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# NAPAC Meeting: Native Liaison Updates

Thursday, April 3rd 2025

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## Program Updates:

### Events/Field Trips/Group Activities:

#### 1. Field Trip(s):

- a. Sadly, both of our recent MS and HS field trips were cancelled due to personal illness. We are working on rescheduling the MS field trip to Camp Ihduhapi to do archery in small groups.
- b. Adjustment going forward:
  - i. Small group, targeted trips at the MS/HS level (outside of Native College Fair (HS) and one large MS trip a year)
    1. Doing small group trips will help bring down the cost of trips immensely over time, since bussing is often the largest cost to our field trips.
    2. For example, we may be taking a group of 5-7 middle school boys to a youth singing and drum workshop with other boys their age at the American Indian Family Center.
    3. Another example would be small group college tours, trade school tours, language events, etc. Depends on student individual needs, but each student would have the opportunity to participate.

#### 2. Native Peer Groups:

##### a. High School:

- i. We made smudge spray with sweetgrass and white sage!
  - ii. Working on scheduling a drum making workshop in late april/early may.
  - iii. Shoutouts:
    1. Taylon Little Soldier received MIEA Student Athlete of the Year!
    2. Delaney Smith, one of our Ho-Chunk juniors, graduated from an Indigenous Cultural Internship program with the Minnesota History center last week!
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**b. Middle School:**

- i. We made smudge spray with sweetgrass and white sage!
- ii. We will be working on our medicine wheel mural this month, as well as planning out some art work to put up at Tilden!
- iii. We will also be playing "Powwow Highway" in small groups, a new Dakota lapi/language learning game I got for us at MIEA. I played it at the Dakota and Ojibwe Language Symposium and it is super fun- imagine Native chutes and ladders; rez dogs, ceremony, powwows and Dakota language included!
- iv. We have 2 (maybe more!) teams, one 5th grade and one 6th grade, of students who would like to participate in the Dakota lapi SMSC Language Bowl coming up on April 25th! I will be taking them myself in a van to avoid bussing costs, but they are working really hard to learn introductory Dakota lapi with me!

**c. Elementary Schools:**

- i. In April, we will be making Ojibwe and Dakota constellation artwork to display at Tilden Community Center in the month of May!

**Individual Student Engagement:**

- 1. Current schedule to maximize engagement with each student and school- current plan is to meet with students once every two weeks/month depending on their need, unless need arises for them to come see me directly:
  - a. Mondays: District Office (administrative, planning, meetings, etc.)
  - b. Tuesdays: High School- \*Over the next month before our graduation ceremony, I will specifically be working with our seniors on Tuesdays to go over after high school transition plans, bead caps and help them make regalia for the honor ceremony.\*
  - c. Wednesdays: High School in morning, middle school in afternoon
  - d. Thursdays: Middle School
  - e. Fridays: Elementary schools (rotating, at least 1 Friday per month per school)

**What else I have been up to:**

- 1. **MIEA-** I learned so much at MIEA and made so many connections with other Indian Ed staff from across the state! I specifically learned a lot of social/emotional learning activities and methods using 7 Grandfathers Teachings, as well as working with older students to do grade transition/college preparation using a 7 Grandfathers Teachings model.

- a. I participated in a Blanket Healing Ceremony run by NIEA, and it was genuinely truly healing for me and everyone in that room. I have reached out to NIEA about hosting it here at Hastings for staff and NAPAC members, maybe in the fall. Heavy topics, but so important.
- 2. **Graduation Honors Ceremony Planning:** NAPAC guidance requested on honorarium amounts for drummers, suggestions for speakers, etc.
- 3. **Planning ahead:** NAPAC Event Committee guidance requested on scheduling dates to put on the school event calendar ahead of time.