



New Cultural Specialist

By Ricky White, Fargo Public Schools Cultural Specialist

Meet Our New Cultural Specialist and Do Just One Thing

Boozhoo! My name is Ricky White. I am Fargo Public Schools' new Cultural Specialist. November is Native American heritage month. People are busy, yet what is just one thing you can do to celebrate Native American Heritage month? In this article we will learn a little Ojibwe language which you may say for your students and colleagues.

[Here](#) is a video to teach you to say boozhoo (greetings) and "my name is" in Ojibwe. And [here](#) is a video welcoming you all to Native American Heritage Month.

Trust me, the impact of using a different language, other than the one you were born with, to communicate with others, especially our students is huge. Our Native American students and families will connect with you deeper if you try to use a new language and other students will notice, too. Check out FPS Superintendent Dr. Rupak Gandhi introducing himself in Ojibwe at the [October 26, 2021 School Board meeting](#) (minute 49:52). Great stuff! That is leadership in action right there!

With that being said, my name is Ricky White, and I am here to serve staff, students and families of Fargo Public Schools.

What can the Cultural Specialist help you with?

- Learning more about Native culture, traditions, and ways of life
- Learning how to infuse Native content into your job
- Sharing best practices for reaching Native students and families
- Understanding historical trauma and its lasting effects on today's (and tomorrow's) Native students and families

My ways of supporting teachers:

- Face-to-Face Learning: direct Instruction from me for FPS staff and students
- Shoulder-to-Shoulder Learning: learn together by navigating resources and exchanging dialogue or co-teaching options with me
- Over-the-shoulder learning: observe as I teach your learners, or allow me to observe as you teach

Let's work together! Call me today at 701-446-1067 or email me at whitef@fargo.k12.nd.us. (Note that my email will appear as "Fabian White" but please, call me "Ricky".)

In closing, remember: What is good for Native American students is good for all students!

