BOARD OF EDUCATION
BURNABY
SCHOOL DISTRICT 41

Indigenous Education Enhancement Services

Dear Parents,

Welcome back for another school year! According to our school records you have identified your son/daughter as having Indigenous ancestry. This letter is intended to outline our programs and services in Indigenous Education in the Burnaby School District and how you might access these programs and services. In Burnaby Schools, we deliver our services through an integrated approach that looks to incorporate the First Peoples Principles of Learning into your child's classroom and school experience. The First Peoples Principles of Learning include:

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.

Through a focus on these Principles of Learning we approach our services by targeting classrooms with Indigenous learners to incorporate Indigenous culture and perspectives as a part of their learning.

What services are available through Indigenous Education in Burnaby?

There are a number of different services available for Indigenous students in Burnaby Schools. Although your child may not require access to all of the services provided, here are some of the services that are available:

- Cultural teachings/lessons within the classroom
- Academic liaising and guidance via Secondary Success Teachers and Indigenous Learning Inquiry Teachers
- Reading Recovery and Literacy Enhancement Services
- Grade 7 Transition to Secondary support
- Attendance monitoring and intervention
- School based cultural programs and services
- District wide cultural events, resources, leadership opportunities and celebrations
- Assistance with Post-Secondary Transition

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How do I access services?

By self-identifying your child as being of Indigenous ancestry, your child may have access to the services listed above. Your child may not require access to all services provided by Indigenous Education, but self-identification with your school office or Indigenous staff person will provide us the opportunity to incorporate your child into our services.

Will my child be pulled out of class for Indigenous Enhancement services?

Generally, your child will not be pulled out from class to be provided services from Indigenous Education as our programming intends to be as integrated as possible. There are initiatives such as Reading Recovery, the grade 7 transition program or Indigenous post-secondary visits that may require students to miss class. If these services are offered to your child, we will seek your consent to have your student miss class to access these services.

How do I contact Indigenous Education?

It is important to us that you have a strong understanding of the programs and services being offered to your child. If you have questions, comments or concerns please contact your school to reach the staff person assigned to Indigenous Education, or visit our website at https://burnabyschools.ca/indigenouseducation/staff/

Continued Access to Indigenous Enhancement Services

We will continue to provide services to all self-identified students of Indigenous ancestry for the 2019-2020 school year. We will assume that your child will continue with services unless we hear otherwise from you. If at any time you no longer wish to partake in Indigenous Education Enhancement Services, please contact your school office and your child will be removed from the service list.

For more information on Indigenous Education in Burnaby Schools, please visit our website at https://burnabyschools.ca/indigenouseducation/

In friendship,

Brandon Curr
District Principal
Indigenous Education