

## **Elementary Culture Class Lessons for 2016-17**

### **Drum and Dance**

Music and dance, based on traditional forms of expression, play a significant role in the lives of many American Indian people today. Through music and dance, American Indians celebrate life, tribal identity, and the survival of tribal culture.

Powwows, as they are called today, are tribal and intertribal dances. They are held throughout the year, indoors and outdoors, in cities and reservation communities. The word **powwow** came from the languages of the Eastern Algonkian tribes. This word referred to a sacred healer. It was borrowed by Euro-Americans to describe all American Indian dances, social gatherings and ceremonies. The Anishinabe (Ojibwe) word for dance is nimiwin (nee-mee-win) and the Dakota (Sioux) word is wac' ipi (wah-cheepee).

(This information was taken from MDE American Indian Education Committee Framework 1995)

This year our Cultural Enrichment Pull-out program will revolve around the teaching of Drum and Dance.

### **Lesson #1 – The Drum**

There are several different kinds of drums, each used for specific purposes. All drums are treated with respect.

#### Learner Outcomes

After participating in teacher-led discussion and activities students will be able to:

1. Identify the materials that go into making a drum.
2. Discuss the different types of drums and their uses.
3. Discuss the different types of songs and their purposes.

Tribal Value: Respect

Students Activities: CD of different songs, student drum packets and hands-on materials (sinew, raw hide rounds, hand drum).

Craft: Students will make a small hand drum/stick

## **Lesson #2 – The Dancers – Women/Girl’s Traditional & Men/Boy’s Traditional**

The tribal past is strongly reflected in the dance outfit and regalia of the present day dancer. Eagle feathers are often part of their regalia.

Learner Outcomes

After participating in teacher-led discussions and activities students will be able to:

1. Identify and discuss the different elements of traditional dance regalia, its history and present day application.
2. Discuss the dance steps/style of traditional dancers
3. Discuss the importance of the Eagle feather incorporated into regalia.

Tribal value: Courage

Student Activities: Traditional outfits/regalia, dance dolls, pictures/video and traditional materials (deer hide porcupine quills, moose hair, porcupine guard hair, elk’s teeth and shells)

Craft: Bone and shell necklaces

## **Lesson #3 & Lesson #4 –Traditional Storytelling**

These two lessons will incorporate two traditional stories, The Vision of Wana-ikwe (The story about the Dakota woman who received the vision of the Dream Dance Drum and how the drum was given to the Ojibwe people and MI GA ZI A DI SO KAN –The Story of the Eagle (This story explains why the eagle and his feathers are honored and respected). Both stories are taken from Ni-Mi-Win: A History of Ojibwe Dance by Robert Desjarlait

Tribal value: Love

Craft: Wrapped wild turkey feather

## **Lesson #5 – The Dancers – Jingle Dress Dancer & Grass Dancer**

To many, the Jingle dress is considered a healing dress. It has metal cones sew on layers of the dress that gives a wonderful sound as the dancer dances. The Grass dance has a long history. The regalia is made up of fringe that waves like grass in the wind as the dancer moves.

Learner Outcome:

After participating in teacher-led discussions and activities students will be able to:

1. Identify and discuss the Jingle Dress Dance/ Grass Dance, regalia, its history and present day application.

2. Discuss the dance steps and style of both dances.

Tribal Value: Wisdom

Student Activities: Dance outfits/regalia, dance dolls, pictures/video and student packets

Craft: Decorated leather pouch

### **Lesson #6 – Women/Girl’s Fancy Shawl & Men/Boy’s Fancy Dance**

Fancy Shawl dancers wear a shawl with long fringe over their shoulder that adds to the graceful movements of the dance. The Fancy Dance is a very energetic dance for men and boys. Their regalia consist of two bustles.

After participating in teacher-led discussions and activities students will be able to:

1. Identify and discuss the different elements of the Fancy Shawl and Fancy Dance regalia, its history and present day application.
2. Discuss the dance steps and style of both dances.

Tribal Value: Truth

Student Activities: Dance outfits/regalia, pictures, video and student packets

Craft: To be determined

### **Lesson #7 – The Present Day Pow Wow**

There are different types of Pow Wows each with many traditions and responsibilities. There are many things to consider when organizing a Pow Wow. This lesson will explore the many different aspects of the modern day Pow Wow.

After participating in teacher-led discussions and activities, students will be able to:

1. Discuss the different types of Pow Wows
2. Discuss the different people that help in a Pow Wow ( The M.C., Arena Director, Head dancers)
3. Discuss Grand Entry

Tribal Value: Humility

Student Activities: Pow Wow Video, student packets

Gift: Pow Wow Book