



TOPPENISH SCHOOL DISTRICT

JOB DESCRIPTION

TITLE: Yakama Language Teacher

TITLE OF IMMEDIATE SUPERVISOR: Building Administrator

CONTRACTED DAYS: 180 days

BARGAINING UNIT: None

POSITION SUMMARY: The Yakama Language Teacher is responsible for providing engaging, culturally responsive instruction in Ichishkíin Sínwit (Yakama/Sahaptin Language) while promoting an understanding and appreciation of Yakama culture, history, traditions, and values. The teacher will foster a positive learning environment that supports students' academic growth and cultural identity through language revitalization and culturally sustaining instructional practices.

ESSENTIAL DUTIES & RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Plan and deliver standards-based Yakama language instruction aligned with district curriculum and state requirements.
- Teach speaking, listening, reading, and writing skills in Ichishkíin Sínwit using effective instructional strategies.
- Integrate Yakama history, culture, traditions, values, and perspectives into daily instruction.
- Develop lesson plans and instructional materials that promote language preservation and cultural identity.
- Assess student learning and maintain accurate records of student progress.
- Create and maintain a safe, positive, respectful, and inclusive classroom environment.
- Differentiate instruction to meet the diverse academic and cultural needs of students.
- Collaborate with colleagues, administrators, families, and Yakama Nation representatives to support student success.
- Participate in professional development, staff meetings, and district-required trainings.
- Communicate regularly with parents and guardians regarding student progress.
- Maintain confidentiality of student and district information in accordance with state and federal laws.
- Perform other duties as assigned by the Building Principal.
- Knowledge of second-language acquisition and instructional best practices.
- Understanding of Yakama cultural values, traditions, and community expectations.
- Ability to establish positive relationships with students, families, and staff.

- Strong verbal and written communication skills.
- Ability to effectively manage classroom behavior and promote student engagement.
- Ability to work independently while contributing as a collaborative member of a school team.
- Other duties as assigned.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:

- Valid Washington State Teaching Certificate; **or**
- Washington State First Peoples' Language, Culture and Oral Traditions Teacher Certification authorized under RCW 28A.410.025 and issued in partnership with the Yakama Nation. **Required**
- Valid Washington State Driver's License. - **Required**
- Demonstrated proficiency in Ichishkiin Sinwit (Yakama/Sahaptin Language). **Required**
- Must be able to pass a Washington State Patrol/FBI Criminal History Background Check. **Required**
- Demonstrated knowledge of Yakama culture, history, traditions, customs, and protocols.
- Experience working with Native American students, families, and communities.
- Knowledge of culturally responsive and culturally sustaining instructional practices.
- Strong classroom management, communication, interpersonal, and organizational skills.
- Ability to collaborate effectively with school staff, Yakama Nation representatives, families, and community partners.
- Ability to use instructional technology and maintain accurate student records.