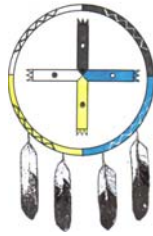# Apache Language Curriculum

Kindergarten – Sixth Grade

St. Charles Mission School

Department of Catholic Schools
Diocese of Tucson
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Apache Language Curriculum Committee

Anna Dillon, Chairperson
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Introduction

The goal of St. Charles Mission School on the San Carlos Apache Tribe is to instruct and encourage students to speak their native language, to educate and provide opportunities for language and writing skills in the school curriculum as well as extra-curricular activities.

The decision to implement the Apache Language Curriculum is based on a local survey in which the number of Apache speakers living on the reservation is diminishing. The survey shows that the majority of the young people under the age of 20 hear and may understand the language, but do not speak it; and most importantly that the children are not hearing their native language being spoken in the home.

By including the Apache language curriculum, we hope to nurture in the students respect and appreciation of their native language. Through music, art, and sequential lesson activities the students will develop a basic mastery of their language.

Vision Statement

Our vision is to help students achieve a cultural awareness of their own native identity and tradition as well as that of other Native American tribes; acquire recognition and articulation of the Apache language; while instilling pride and knowledge of their past and present situation. There is likelihood that with this "seed" planted, it will cultivate into a desire and challenge to uncover their sense of belonging to their Apache family's history while still maintaining sensitivity and understanding of their knowledge of their history.

Curriculum Objectives

Kindergarten

1. recite numbers 1-10

2. identify basic colors

3. introduce the Sign of the Cross

4. introduce the Our Father in Apache

5. express basic needs (water/restroom)

6. identify/learn domestic animals

7. learn/ recite basic kinship terms (family)

8. able to sing songs in Apache

First Grade

1. recite numbers 1-20

2. identify basic colors

3. articulate the Sign of the Cross

4. express the Our Father prayer

5. recite the alphabet

6. communicate greetings in the morning and evening

7. introduce the days of the week

8. learn/ recite kinship terms (family)

9. introduce the Star Spangled Banner in Apache

10. identity domestic/wild animals

11. introduce/identify the phonetic system

12. able to express themselves in complete, but simple sentences

13. able to ask questions in Apache

14. introduce how to state name, age and school in Apache

15. able to ask and understand commands and phrases used daily

Second grade

1. recite numbers 1-50

2. identify basic colors

3. able to articulate the Sign of the Cross and the Our Father

4. introduce basic commands for mealtime(s)

5. recite the alphabet

6. communicate greetings in the morning and evening

7. able to learn, recite and write the days of the week

8. identify, recite and write basic kinship terms of family

9. reinforce the Star Spangled Banner in Apache

10. continue to learn Apache songs

11. able to distinguish difference between domestic/wild animals

12. able to identify/differentiate the phonetic system

13. identify/use the diacritical marks

14. able to express/write basic sentences in Apache

15. able to express/write questions in Apache

16. reinforce how to introduce self by name, age and school in Apache

17. learn/write some basic everyday common foods

18. able to ask and understand commands and phrases used daily

Third Grade

1. recite numbers 1-100

2. identify basic colors and colors of the four directions

3. able to express the Sign of the Cross and the Our Father

4. introduce basic terms for religious beings

5. recite the alphabet

6. communicate greetings in the morning and evening

7. able to learn, recite and write the days of the week

8. identify, recite and write basic kinship terms (family members)

9. able to sing Star Spangled Banner in Apache

10. continue to learn Apache songs

11. able to distinguish difference between domestic/wild animals

12. reinforce/identify/differentiate the phonetic system

13. continue to identify/use the diacritical marks

14. Be able to express/write basic sentences in Apache

15. Be able to express/write questions in Apache

16. master introduction of self by name, age and school in Apache

17. able to learn/write some basic everyday common foods

18. able to ask and understand commands and phrases used daily

19. introduce names the four traditional breads

20. introduce calendar months

Fourth Grade

1. recite numbers 1-100

2. identify basic colors and colors of the four directions

3. able to recite the Sign of the Cross and the Our Father in Apache

4. reinforce basic terms for religious beings

5. master the alphabet

6. communicate greetings in the morning and evening

7. reinforce/recite/write the days of the week

8. identify, recite and write basic kinship terms (family members)

