

NATIVE AMERICAN EDUCATION PROGRAM

Staff Introductions

Get to know your child's coordinator



Aanii, my name is Miranda Recollet, I am the Educational Specialist with the Native American Education Program, GRPS. Odawa Kwe Ndaw. Wikwemikong dodabendagwis miinwaa Grand Rapids Ndidaa, Waysay Nagig NdaZoozwin, Mooshkaas Ndotem. I am an Odawa woman from Wikwemikong Ontario, Canada and live here in Grand Rapids. My Anishinaabe name is Shining Otter and I am from the Crane Clan. I have been working with our children for over ten years, I believe in providing our students and families with the relative care, support and attention required for them to thrive and succeed while attending Grand Rapids Public Schools. Miigwech for taking the time to look over some of our program information, we have a wealth of services and supports for our students, parents and families to access. Please reach out to us for additional information on how you can register and get involved with Native American Education within our district. For



Bozho Aanii

Ndizhnakaaz Loretta Castaneda

I am the Administrative Assistant for the Native American Education Program. This is my fourth year here, and I have volunteered 22 years with NAEP. I am a member of the Saginaw Chippewa Tribe of Mt. Pleasant, Michigan. It has always been my dream to work with the Native Community. My children attended the Native Education Program and graduated from GRPS. NAEP gave my family a solid foundation in Native Culture. My role here is to assist parents, staff and Community in any way I can. I keep track of our 506 numbers and forms. If you have any questions please call me at (616) 819 – 3318.

Chi-Miigwetch!



Aanii, my name is Sheryl Lopez, I am the Parent/Student Coordinator for the Native American Education Program. I am a member of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians. I graduated from Ferris State University with a Bachelor's degree in Education. I took my Ferris State University classes at the Bay Mills Indian Reservation's Tribal College, where I was trained specifically in Native American Education. I also hold a Bachelor's degree from Central Michigan University in Social Science. I started in working within this program in 2006, which has allowed me to see former NEAP students bring their own children to the Title 6 Native American program. How wonderful to witness the generational learning that happens here! My role is to help parents, students and school staff develop and maintain a plan for students to ensure they are reaching educational goals. We are concerned about the *whole* child, so I assist with other requests the family could have, such as basic needs and family counseling, by connecting the family to the proper resources. I also teach in the classroom at our Native American After-school program, which allows the student to bond with their cultural identity, setting themselves up further for academic success.



Aanii. My name is Amy Westcott and I work as the middle school student/parent support coordinator for the GRPS NAEP. I am a proud member of the Saginaw Chippewa Tribe of Mount Pleasant, Michigan. I am a former GRPS student and I have worn many hats in the NAEP. Parent and co-chair of the parent committee, tutor, children were part of the program, and my son attended GRPS, and I also had the opportunity to participate in the NAEP when I was a teenager. I have lived in Grand Rapids my entire life and my goal was to work with our youth and now I get the chance to do this. I have an Associate Degree in Juvenile Services from Grand Rapids Community College and a Bachelor's Degree in criminal justice from Ferris State University. Having my background gives me the opportunity to advocate for our youth and keep my students on track. Miigwech



Boozho

My name is Christine Sanborn and I work as a high school support coordinator with GRPS' Native American Education Program. I work with our High School students to help them stay on track for graduation. I have lived in Grand Rapids my entire life, and am a proud GRPS graduate from Bimmaadiziwin High School. I have an Associates, and Bachelors Degree in Psychology from Grand Rapids Community College, and Grand Valley State University. I have a passion for helping our young people reach their potential and use my gifts to help my students achieve their goals.