



2021 - 2022

Sponsor: Stan Whiteman

Club Name Spirit of the Buffalo Dancers & Singers

Club Goals:

The Browning Middle School Indian Club is a performing arts dance troupe comprised of Browning Middle School Students. This Club promotes successful Blackfeet Intra-Tribal culture, art, dance and language as well as intertribal customs, community awareness and volunteering, self - sufficiency, self - determination, self-confidence and respect. Most students that have participated in this club have gone on to higher education and universities.

This dance troupe has traveled all over the United States performing and sharing the Blackfeet Culture. Each member makes their own dance regalia and pays their own travel expenses to attend important cultural functions. The students do their best to fund-raise, yet many times the need is unmet. This creates a hardship for many of the students. Never the less, the student's participates as an intrinsic need to continue the culture for the sake of the elders and the next generation.

Proposed Meeting Dates (include days and time of meetings)

Tuesday / Thursday (4:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.)

Summary of Proposed Club Activities:

Drumming & Singing: The objective for drumming and singing is to teach the students the differences in songs and teach the students the protocol of respecting the drum. The differences between original style of singing and contemporary style of singing which are both used at Pow-wows today. The original style of singing is more of a harmony with no words involved. Today the contemporary style has native words to it and with a lot of meaning. For instance, My drum group which are called Starr Society Singers has made a lot of different songs for a lot of people throughout Indian country. I made this song for a young man who belongs to the Chippewa Tribe. (Amotsi, Nitsitapi, Apuska, Oxspiyii, Chippewa, Niina, Apuska, Kuisspa, Apuska, Piikspisinii). Which means; this is a real person that will dance. His going to dance for

you, this Chippewa man, will dance the chicken dance and will dance the grass dance). This song was composed for Mike Thompson at the Whittier California pow-wow in the year of 2000. There are so many songs that can be learned from the drumming and singing class. For instance, the four different flag songs used by the Blackfeet, Blood, Peigan & Blackfoot tribes. Both the original and contemporary songs use the straight songs, crow hop songs, Ojibway slide, sneak up songs round dance songs and honor songs when called upon. In conclusion, respect is the most important part of our daily life and that's what we try to show all the students that take part in drumming and singing.

Dancing: The objective for native dancing is to teach the students the different styles of dances and what to expect when they are called upon to dance in a certain category. For example; women's fancy dance songs are the straight, crow hop & shake. The women's Jingle dress dance songs are the straight & Ojibway slide. The women's traditional buckskin & cloth dance songs are the straight & round dance. The men's fancy war dance songs are the straight, crow hop & ruffle. The men's grass dance songs are the straight, crow hop & shake. The men's traditional dance songs are the straight, crow hop & sneak up. Today, The men's chicken dance that was almost extinct, has been brought back by the Blackfeet, Blood, Peigan & Blackfoot people and now all the different tribes are being introduced to this style of dance. The men's chicken dance songs are the straight, cow hop, double beat crow hop songs what we adopted from the Crow Tribe. Shake & double beat straight. In conclusion, respect is the most important part of our daily life and that's what we try to show all the students that take part in the native dancing.

All sponsors must have: 1) Agenda for meeting 2) Sign-in sheets for ALL meetings and sign-in sheets will include the date and time of the meeting and **SIGNATURES of STUDENTS** attending. The agendas, sign-in sheets are required to be turned in at the end of the year to receive the stipend.



2021 - 2022

Sponsor: Stan Whiteman

Club Name: Native Players

Club Goals:

Throughout the year the club has been busy teaching younger students how to sing & play Stick Game / Hand Game at different schools like East Glacier, Boarding School & had the opportunity to share this at Great Falls, Butte, Helena & Kalispell School District. The club also had the opportunity to travel to various powwows throughout the United States & Canada to take part in Stick Game / Hand Game. They enjoyed themselves at the Missoula Indian Youth Conference & Kyi-Yo Conference. They try their best to be involved with the community as much as they can. They have been asked to sing at various places throughout our reservations & at other functions in the state of Montana. They also share our Native Culture through the art of Singing & Playing Stick Game / Hand Game. They have made a big impact on a lot of students who didn't quite understand the different styles of the Stick Game / Hand Game songs that are used throughout powwow country. They also integrated the Blackfeet Language & Sign Language through pointing to other opponents. The History, Culture & Traditional Values that they follow was taught by our Elders throughout Indian Country. So, they tried their very best to follow the Protocol of our Indian People. The students have done an outstanding job by being part of the Native Players.

Proposed Meeting Dates (include days and time of meetings)

Tuesday / Thursday (4:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.)

Summary of Proposed Club Activities:

The objective for native stick game or native hand game is to teach our students the different ways of playing the game. The Blackfeet style plays with ten sticks and no kick stick. There are five sticks that are painted to match each other. For example: five sticks can be the color of white that represents the day and the other five sticks can be the color of black that represents the night. The Flathead style plays with ten sticks also but they have an additional stick that they use which is called the "kick stick"

and this is called the bonus stick that will decide who will start the game first. For example: five sticks can be the same color of yellow that represents the sun and the other five sticks can be the color of green that represents the earth. The "kick stick" can be the color of red that represents all walks of life. The Mission Band of Indians from California play a similar game but call it "Peon". The Crow style plays with either thirteen or fifteen sticks. The Winnebago's and the Ojibway's play a similar game but call it "moccasin game". In conclusion, respect is the most important part of our daily life and that's what we try to show all the students that take part in the stick game or hand game.

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