9. able to sing Star Spangled Banner in Apache

10. continue to read, sing and comprehend Apache songs

11. distinguish difference between domestic/wild animals

12. identify/differentiate the phonetic system

13. reinforce/identify/use the diacritical marks in their spelling

14. able to write basic sentences in Apache

15. identify/recite the four directions

16. able to express/write/comprehend questions in Apache

17. review introduction of self/age/school to include parents

18. able to name/identify 20 different foods common in their lives

19. reinforce/identify/name the four traditional breads

20. introduce/name body parts

21. reinforce expressions to ask and understand commands and phrases used daily

22. reinforce months of the year

23. introduce representatives of Tribal Council

Fifth Grade

1. recite numbers 1-100

2. identify basic colors and colors of the four directions

3. master the Sign of the Cross and the Our Father in Apache

4. reinforce basic terms for religious beings

5. master the alphabet to create dictionary

6. communicate greetings in the morning and evening

7. master the days of the week

8. reinforce/identify basic kinship terms (family members to include clans)

9. master the Star Spangled Banner in Apache

10. continue to read, sing and comprehend Apache songs

11. distinguish difference between domestic/wild animals

12. master/identify/differentiate the phonetic system

13. master/identify/use the diacritical marks in their spelling

14. reinforce writing basic sentences/questions in Apache

15. master/identify the four directions

16. introduce/name objects of nature

17. review introduction of self/age/school to include parents

18. able to name/identify 20 different foods common in their lives

19. master/identify/name the four traditional breads

20. reinforce/name body parts

21. reinforce expressions to ask and understand commands and phrases used daily

22. reinforce months of the year

23. identify/name the Tribal Council Representatives of each district

24. identify/name the plants used in building the wickiup and basketweaving

25. introduce/identify Clans
Sixth Grade

1. recite numbers 1-100

2. identify/ basic colors and colors of the four directions

3. master the Sign of the Cross and the Our Father in Apache

4. reinforce basic terms for religious beings

5. master the alphabet to create dictionary

6. communicate greetings in the morning and evening

7. master the days of the week

8. reinforce/identify basic kinship terms (family members to include clans)

9. master the Star Spangled Banner in Apache

10. continue to read, sing and comprehend Apache songs

11. distinguish difference between domestic/wild animals

12. master/identify/differentiate the phonetic system

13. master/identify/use the diacritical marks in their spelling

14. master writing basic sentences/questions in Apache

15. master/identify the four directions

16. introduce/name objects of nature

17. review introduction of self/age/school to include parents

18. able to name/identify 20 different foods common in their lives

19. master/identify/name the four traditional breads

20. reinforce/name body parts

21. reinforce expressions to ask and understand commands and phrases used daily

22. master months of the year

23. identify/name the Tribal Council Representatives of each district

24. identify/name the plants used in building the wickiup and basketweaving

25. reinforce/name/identify Clans

26. introduce names of at least four (4) mountains

Strengths:

     It is important for the student to understand the main words and phrases being taught which is essential and basic to the overall language.

     The context and meanings of the words will be grasped in time as the student hears them, uses the language and is encouraged to speak/read and use it in and outside of class.

     We currently have three (3) Apache speaking teachers.

     Frequent meeting of curriculum staff members to evaluate/oversee program.

Weaknesses:

     Student learners will learn what is taught in school according to available material, however, parents are encouraged to teach their children the language spoken by the family elders because of the dialects native to the family.

     The classes are dependent on the few bi-lingual teachers and would require extra preparation time for material as well as constant review and participation by the students.

     Getting reliable guests to speak to the classes.

     Material for teaching language will need to be developed for school curriculum.

Evaluating the program and the student learner:
- Student will receive grade of satisfactory or unsatisfactory quarterly.
- Teacher will evaluate based on students' willingness to learn.

Student Assessment:
- Oral drills
- Observation by teachers
- Participation and performance

Curriculum Assessment
- Frequent meeting of members
- Development of teaching material for each grade

RESOURCES:

1. Living history: parents, grandparents, tribal elders and other members
2. San Carlos Apache Noun Dictionary compiled by Willem J. de Reuse
3. Apache and English Glossary – San Carlos Apache by Willem de Reuse
4. San Carlos Apache Headstart Language Program
5. San Carlos Apache Cultural Center
6. Western Apache Dictionary-compiled by Edgar Perry, White Mountain Culture Ctr.Director