For further information, please contact:

Joanne De Guevara
District Principal - Aboriginal Education
250.870.5144

or

Kevin Kaiser
Aboriginal Education Consultant/Resource Teacher
250.870.5144

Goals of School District No. 23’s (Central Okanagan) The Aboriginal Education Department & The Academy of Indigenous Studies

1. To improve attendance as a result of making strong connections to the school.
2. To increase the number of Aboriginal students enrolled in academic programs.
3. To increase the number of students involved in the Academy of Indigenous Studies.
4. To increase parent satisfaction levels with the variety of course offerings.
5. To increase school climate as a result of the Academy of Indigenous Studies presentations (Improved Cultural Awareness).
6. To improve the school climate as a result of meeting the needs of individual learners (Stronger Sense of Belonging).

Goals will be reviewed annually and developed after consultation with District partnership groups and the Aboriginal community.

The Aboriginal Education system is an ever growing program that attempts to suit the needs of the students, schools and communities of the Okanagan.

The Aboriginal Education Department would like to acknowledge that we are on the traditional territory of the Okanagan Nation.

The Syilx People.
ACADEMY OF INDIGENOUS STUDIES

**Aboriginal Leadership**
Provides youth with leadership experience in and out of the classroom by providing local and global citizenship opportunities.

**English First Peoples 10,11,12**
English First Peoples 10,11 and 12 are the academic equivalents of the regular English 10,11 and 12 with a First Nations focus through literary, informational and media text.

**First Nations Studies 12**
This cross-curricular course is offered to all students who wish to expand their knowledge and understanding of Canada’s Aboriginal people, their cultures, history and current situation.

**R’Native Voice**
A holistic approach to teaching youth about culture and history to assist students in developing self-empowerment and decision making skills that will lead to a more sustainable future.

**Nsyilxcən (Okanagan Language)**
Students of grade 10, 11, or 12 will enter the Nsyilxcən-speaking world through written, oral cultural and visual works.

**First Nations Art Studio**
This hands-on course is open to all grade 11 and 12 students and will explore the rich and diverse First Nations historic and modern art traditions through drawing, painting, printmaking and sculpture.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Academy of Indigenous Studies</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Grade 10</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Intro Okanagan Language</td>
<td>Leadership</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Grade 11</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Grade 12</strong></td>
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<td>Leadership</td>
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</tbody>
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- Okanagan Language 11 may be taken once
- R’Native Voice may be taken once
- First Nations Studies may be taken once
- First Nations Art Studio may be taken once
- Students must successfully complete 20 (or more) credits to fulfill the Academy of Indigenous Studies requirements

**Work Ethic**
A letter of recommendation is awarded to a student who has made the Work Ethic List of Distinction in Academy courses. (20 credits)

**Honour role**
A certificate is presented to a student who has achieved Honour Roll in all Academy courses (excluding final exams/totaling 20 credits).

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**Principal’s List**
A medallion is presented to a student who has achieved honour role in each of the academy courses. (20 credits)

**“Guided by the past. Invigorated by the present, and providing for the future.”**

**Award of Excellence**
An honour drum is awarded to a student who has achieved a 4.0 GPA in Academy courses. (20 credits)

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Students must successfully complete 20 (or more) credits to fulfill the Academy of Indigenous Studies requirements.

Total of 44 Credits in three years.