



Browning Public Schools Club Goals/Sponsors

School Year: 2024 - 2025

School: BROWNING MIDDLE SCHOOL

Club Name: Spirit of the Buffalo Dancers & Singers

Club Sponsor Name: STAN WHITEMAN

Club Goals: The Browning Middle School Indian Club is a performing arts dance troupe comprised of troupe comprise 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 there best to fund-raise, yet many times the need is unmet. This creates a hardship for many of the students. Nevertheless, the student's participates as an intrinsic need to continue the culture for the sake of the elders and the next generation.

Proposed Meeting Time: During 6th, 7th & 8th Grade Lunch.

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 keep sign-in sheets for ALL meetings and sign sheets will include the date of the meeting and SIGNATURES of STUDENTS attending. These sign-in sheets will be turned in at the end of the year before receiving the stipend.