

Teachers available to help Native students

By Leslie Mitts
Spilyay Tymoo

Native American students who may find themselves having a hard time with school work will be receiving additional help from two teachers.

The teachers, Dawn Hendrix and Donna Knoy, moved into the Title VII/Johnson O'Malley teaching positions this school year.

They will have several classes of students who may need additional help or tutoring at both Jefferson County Middle School and Madras High School. Funds are available for the positions through Title VII and Johnson O'Malley grants.

According to cultural liaison Butch David, "They give the kids a mixture of support."

Students who are struggling take a class with the Title VII/JOM teacher instead of an elective, David said, and remain there for several weeks or as long as a trimester.

"It helps them," David said. "It gives them more one on one attention."

Because only five or six students are placed in a class at one time, he added, the students are given more support and time from the teacher.

Dawn Hendrix has taught at JCMS for several years, but her eighth grade language arts teaching position was cut due to budget constraints. Now she will be the Title VII/JOM teacher at JCMS.

"I thought that this job would be a really good fit for me," Hendrix said of her new position.

Hendrix has ties to the Warm Springs community already after teaching summer classes in Warm Springs through Higher Education.

She said she hopes to make the academic experience much more pleasant and positive for students in her classes.



Dawn Hendrix



Donna Knoy

"I'm trying to design it to kind of be a safe place to come and hang out," Hendrix explained.

She added, "I welcome the community to come and talk to me if they had any ideas."

JCMS Principal Ken Clark said students can benefit from the classes in a variety of areas depending on where they are struggling.

"That's the key to it—giving the kids the additional help where they need it," Clark explained. Plus, he said, the chance at success in the classroom will lead to even more throughout the students' lives.

"Once you give them one success that will build to success in other areas," Clark said.

At MHS, Donna Knoy taught French and Italian before budget cuts eliminated that position.

This year she will be finishing a few second year language courses for students already involved in the French and Italian programs as well as teaching the Title VII/JOM study skills classes.

This is Knoy's ninth year in a full-time public setting, and she also taught language courses at private schools for several years.

For Knoy, the opportunity to teach the study skills class is one that appealed to her on a much greater level.

"This is my chance to really say I'm here because I want to

teach," Knoy said, regardless of the subject matter.

Because the students in these classes have often been told something is wrong with them, she added, she hopes to help them believe they are capable of anything.

For some, Knoy added, it just takes a different manner of learning.

"I want to find a way to say, 'Wow, I can see you're smart,'" Knoy explained. "That way they know they have a chance."

According to Knoy, "It's such a cool thing when you get to see kids start to see when they're smart and what they're capable of."

"As much as I miss my French and Italian classes, this feels much more productive," Knoy added.

Still, it's a daunting task to have to figure out how to help each individual student, Knoy said.

For that reason, she said, she realizes that it could take awhile to help some of them.

"I give myself permission to say it takes as long as it takes," Knoy said.

However, once they figure it out the students can take what

they've learned and go even farther.

"To me that's what this class is like, is the key to get in the door," she said.

She hopes to teach her students that it is okay to ask for help, Knoy said, and that sometimes all it takes is a different way of looking at things.

"Instead of acting out I'm going to tell them to succeed," Knoy added.

Traditional Foods demonstration

The Museum at Warm Springs Living Traditions program will present a Traditional Foods demonstration from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Sunday, September 14.

The demonstration will feature Darlene Foster, Tra-

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The demonstration will be in the museum lobby. For more information, please contact the museum Education Program at 553-3331, ext. 407.

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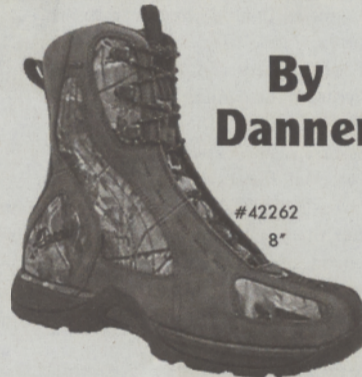
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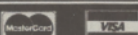
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