

Une version française sera prochainement proposée

Rough Rock Community School Navajo Mission

"Teaching Our Children Harmony With Mother Earth and Father Sky Through Community Controlled Bilingual, Bicultural Education"

We believe that every person should live in harmony with themselves, with Mother Earth and Father Shy, and with all others on the journey through life. We believe that at all levels, life is a process of evolutionary growth which involves change. We believe that we should seek positive growth within ourselves, that we should nurture such growth in others, and that doing so requires us to remain open to new ideas and differing opinions, and flexible in the face of changing circumstances.

We believe that positive growth requires a sound philosophical foundation upon which to build, and that the Navajo Philosophy of life is that foundation. The goal of Navajo Philosophy and life is to seek and establish harmony and peace, and that from those will come happiness and plenty. We believe that we should assist in the attainment of that goal for ourselves, our students, the communities we serve and government with which we are involved.

We believe that every person is possessed of a basic nature that seeks to do good and to be good, and that the basic nature of all individuals is extended to the communities and governments of their making. It is only through harmony that good can be accomplished.

We believe that all persons are entitled to a sense of individual dignity and self-worth through the expression of their spirit, thoughts and talents. We believe that experiencing

success in learning is one of the surest means of developing that sense. Most importantly, **WE STRONGLY BELIEVE THAT ALL CHILDREN CAN SUCCEED IN LEARNING.** Therefore, one of our most important individual and collective responsibilities is to enable our students to succeed in learning and thus to fully develop their sense of self-worth and individual dignity.

We believe that each child can succeed at learning, we also believe that each will do so at different speeds and in different ways. We believe that we must seek to identify, allow for, and build upon those individual differences if each child is to be enabled to experience success.

We believe that one of the most important elements in the development of an individual's sense of dignity and self-worth is a thorough and positive awareness of their cultural heritage. Such an awareness cannot be achieved without knowing the primary language of the culture. Further, we believe that the unique identity of the Navajo Nation must be maintained, and that doing so requires that accurate knowledge of the Tribes history, traditions and culture be preserved. The successful preservation of such knowledge can be accomplished only if the Navajo language itself is fully preserved. Thus this school should provide a firm and proud foundation in the language, history, traditions and culture of the Navajo People and the Navajo Nation.

We believe that our students should be enabled and encouraged to develop the knowledge and skills needed for success within the Navajo world and the world beyond the boundaries of the Navajo Nation. We believe that the effective learning of those things necessary to succeed in the

Navajo world will enhance the individuals abilities to learn that which is necessary to succeed in the world at large.

We believe that this school provide the broadest possible access to the knowledge and skills which are essential to an understanding of a competence in the world our students will choose as their own. We believe that every student, appropriate to their age and skills, should be provided with the opportunities to learn and function using the authority and responsibility they will enjoy as adults.

We believe that this school should provide an environment in which our students can productively live, learn and grow in safety, peace and harmony. We believe that this school should also provide a safe, supportive and harmonious environment in which our staff can learn and grow professionally in their service to our students.

We believe that, in order to effectively fulfill our mission to the students and staff, we must express and demonstrate our respect for and cooperation with the parents and communities we serve. We believe that the school must be responsive to the needs and desires of the communities it serves. We must recognize that the homes and communities from which our students come are also an important part of their learning experience and, as such, are deserving of our efforts.

We believe that honor, integrity and high quality work should be the hallmark of our school. If that is to be so, we must comply with all laws and regulations, perform according to our word and utilize all that we are provided for the primary mission of our school.

We believe that our schools identity as the first Native American community-controlled school in this country adds

significantly to our dignity and to our responsibilities within the realm of Native American Education and, therefore, that we should always act to honor and preserve that identity and dignity and to meet our rightful responsibilities.

Finally, we believe that we are not here to change the world for our children, but that we are here to enable our children to change the world for themselves.

The Navajo version takes precedence over the English version.