Within First Nations 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 of First Nations cultures. Today, in addition to perpetuating the First Nations cultures, song and dance play a vital role in elevating cultural awareness and cross-cultural understanding.

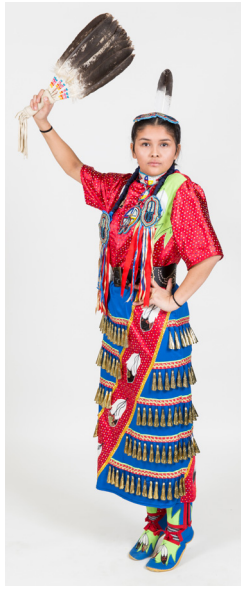
JANUARY 2018

To join the Indigenous Ensemble or to request a show or other support contact:

FIRST NATION, INUIT AND MÉTIS EDUCATION UNIT
SPS CULTURAL RESOURCE LIASON
ARTISTIC MANAGER

306.683.8317 and 306.683.8310
ensemble@spsd.sk.ca

SPS Indigenous Ensemble
saskatoonpublicschools.ca/Ensemble



INDIGENOUS *Ensemble*

Saskatoon Public Schools
Inspiring Learning

FIRST NATIONS, INUIT AND MÉTIS EDUCATION UNIT

PURPOSE

To develop youth competency in Saskatchewan First Nations and Métis traditional and contemporary music, song, dance, storytelling and traditional arts through mentorship and performance.

GOALS

Under the mentorship of master Saskatchewan First Nations and Métis musicians, singers, dancers, storytellers, artisans, and production artists the Indigenous Ensemble will engage youth in:

- The study and performance of First Nations and Métis music, song, dance and storytelling.
- Forging artistic collaborations between Saskatchewan First Nations and Métis musicians, singers, dancers, storytellers, and artisans and from time to time with non-indigenous performance artists.
- Presenting these arts to students and the greater 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 Saskatchewan First Nations and Métis cultures and history.
- Developing a positive sense of self and pride in being First Nations or Métis.
- Acquiring leadership experience.

MENTORSHIP AND WORKSHOPS

Mentorship and workshop sessions will include Métis fiddle and guitar; Métis dances; male and female powwow and round dance singing; flute; First Nations powwow, round and social dancing, and performance specialty dances; storytelling; regalia making; demonstration and instruction skills; and production skills including script development and choreography.

Interested parents, community members and SPS staff who want to provide volunteer support for the Indigenous Ensemble are welcome to assist with mentorship sessions, workshops, regalia making, transportation, and other supports. Donations of snacks, supplies, regalia, and cash will also be welcomed.

ensemble [ahn-sahm-buh l] *noun*
a group of musicians, actors, or dancers who perform together

MEMBERSHIP

Youth Grade 7-12 that are emerging musicians, singers, dancers, storytellers, and artisans who 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)

INDIGENOUS ENSEMBLE ACTIVITIES

- Dynamic demonstrative dance performances that are intriguing and educational. The performances are tailored to meet the needs of the client. Indigenous dance performances are excellent programming for school assemblies, conferences, banquets and other events.
- Scripted dance theater productions performed in theaters or as part of key events in the city.
- Working with schools, youth organizations and community organizations to provide workshops that utilize music, song, dance, storytelling and traditional arts to educate students and the public about Saskatchewan First Nations and Métis cultures and history.
- 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

SASKATOON PUBLIC SCHOOLS *CULTURAL RESPONSIVE PROGRAMMING*

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