

NATIVE AMERICAN PROGRAM NEWSLETTER

Save the Date for Community Night and Art Expo

Save the date for Jordan District's Native American Community Night.

We are excited to continue our tradition of gathering as a community to celebrate our rich heritage, culture, and student achievements. Activities will include an Art Expo (open to students and adults), Senior Recognition, student celebrations, prizes, vendors, booths, crafts, a Round Dance, Drum Circle, and more.

[RSVP here](#)

If you would like to participate in the Art Expo or have any questions, please contact [Lori Packer](#).

Thursday - May 7, 2026
5:00 pm - 7:30 pm

West Jordan Middle School
7550 South Redwood Road
West Jordan, Utah



Fun Field Trips 2026

Try 3D Printing at Innovation Lab and medicine bags and geology at Hutchings Museum!

SheTech, FREE Tuition & More!

- Join other Native high school girls at **SheTech**!
- Have fun in class and get advanced training at **JATC**.
- Find out how to get **FREE tuition** at trade schools and colleges.
- Enroll in **Drum Making Workshop** (see page 5)

Visit the Zoo

Join our upcoming trip to Hogle Zoo & get a copy of the book *Braiding Sweetgrass*.

High School News



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K-6 News

Upcoming Field Trips for K-6 Students

We have two upcoming field trips for our 5th and 6th grade students:

- **February 26, 2026:** Visit to Juniper Elementary's Innovation Lab to learn about 3D printing.
- **April 23, 2026:** Trip to the Hutchings Museum in Lehi. Last year, we learned about rocks, minerals, and made medicine bags. We're excited to return this year!



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Middle School News

Upcoming Field Trip for Middle School Students

We are going to the zoo! We're excited to announce that our spring middle school field trip will be to the **Hogle Zoo on April 29, 2026!** Due to the popularity of our field trips, our fall visit to the Natural History Museum was so well-attended that we had to turn students away — we must now limit the number of participants for logistical and safety reasons.

Moving forward, priority for field trip spots will be given to students with good attendance and those making progress in their academics. We want to recognize and reward students who are dedicated to their academic goals.

If you have any questions, please [contact Nick West](#), our middle school mentor.

Make School Easier

Middle School is hard! If your student is struggling with the transition to middle school or their first year of high school, getting organized can make a big difference. Many students complete their work but don't turn it in because it gets lost in their backpacks, resulting in missed credit.

If this sounds familiar, please [contact Nick West](#). We have organizational tools available, and often a simple file folder and a plan can resolve months of frustration and help your student succeed.



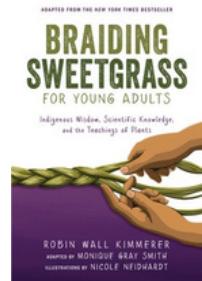
See a Chinese red panda as part of the zoo's Asian Highlands exhibit.

Photo © 2026 Utah's Hogle Zoo

Get Copy of Braiding Sweetgrass

Did you get your book? Do you want one?

This year, our middle school gift is the book *Braiding Sweetgrass: Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge, and the Teaching of Plants* (Young Adult Edition). This wonderful book weaves together Indigenous wisdom about plants with modern science. Ask your student if you can borrow their copy—you'll enjoy it! If your student still needs a copy, [please let Nick West know](#), and he will deliver one to their school.



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SheTech Explorer Day is Feb 24

SheTech Explorer Day is a hands-on tech conference for high school girls featuring interactive workshops and real-world challenges. Explore fields like robotics, coding, digital media, and health sciences while engaging with industry mentors and female role models. Explorer Day is open to all girls in grades 9th-12th. Jordan School District has reserved transportation for up to 12 female Native American students. [Click here to reserve your spot.](#)

Tuesday, Feb. 24, 2026

9 am - 1 pm

Mountain America Expo Center
Sandy, Utah



High School
News



Learn About FREE Tuition + Sign Up for JATC, College Tours

FREE Tuition at Utah Colleges, Trade Schools

Just a reminder that Native students from Utah tribes can get FREE tuition at most state schools, including the University of Utah, Utah State University, Utah Valley University, SLCC, SUU, Weber State and others. [Click here for more information.](#)

Sophomores - Sign Up for JATC Tours

We are arranging small group tours from each high school to the Jordan Academy for Technology & Careers (JATC).

[Sign up here.](#)

The JATC is a great place to acquire professional skills and certifications while in high school. Get trained in jobs ranging from welding and nail design to health care, computers and engineering.

In addition to group tours from your high school, we invite you to attend the JATC Open House.

Seniors and Juniors - Sign Up for Tours of Colleges, Trade Schools

We are arranging small group tours of area colleges and trade schools. [Register here.](#)

Virtual FAFSA Workshop for Native Students

Hosted by Native Forward Scholars Fund

January 16, 2026, noon MDT

Register here:

https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_omVXj1r8QAmfrkpvxHzwzA

Wednesday, Jan. 28

4:00 pm - 7:30 pm

JATC South - 12723 S Park Ave.
Riverton, UT 84065

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Register for Drum Making Workshop April 17



The Jordan Native American program is sponsoring a Drum Making Workshop on Friday, April 17, 2026 from 10 am - 1 pm.

[SPACE IS LIMITED! Click here to register.](#)

**Open to Students
Grades 9-12**

Among many Native American peoples, the drum symbolizes the heartbeat of Mother Earth, a sacred connection to the Creator, ancestors, and community and is used for healing, storytelling and spiritual ceremonies.

Navajo Government Class Starts on March 2

A **Navajo Government Class** will be taught by Dr. Clayton Long starting **Monday, March 2, 2026**.

The class is for grades 9-12 and is taught twice a week on Monday and Wednesday from 5:30 pm - 6:30 pm on Zoom.

[Click here to register](#)

The Zoom course meets criteria for the Navajo Nation Chief Manuelito Scholarship and ends Wednesday, April 29, 2026.

Dr. Long is a former High School Navajo language and government teacher and administrator. He also teaches **Navajo language classes starting in September and continuing through April.**



Photo by Carol Highsmith's America on Unsplash. Used by permission.



Dr. Clayton Long is a former High School Navajo language teacher.

If you have any questions email Dr. Clayton Long at claytonnez@gmail.com or text at 801-232-5624.

Jordan NATIVE AMERICAN PROGRAM

OUR PURPOSE

Our program's focus is to aid in the academic and cultural needs of Native American/Alaska Native students.

The Native American program also provides teacher resources and presentations to improve knowledge of the history, culture, and way of life of Native Americans and Alaskan Natives.

PROGRAM BENEFITS

Connect students and families to:

- Education Assistance
- Health Services Resources
- Financial Assistance Materials
- Scholarship and Grant Resources
- Career Exploration Materials
- Navajo Language Learning Opportunities
- Student Affinity Groups
- Field Trips
- Senior Recognition

OUR TEAM



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