



ABORIGINAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS & SERVICES

Any student who self-declares Aboriginal ancestry has the option of engaging with the Aboriginal Education department for access to programs and services. Every school in the district has an assigned Aboriginal Education Support Worker who provides the programs and services. Funding for the Aboriginal Education Support Worker, and the costs of the programs and services, is generated by the number of students who indicate they would like to access the programs and services, and is provided by the Ministry of Education. This funding is “targeted” and must be spent on programs and services that support the success of students of Aboriginal ancestry in our schools.

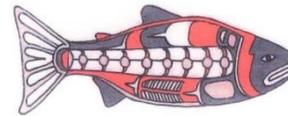
PROGRAMS

- **Cultural Program**

Each elementary school offers an Aboriginal Cultural program. Students interested in attending this will explore Aboriginal culture, typically once per month at lunch time, in a fun, engaging and meaningful way.

- **Special Programs**

Aboriginal Education Support Workers are always putting together special programs for their students. Some examples of this includes dancing opportunities, jingle dress making, and field trips to local Aboriginal sites and events.



SERVICES

- **Student/Family Advocate**

Aboriginal Support Workers can provide advocacy support to families, and can assist families with navigating government agencies, school issues, and so on.

- **Academic Success**

Aboriginal Education Support Workers can provide a varying degree of support in a child’s academic program, from directly assisting a child with their work to regular monitoring of how a child is doing at school. Working closely with the teachers and the family is central to ensuring academic success.

- **Social/Emotional Success**

Aboriginal Education Support Workers can work with students to better ensure they are feeling safe and confident at school. Assisting with peer issues, providing strategies to deal with conflicts in a culturally appropriate manner, and so on, are elements of work done in this area.

MAKING LEARNING MEANINGFUL



The Aboriginal Education Department strives to:

- Encourage and support students of Aboriginal ancestry to become independent learners by engaging and motivating them, promoting Aboriginal culture and worldviews, and providing a variety of experiences that encourage and develop self-esteem and confidence.
- Work with students of Aboriginal ancestry to discuss and model traditional protocols focused on respect, resiliency, responsibility, and accountability. As well, there is a focus on building collaborative skills, such as listening, allowing others to speak, asking for help when needed, and completing tasks.
- Build positive, supportive relationships with students of Aboriginal ancestry and their families.
- Promote an understanding of the importance of the historical and contemporary impact of Aboriginal peoples in the local, provincial, national and world contexts.
- Provide learning experiences that encourage positive behaviours, teach life skills, promote interaction with the outdoors, and teach communication skills through traditional teachings.
- Promote holistic teaching methods that help to create a balanced learner.

FIRST PEOPLES PRINCIPLES OF LEARNING

Learning ultimately supports the well-being of the self, the family, the community, the land, the spirits, and the ancestors.

Learning is holistic, reflexive, reflective, experiential, and relational (focused on connectedness, on reciprocal relationships, and a sense of place).

Learning involves recognizing the consequences of one's actions.

Learning involves generational roles and responsibilities.

Learning recognizes the role of indigenous knowledge.

Learning is embedded in memory, history, and story.

Learning involves patience and time.

Learning requires exploration of one's identity.

Learning involves recognizing that some knowledge is sacred and only shared with permission and/or in certain situations.

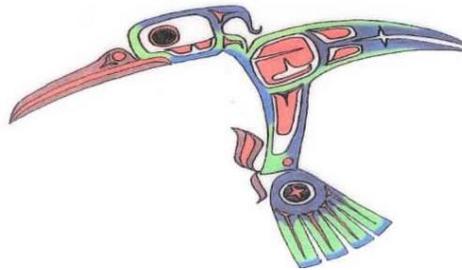


ABORIGINAL EDUCATION TEAM

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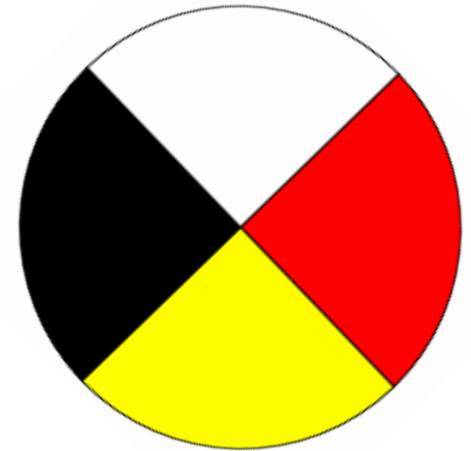


- Every school in the district has an assigned Aboriginal Education Support Worker who provides Aboriginal programs and services. Please check with your school to find out who the assigned support worker is.



ABORIGINAL EDUCATION PROGRAM

School District No. 20
(Kootenay-Columbia)



***BUILDING THE
COMMUNITY CIRCLE
FOR GENERATIONS
TO COME***

**SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 20
(KOOTENAY-COLUMBIA)**

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