ACHIEVING SUCCESS IN 9TH GRADE | Advice from our Students

“What motivates me to improve my grades is knowing I’m doing what I need to do to graduate on time,” says Mykiel James, a 9th grader at Thomas Jefferson High School. Mykiel turned things around by going to office hours and asking for help. When asked what advice he had for his peers, he said, “Remember, no question is too stupid to ask.” Mykiel is a member of the Cherokee and Blackfeet Nations. When he graduates, he wants to create and produce art and music as well as start his own clothing line.

Ernesto

A student at North High School, Ernesto Silva, dreams of obtaining a Bachelor of Science in Botany with a minor in Business from CU Boulder. When it comes to success in high school, Ernesto says, “Be respectful and kind to your teachers and learn how to advocate for yourself.” One of the ways Ernesto advocates for himself is by asking his teachers how to bring his grade up. He also recommends building organizational skills. “Before I learned how to organize my work, I would do my homework and forget to turn it in, then if would be late,” said Ernesto. Ernesto is a member of the Taos Pueblo.

Gabriela

Gabriela Suazo, a 9th grader at Abraham Lincoln High School, has big dreams. “When I graduate high school, I want to go to college, then onto Law School,” she says. Gabriela knows success in high school is an important part of achieving her goals. “Be sure you keep track of everything, especially if you miss a day,” she recommends, “don’t fall behind and talk to your teachers regularly.” Gabriela is a member of the Hopi Tribe.

UPCOMING COMMUNITY EVENTS

DENVER INDIAN CENTER HOLIDAY EVENTS

For information about the Denver Indian Center’s holiday events, please call 303.936.2688 or visit www.DenverIndianCenter.org.

NASSP PARENT ADVISORY COUNCIL

NASSP holds a monthly Parent Advisory Counsel at the Denver Indian Center, 4407 Morrison Road in Denver. This is a great opportunity to provide input and meet other families. We hope you’ll join us!

Upcoming dates (all dates are on a Thursday):
January 26, 2017 | 5:30 PM
February 23, 2017 | 5:30 PM
March 16, 2017 | 5:30 PM
April 20, 2017 | 5:30 PM
May 18, 2017 | 5:30 PM

Please bring a dish to share.
Questions? Contact Rose Marie McGuire at 720.423.2042 or RoseMarie_McGuire@dpsk12.org

SALVATION ARMY CHRISTMAS DINNER

Saturday, December 24th | 11:30AM-1PM
Colorado Convention Center
700 14th St. | Denver, CO 80202

The Salvation Army is hosting a hot Christmas dinner for the Denver community. Children 17 and under will receive a toy and an opportunity to visit Santa. No registration is required.

For questions call 303.295.3366
Superintendent Parent Forums are regular sessions where families can learn more about the work of Denver Public Schools and share their thoughts with the leadership of the school system. We hope and encourage Native families attend and be involved in these. Join us on December 8th and engage with Superintendent Tom Boasberg about the DPS Denver Plan 2020: College and Career Ready (Graduation Changes).

Temple Emanuel | 51 Grape Street, Denver | 9:15-11:15 AM

Interpretation and childcare (age 3-12) is provided at no cost to participants.

For more information or to register visit FACE.DPSK12.org or contact Nelvis Alvarez, Project Coordinator for Family Empowerment, 720.423.3135 | FACE_Events@dpsk12.org.

Superintendent Parent Forums are held throughout the school year. Upcoming forums are listed below.

Thursday, February 9th | PPA Event Center | 2105 Decatur Street | 9:15-11:15 AM
Tuesday, May 2nd | PPA Event Center | 2105 Decatur Street | 9:15-11:15 AM

Planning to enroll your child in a different school next year? Round One for SchoolChoice opens January 5th and closes January 31st. Round Two will open in mid-March and close at the end of August. Parents who wish to enroll their child in a different school should follow the steps below:

- **Complete the SchoolChoice form.** Forms will become available on January 5th both online and in your child's school office. Still need a copy? Feel free to give us a call at 720.423.2042 and we'll be happy to mail you one!
- **Submit your completed SchoolChoice form by 4PM on January 31st.** Round One SchoolChoice forms MUST be turned into the requested school or submitted online through Parent Portal.
- **Students are assigned first come first serve.** Turn in your form early to ensure enrollment in your first choice.
- **Interested in enrolling in a Native Focus School?** Complete a Focus School application and return it to our office. Applications can be found at www.IndianEducation.dpsk12.org or call us and we'll mail one to you!
- **When enrolling your child in a new school, check American Indian ethnicity only on the enrollment form.**

Please be sure to return all Focus School applications to the NASSP office. Applications can be mailed to Native American Student Support Program, Emily Griffith Campus | 1860 Lincoln St., 8th Fl | Denver, CO 80203 or e-mailed to RoseMarie_McGuire@dpsk12.org

Still have questions? The Office of Choice and Enrollment Services can be reached by phone at 720.423.3493 or by e-mail at schoolchoice@dpsk12.org. Our office is also happy to help! Contact Rose Marie McGuire at 720.423.2042 or at RoseMarie_McGuire@dpsk12.org if you need assistance.

**MARCH POWWOW PASS DISTRIBUTION**

Tuesday, March 21st | 3-5 PM | Denver Indian Center Gym

NASSP will hold the annual Denver March Powwow Pass Distribution on Tuesday, March 21st from 3-5PM. Three-day passes will be available for students attending Denver Public Schools while supplies last. The distribution will be at the Denver Indian Center (DICI) located at 4407 Morrison Road.

To receive a March Powwow Pass, students ages 7 and older must have a 506 form on file with the NASSP office. Blank 506 forms will be available at the distribution. Students 6 and under receive free admission to the Powwow and do not need to pick up passes. Plan to show up early! Only a limited number of passes are available!

Questions? Contact Rose Marie McGuire at 720.423.2042 or RoseMarie_McGuire@dpsk12.org