

Navajo Language & Culture

Tsehootsoo Middle School



Instructor information

Teacher

Crystal Ironwater

Email

cironwater@wrschool.net

Grade

7th and 8th

General information

Description

This course introduces students to the Navajo language and culture traditions. Students will learn to read, write, and speak basic Navajo. Cultural lessons will focus on Navajo philosophy, oral traditions, kinship (k'e), stories, songs, ceremonies, and values. The goal is to strengthen identity, pride, and respect for Navajo heritage.

Expectations and goals

- Speak Navajo daily when possible
- Show respect for elders, stories, and each other
- Participate in class and group work
- Keep a language and culture notebook/study guide

Course materials

Required materials

- Two (2) folders
- Composition book
- Navajo English dictionary (will be provided in the classroom)
- Access to songs and audio recordings

Expectations

1. Be on time for class.
2. Be respectful to everyone and their ideas.
3. Come prepared with materials and a positive attitude.
4. Participate actively in discussions and activities.
5. Follow all school rules and classroom procedures.

What to Bring

- ✓ Study Guide with Navajo Vocabulary
- ✓ Pencil with eraser
- ✓ Composition Notebook
- ✓ Page Protectors 5

Grading Policy

Your grade will be based on the following categories:

- Classwork and Participation: 20%
- Writing Assignments: 30%
- Navajo Reading Assignments: 25%
- Projects and Presentations: 15%
- Homework: 10%

Late Work Policy

Learning is a process. My priority is your learning and growth, so focus on understanding the material rather than just submitting a final product. You are allowed to make up missing assignments as long as they are completed and turned in before the end of the month in which they were assigned. At the end of each quarter, teachers will not be given access to PowerSchool to submit late work. Please submit all work in a timely manner. A assignment poster will be posted in the classroom and updated each week for students who have difficulty accessing PowerSchool. PowerSchool is available for all parents to view your child's grades.

Plagiarism: TMS Handbook

- Turning in someone else's work as your own (this includes using AI)
- Copying words or ideas from someone else's without giving credit.
- Failing to put a quotation in quotation marks.
- Giving incorrect information about the source of a quotation.
- Changing words but copying the sentence structure of a source without giving credit.
- Copying so many words or ideas from a source that it makes up most of your work, whether you give credit or not (see our section on "fair use" rules).
- This includes websites using websites to answer questions (this includes AI).

Most cases of plagiarism can be avoided, however, by citing sources. Simply acknowledge that certain material has been borrowed and providing your audience with the information necessary to find that source is usually enough to prevent plagiarism.

Course schedule Navajo (1)

- Assessment 1
- RACES (5 Paragraph Essay, Prompt Question, Argumentative Writing)
- ACE's
- Navajo Emergent Story four worlds
- Navajo Government 1
- Review (animals, colors, shapes, numbers, date)
- Navajo Sound System
- Introduction to reading and writing Navajo
- Project
- Assessment 2

Course schedule Navajo (2)

- Assessment 1
- RACES (5 Paragraph Essay, Prompt Question, Argumentative Writing)
- Navajo Twins
- K'e (clanship)
- Reading and Writing Navajo

- Class role playing (laundry, eating, cooking and driving)
- Navajo Long Walk
- Navajo Livestock Reduction Act
- Navajo Government 2
- Final Project Keshmish Festival
- Assessment 2

Important Dates

- Meet the teacher night Thursday August 7, 2025
- Parent Teacher Conference Wednesday September 24, 2025
- Quarter 1 ends Friday October 10, 2025
- Parent Teacher Conference Wednesday November 5, 2025
- Quarter 2 ends Friday December 19, 2025

Contact Information

I am here to help you succeed! If you have any questions or need extra support, feel free to reach out during class, after school, or via email. I encourage parents and guardians to contact me with any concerns or questions.

Cironwater@wrschool.net