



SIX DIRECTIONS INDIGENOUS SCHOOL

2055 NM-602

Gallup, NM 87301

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July 21, 2020

Dear Students, Parents/Guardians, Families, and Staff,

As the new head administrator, I feel honored to be joining and leading a learning community whose mission is to provide learning experiences that are relevant to the Indigenous heritage and culture of our students. With pride in and knowledge of our cultural heritage, we are set with the foundation to live healthy, balanced lives and to live for the deep purpose of positively contributing to our communities. My own Navajo/Native American heritage and the example set by my ancestors have empowered me to accomplish what I have throughout my life and continues to motivate me to be the best person and educator I can be.

My passion for working with and inspiring our Native/Indigenous youth led me to work at schools on and near the Navajo Nation, including Tohatchi High in Tohatchi, NM, Wingate High in Wingate, NM, Washington Elementary in Gallup, NM, Newcomb High in Newcomb, NM, and Nizhoni Elementary in Shiprock, NM. During these years, I have continued with my own educational development, earning a bachelor's degree at the University of New Mexico, a master's degree at Western New Mexico University (in the very building of our school), and a doctorate degree at Arizona State University.

Indeed much has changed in a short time with the pandemic. I realize that it has been challenging for us all, in particular for our students as they adjust to learning online and to social distancing. Native people have resiliently adapted to changing times throughout history; therefore, I feel we too can rise to the challenges we face in educating our youth. SDIS will strive to continue to provide quality educational experience, though it will occur in an altered form and through a different schedule. Please check the SDIS website and facebook page for updates, information about school re-entry, and other pertinent information.

I look forward to working with the students, families, staff, and governing council of the SDIS learning community.

Best Regard,
Dr. Tamara Allison