

American Indian Magnet

1075 Third Street East
Saint Paul, MN 55106
(651) 778-3100



Harding High School

1540 East Sixth Street
Saint Paul, MN 55106
(651) 793-4700

10/2/21

Boozhoo, Hau (Hello)! The American Indian Studies (AIS) Department would like to welcome all of our families back to school for the 2020-21 school year! The AIS staff at AIMS Middle School want you to know that we will be here for your family and students' needs, whatever they may be during this hard time of distance learning. We also wanted to update you all on some of the new things that are happening at AIMS this year.

The AIS program exists to teach **ALL** students about American Indian culture. Please check the AIMS and Harding website for all upcoming events! [Aims.spps.org](https://www.spps.org/aims) <https://www.spps.org/harding>

The AIS department would like to remind our families of the advantage of becoming part of the AIS family and that St. Paul Public Schools offers a “Distinction in American Indian Studies.” Much like college students choosing a major field of study, secondary students may choose to specialize in American Indian Studies. The path starts at American Indian Magnet School and continues on to Harding High School. Here are some of the things that AIS offers this year:

American Indian Magnet School (A pre-K through 8 School):

- D/Lakota and Ojibwe Language & Culture Class
- American Indian History
- Native Cultural Infused Curriculum
- Woodland Culture Fair
- Plains Culture Fair
- All Indigenous Nations Fair
- American Indian AVID
- Ambassadorship/Leadership

Harding High School:

- Graduation with Distinctions in American Indian Studies
- The Braided Journeys Program
- Lakota Language & Culture Class
- Ojibwe Language & Culture Class
- American Indian Literature
- American Indian History
- American Indian Art

- American Indian AVID

American Indian AVID and Supports AIS will continue on with an American Indian, culturally sensitive **AVID** (Advancement Via Individual Determination) implementation program that will continue to focus on helping our students learn important skills to get to college while helping our students succeed in other aspects of their lives.

To ensure that learning continues, AIMS also has planned additional important information about things to know and prepare for this fall. As being a part of the SPPS community we would like to get to know our families better and it is very important to us that we find ways to communicate with each other to support your involvement in your child's education. Please contact Jason Bresette if you have any questions! Email is the best but I will do my best to keep things posted on my website (<https://www.spps.org/domain/6974>), the AIMS website (<https://www.spps.org/aims>), and Schoology (<https://www.spps.org/Page/30107>).

The AIS department first believes in a quality education for all but also that we need to build on the cultural values that Native parents give their children and attempt to help the SPPS system to produce a strong positive sense of identity in their students. AIS stands to stop attempts to replace students' Native identity with a dominant cultural identity, which confuses and repels Native students and forces them make a choice to either reject their families' values or their teachers' values. Neither choice is desirable or necessary. Students can be academically successful and learn about the larger non-Native world while at the same time retaining and developing their Native identity. AIMS is the school where the Native cultural values are reinforced rather than ignored or depreciated. Our goal is to help all. We are looking forward to helping all of our students succeed this year, especially as we embark on this journey they call Distance Learning 2.0!

AIMS, AIS Middle School Staff this year (Let us know if you have any questions):

- Jason Bresette – AIS Coordinator, AIS Teacher
- Cynthia Bergloff – Middle School Ojibwe Language and Culture Teacher
- Lisa Yankton – Middle School L/Dakota Language and Culture Teacher
- Bo Johnson – EA with Indian Ed.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact the AIS Coordinator, Jason Bresette. You can reach him at 651-744-6246 or jason.bresette@spps.org. We are really excited to start the year and to continue on with our success of learning as a community.

