

CPN Educational Standards

Meeting the Noék Nmeshomesek (Seven Grandfathers) Standards

All CPN-endorsed coursework will model and teach the values of the Noék Nmeshomesek.

Mbwakawen

Wisdom

- Encourage critical thinking and engagement over rote memorization
- Courses/curriculum have a coherent content progression that facilitate students' learning journeys
- Discerning in materials; are students equipped for the content? Is the content challenging enough?
- Course design is appropriate for intended delivery format; online courses follow best practices for online education, and same for in person

Debanawen

Love

Starting from the belief that all humans and our non-human relations have inherent value, and acknowledging the value of oneself, our teaching should show love:

- For the student's whole self
- For the educator's whole self
- For the content/material
- For the next Seven Generations and the ancestors
- For the land, from which the Potawatomi originated, on which Citizen Potawatomi is now located, and the land where the learning takes place
- For all of our relations, human and non-human

Demonstrated by:

- Committing adequate time to preparing the lesson/content/curriculum
- Consistent and high expectations for student performance and the class (as appropriate to their age and level)
- Room for students to ask questions and explore content based on their interests
- Encouraging students' personal development alongside knowledge acquisition
- Understanding that students' and educators' emotions and personal histories inform engagement with each other and with the content

Mnadéndemwen

Respect

Starting from the belief that all humans and our non-human relations have inherent value, and acknowledging the value of oneself, our teaching should show respect

- For learners, whose background and pre-existing knowledge inform their education

- For educators, who are professionals and experts in their own right
- For content and all primary source material, conventional and unconventional, which should be treated with care
- For differing points of view and different ways of learning

Wédaséwen

Bravery

- Curriculum does not shy away from difficult or sensitive content and handles it in an age-appropriate way.
- Curriculum or lesson provides ways for students to safely push the boundaries of their comfort zones, through activities or content
- Pushes students beyond the bare minimum of state requirements to engage in higher level thinking
- Invites students to ask questions and engage, while honoring that teachers may not know all the answers
- Admitting the limits of your knowledge and asking for help when you need
- Embracing the inherent worthiness and fundamental sufficiency of yourself and encouraging learners to do the same

Gwékwadzewen

Honesty

- Be willing to admit when you don't know all the answers, and search with students for those answers
- Willingness to examine personal bias and bias in the curriculum to inform students' approach to the material
- Honestly representing your knowledge sources and the limits of your knowledge

Édbesendowen

Humility

- Curriculum and lesson plans are easily adjustable for teachers to adapt based on their classes; teachers have room to invite and incorporate student, community, and family feedback
- Admitting the limits of your knowledge and asking for help when you need
- Recognizing the talent and strengths of the community and drawing on experts where appropriate

Debwéwen

Truth

- Content is factually correct and consistent with other sources of knowledge on the topic, unless there is compelling evidence other knowledge sources are wrong
- Commitment to facing even uncomfortable facts