Denver Center for International Studies won the Highest Achieving High School award Lakota Language Assessment Test for 2016-17. Received by Lakota Language Instructor Gwen Holmes and Kimimila Locke at the Lakota Language Weekend at the Hilton Garden Inn in Rapid City, South Dakota, October 28, 2017.

Darrick Silversmith and Gwen Holmes represented DPS NASSP at UCEA International Summit II: Perspectives on Indigenous Leadership from the Center for the International Study of School Leadership Sheraton Denver Downtown Indigenous perspectives on educational leadership.
School Activities

DCIS and North High School Native American Student Alliance participate in hand games hosted by Phillip Gover.

Lakota Hand Games

Traditional games were an essential part of Lakota life before the introduction of European and American non-Native games in the late 19th century. All games promoted skills and values important to the Lakota, including competition, sportsmanship, risk taking and probability. Games brought people together, stimulated social interaction and strengthened social bonds. They also taught skill, patience, cooperation, while measuring competition and endurance - virtues that were held as significant.

Hand games are played with teams ranging from five to ten members, including a singer, which face each other. In the Lakota version, each team starts with eight sticks. A team captain chooses two people to hide four short pieces of bone or antler in a closed hand.

Two of the bones are marked, while the other two are unmarked. The other team must guess which member of the opponent's team is holding the unmarked bones to gain possession of the opponent's sticks.

An incorrect guess means a team must surrender a stick. A team wins when they hold all 16 sticks. The deception involves drumming and singing to distract the opponent while the bones are hidden.

North High School Native American Student Alliance recognized Native American Heritage month on November 30th by handing out Turquoise ribbons to the students and staff to raise awareness.

Students from the South High School Native American Student Alliance are working on beading projects. Alyssa Willie (Choctaw) is a grad student at DU School of Social Work volunteers her time to show the students how to bead turtle medallions.
Important Dates to Remember!

Native Youth Academic & Artistic Talent Showcase
January 11, 2018 | 6-8 pm | Driscoll Student Center-DU

Academic Achievement Awards night
January 18, 2018 | 5:30-8pm | DCIS Baker Cafeteria

Colorado State University Campus Visit
Early February | CSU Campus, Fort Collins

2018 Bank of America Student Leader Flyer
February 2, 2018 Application Deadline

College Horizons Application due
February 5, 2018

DPS/Adams 12 Hand Drum Competition
February 9, 2018 | 6-9 pm | DCIS Baker

Denver March Powwow Distribution
March 20, 2018 | 3-5 pm | Denver Indian Center, Inc.

Fort Lewis College Campus Visit
April 19-21, 2018 | Fort Lewis Campus, Durango

Dance To Your Future Powwow, College Fair, & Community Feed
May 5, 2018 | 12-6 pm | Tall Bull Memorial Grounds

DCIS Baker Student Powwow
May 11, 2018 | 2-6 pm | DCIS Baker

Senior Honoring-Invite only
May 17, 2018 | 5:30-8pm | Location TBD

DPS/CSU NASTEMI Camp
Early June 2018 | CSU Fort Collins

CSU Native Education Forum (apps open in Feb)
June 11-16, 2018 | CSU Campus, Fort Collins

College Horizons University of Pennsylvania
June 23-29, 2018 | Pennsylvania

College Horizons University of Rochester
June 23-29, 2018 | New York

Fort Lewis College Application due
June 30, 2018 | Online
When registering your student for school, the Registration Form ask parents to identify the student’s ethnic background. While your student may have more than one ethnic group, it’s important that only one ethnic group is identified. We recommend that if you identify as American Indian, please check ONLY American Indian.

- American Indian or Alaskan Native—A person having origins in any of the original people of North America and who maintains cultural identification through tribal or community recognition.

Community Resources

- Denver Indian Center, Inc.
  4407 Morrison Rd, Denver, CO 80219
  303.936.2688 | www.denverindiancenter.org

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