

Indigenous Morning Greeting Project

Through this project, OPI staff will record greetings from American Indian Elders, Knowledge Keepers, and influential leaders from across Montana. These greetings will be recorded with the intent of being played at schools at the beginning and end of the week twice a month during the school year:

Monday Greetings: These greetings will start the school week in a good way and provide a warm welcome to both students and school staff. Greetings will include messages of encouragement to students and school staff to learn new things and develop skills at school; greetings will also remind students and staff of their inherent value as people and their importance to the future.

Thursday/Friday Greetings: These greetings will provide an *optimistic closure* to the school week. These greetings will encourage students and staff to continue to learn and develop skills outside of school, provide an additional reminder of the value of students and staff, and encourage everyone to return to school next week.

The OPI will work to ensure all 12 of Montana's tribal nations are represented in this project. All speakers will be invited to greet students and staff in their indigenous language and English. Greetings will be between 2 and 3 minutes in length and delivered to schools as video/audio links.

ALL SCHOOLS ARE WELCOME TO PARTICIPATE!

Beginning in September 2024, Indigenous Morning Greetings will be made available to all schools.

Please provide your contact information in this form if you would like to participate in this project:

Indigenous Morning Greetings Project Sign-up

Rationale: This project leverages the research around welcoming and inclusion activities and optimistic closures. According to CASEL, *welcoming and inclusion activities* help build a feeling of connectedness to the school and can help prepare and motivate students and school staff for learning. *Optimistic closures* can reinforce the importance of what was learned, provide a sense of accomplishment, and motivate students and staff to continue learning (CASEL, 2019).

This project also leverages the power of culture, language, and positive self identity in American Indian students towards school attendance and academic success (WestEd, 2021). Through this project, all students will have the opportunity to hear diverse indigenous languages and experience the power and positive influences of Montana's Indigenous people.

For more information, and to participate in this project, please contact us:

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