



MINNEAPOLIS
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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Boozhoo/Haŋ,

Indigenous Peoples Day is celebrated on the second Monday of October. This date, formerly known as “Columbus Day,” was officially changed by resolution of Minneapolis’s mayor and city council on April 25th, 2014.

This year Indigenous Peoples Day falls on Monday, October 8th. The idea to change the name of this day was first proposed in 1977 by a delegation of Native nations during a United Nations-sponsored International Conference on Discrimination Against Indigenous Populations in the Americas. Supporters of the name change have sought recognition for the peoples who lived on the lands now known as the United States of America prior to the arrival of colonizers. Columbus did not discover these lands – millions of people lived here upon his arrival and suffered as a result of his colonial practices.

Discussion of Indigenous Peoples Day allows students, parents, and families to engage and celebrate the unique history of Mni Sota, the land where the water reflects the sky. This day celebrates the contributions that our indigenous friends and neighbours share to make our communities stronger.

Minneapolis has a thriving Native American community. On October 6th and 7th, you are invited to participate in the Indigenous Peoples Day Festival in the American Indian Corridor on Franklin Avenue in South Minneapolis. You can learn more about the festival here: <https://www.nacdi.org/indigenous-peoples-day-festival> All are welcome. There will be food, art, and music!

On October 8th, we have a district event at 3:30 pm in the café. The Indian Education department invites you to join them in recognizing the new appointees to Ogitchidaa Oyate, the district’s Native American youth council. Two representatives from each of the district’s high schools will serve as leaders to inform and direct work involving Native American issues, district policies, and school-based initiatives. For additional information, please contact Miskwa Mukwa Desjarlait, Youth Engagement Specialist, at miskwa-mukwa.desjarlait@mpls.k12.mn.us .

While Indigenous Peoples Day is an opportunity to discuss Native American issues, we hope that you will extend the conversation. November is **Native American Heritage Month**. On the third Thursday in November, MPS celebrates Native American Family Involvement Day (NAFID). We hope that your school site finds a way to meaningfully engage with Native families and the community at large. Please contact Christine Wilson at christine.wilson@mpls.k12.mn.us to learn how the Indian Education department can offer support for your event. Please note that all schools will be contacted about this date (November 15th) and will receive an information packet.

Here is a list of resources to better understand Indigenous Peoples Day:

- [Goodbye Columbus, Hello Indigenous Peoples’ Day](#)
- [Reconsider Columbus Day](#)

- [Minneapolis Renames Columbus Day as Indigenous People's Day](#)
- [1491 Explores the Americas Before Columbus](#)
- [Seeds, Germs, and Slaves](#)
- [Columbus Controversy](#)

Here is a list of lesson plans/resources:

- [Decolonizing the Classroom: Teaching with Indigenous Comics](#)
- [Celebrate Indigenous Peoples Day in the Classroom with these Resources](#)
- [Rethinking Columbus](#)
- [What Was Columbus Thinking?](#)
- [A People's History of the United States](#)

Here is a list of books that could be used in lesson planning:

- [1491](#)
- [Why You Can't Teach United States History without American Indians](#)
- [Rethinking Columbus](#)
- [A People's History of the United States](#)