyone is welcome to join our meetings and families of graduating seniors are especially encouraged to participate throughout the year. All meetings will be held remotely via Google Meet until further notice.

Children learn from what they see. We need to set an example of truth and action.

- Howard Rainer, Taos Pueblo-Creek

2020-2021 Title VI Parent Advisory Committee	
Name	Title
Dacia Griego	President
Duran Caferro	Vice President
Amber Shaffer	Secretary/Treasurer
Toni Alvernaz	Parent Rep
Stephen Chase	Parent Rep
Vacant	Parent Rep
Alina Espino	Student Rep
Barbara Frank	Teacher Rep

Title VI Parent Advisory Committee Meeting Dates	
Meetings are scheduled for the 1st Wednesday of each month at 6pm. All meetings will be held remotely via Google Meet until further notice. Contact Dacia Griego for a link to join.	
Date	Time
September 10, 2020	6:00-8:00 PM
October 1, 2020	6:00-8:00 PM
November 5, 2020	6:00-8:00 PM
December 3, 2020	6:00-8:00 PM
January 7, 2021	6:00-8:30 PM
February 3, 2021	6:00-8:00 PM
March 3, 2021	6:00-8:00 PM
April 7, 2021	6:00-8:00 PM
May 5, 2021	6:00-8:00 PM
June 2, 2021	6:00-8:00 PM



MCPS TITLE VI PARENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE & NATIVE AMERICAN STUDENT SERVICES DEPARTMENT 2020-2021 NEEDS ASSESSMENT SURVEY



What do you feel are the most important needs of the Native students in Missoula County Public Schools? Please indicate your thoughts by placing a circle around the number.

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. Enhance problem solving and cognitive skills development and directly support attainment of state standards | 7. Increase college enrollment |
| 2. Decrease school drop-out rate | 8. Increase graduation rate |
| 3. Increase academic achievement | 9. Increase knowledge of cultural identity and awareness |
| 4. Increase activities for prevention of violence, suicide and substance abuse | 10. Increase Native American Language Instruction programs |
| 5. Increase At-Risk student support | 11. Increase parent participation |
| 6. Increase career readiness skills | 12. Increase school attendance rate |
| | 13. Increase school readiness |

14. Other suggestions: _____

Rank the three most important needs: _____

Please check the categories that describe you:

Native American ____ Yes ____ No ____

____ Parent/Guardian

____ Middle School Student

____ Community member

____ Elementary School Student

____ High School Student

____ Missoula County Public Schools District Employee

What do you think is working well in the Missoula County Public Schools Indian Education Department?

What are some areas that you would like to see addressed by the school district or services that you would like to see offered by the Indian Education Department?

Please drop this by or mail to:

Missoula County Public Schools
Native American Student Services Department
909 South Ave W
Missoula, MT 59801

OR email to: gfwaeasel@mcps.k12.mt.us or mshammett@mcps.k12.mt.us
Your voice is very important to us! Thank you!



YOUTH ADVISORY MEETING

WE'RE LOOKING FOR NEW YOUTH!

Native Youth 15-24 years of age.



**MEETINGS ARE THE 3RD THURSDAY OF THE MONTH.
JANUARY 21, 2021 4PM-5PM**

Zoom Link: [https://allnations-health.zoom.us/j/93207087204?](https://allnations-health.zoom.us/j/93207087204?pwd=SFE4TjJtT085WHJxOFFzaIQzU0xxQT09)
pwd=SFE4TjJtT085WHJxOFFzaIQzU0xxQT09

Contact Dana Kingfisher at dkingfisher@allnations.health

*question.
persuade.
refer.*

**QPR SUICIDE PREVENTION TRAINING
FOR NATIVE AMERICAN YOUTH & FAMILIES**

Gain the tools to help when you are concerned
about a friend or loved one.

All participants will receive a certificate upon completion.

Youth ages 15-24 will also receive a \$15 giftcard.

FEB 17, 2021
4-5:30 PM, VIA ZOOM

REGISTER AT:
<https://bit.ly/2JDSvzr>



BILLINGS URBAN INDIAN
HEALTH & WELLNESS CENTER



IFHC
Indian Family Health Clinic