

Crazy Horse School

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I hope this letter finds you all well and safe. Dealing with the aftermath of Covid-19 and an extreme winter has been especially difficult. As we continue to navigate through these challenging times, I wanted to take a moment to update you on things that are happening at Tasunke Witko Owayawa.

New Playground Equipment-Last fall we received a grant from Shakopee Nation for new playground equipment. The system we selected includes multiple activity-based and fun options for our students. We were notified this week that delivery should take place by the end of March/early April with installation beginning shortly thereafter. We are super excited to have this new equipment put in place for school and summer fun!

Outdoor Learning Facility- A few months ago, we were selected to be a part of the Tribal Community Schoolyard Program to build an outdoor learning facility that includes activity and learning stations, seating and visiting areas and exercise equipment, especially geared for older students. I'll be participating in a meeting with this group early next week to learn more about this program and determine when this project will be initiated.

New Career Technical Courses for High School Students-We have also been approved as a Career Technical Education site and are planning to offer three career classes next fall. These classes are Architecture & Construction, Health Science, and Family and Consumer Sciences (this used to be called Home Ec back in my day 😊). We're excited to offer these to our students and provide them with hands-on, skills and career-based learning opportunities for the 2023-24 school year;

Two New 5-Year Grants-We were also fortunate to be the recipient of two new 5-year grants. The Wanblee Futures Grant is a grant is to help Native high school students become qualified teachers by providing a targeted pathway to pursue such a career. This grant will also assist others to successfully enter post-secondary education opportunities. The second grant is designed to serve all K-12 students by implementing a comprehensive mental and behavioral health support system. The overall goal is to provide assistance through counseling, cultural mentorships and activities and other targeted approaches to help our students who are dealing with trauma (both historical or contemporary) succeed in school and life. Both of these grants were only recently funded and are in the beginning stages of implementation. You will be hearing more about them as full implementation occurs.

Parent/School Advisory Network-Finally, multiple studies show that parent involvement benefits children in many ways. I was told there used to be a parent group in existence at Crazy Horse so we want to revitalize that concept and form a Parent/School Advisory Network. Please watch for notices in the near future regarding further development of this group.

Monthly Parent Night-We have had to reschedule our regular monthly Parent Night on two different occasions. We're trying it again and have set Thursday, March 30 as the date. Please join us for the evening.

In closing, our most important goal at TWO is to provide the best possible learning opportunities for the children we serve and equip them with the skills they need to be successful in life. Your help as parents, grandparents, and guardians is extremely important and appreciated. As always, I encourage you to stop in and visit with me if you have any questions or concerns. Thank you for your hard work and dedication. I am confident that by working together, we can create a bright, robust, and exciting future for your children.