

INDIGENOUS ENSEMBLE

Nutana Collegiate

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INDIGENOUS ENSEMBLE ADVANTAGE

The Indigenous Ensemble is a program designed to develop youth competency in Saskatchewan First Nations and Métis traditional and contemporary music, song, dance, storytelling, and traditional arts. Under the mentorship of master First Nations and Métis musicians, singers, dancers, storytellers, artisans, and production artists, the Indigenous Ensemble engages youth in:

- the study and performance of First Nations and Métis music, song, dance, and storytelling;
- forging artistic collaborations between Indigenous and non-Indigenous musicians, singers, dancers, storytellers, and artisans;
- presentations to students and community to foster the revitalization of Saskatchewan First Nations and Métis cultures;
- utilizing music, song, dance, storytelling, and traditional arts to educate students and the public about Indigenous cultures and history;
- developing a positive sense of self and pride in being First Nations or Métis and acquiring leadership experience.

DIVERSE COMMUNITY

Within Indigenous cultures, song and dance are more than performance arts and leisure time activities. Song and dance have always been integral mediums of individual and group expression in the ceremonial and social aspects. Today, in addition to perpetuating the Indigenous cultures, song and dance play a vital role in elevating cultural awareness and cross-cultural understanding.

The Indigenous Ensemble is open to Saskatoon Public Schools students in Grade 7-12 who are emerging musicians, singers, dancers, storytellers, and artisans and have a sincere interest in developing their competencies through education and performance in choreographed demonstrative and scripted dance productions. All members will be expected to work toward developing multiple artistic competencies and production skills (i.e. sing powwow songs, dance powwow, jig, tell a story, make regalia, and set up a stage).

APPLICATION PROCESS

The Indigenous Ensemble is open to all students. No previous experience is required. Students have the option to join the Ensemble as a credit option, or as an extracurricular offering after school. Students wishing to gain credits will need to attend Nutana Collegiate in the afternoon during Semester 2.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Choice of:
 - Up to 3 credits at Nutana in Semester 2 (Gr.10-12 only)
 - Non-credit option after school (Gr. 7-12) Wednesdays 4-6 p.m.
- Dynamic demonstrative dance performances at school assemblies, conferences, and other events
- Performing in a scripted dance theatre production
- Working with schools, youth, and community organizations to provide workshops in music, song, dance, storytelling, and traditional arts
- Dance instruction for younger children at childcare facilities and schools
- Assisting with Saskatoon Public Schools-sponsored powwows and round dances
- Participating in powwows, round dances, and dance competitions
- Engaging in cultural dance exchanges and performing in community multicultural events

CREDITS

- Indigenous Culture 30
- Other credits in core humanities disciplines

