About the District

Kayenta Unified School District—a great place to discover, explore and work! It is where Native American culture and innovation merge to create the future. We welcome you to learn as much as you teach.

Our District serves a 92-percent Native American K-12 student population of 2,000. Although there are unique challenges faced by Native students and walking in two worlds, they are eager to learn and blend both traditions and the modern ways of life.

Achieving a dream that’s quite probably the only thing like it in the country, if not the world, designed with plenty of input from Vocational Education students and local veterinarians, may have just been a dream. In 2012, $2.4 million agricultural education facility went up on the campus of the District. The two worlds—traditions and culture and innovation—have merged to create a learning environment suited to create the future of the students. Today, the locals use this state-of-art facility to care for the needs of their animals and the students are at the forefront using equipment and skills learned.

About KAYENTA

Kayenta, Tó Dinéeshhee’ as it’s called in Navajo, is part of the Navajo Nation and is in Navajo County, Arizona. The 93-percent Native American population is about 5,500. It is located 27 miles south of Monument Valley and contains a number of hotels and motels which service visitors to Monument Valley. There are several sit-down and fast food restaurants, Bashas’ grocery store, Wells Fargo Bank, as well as Navajo art and craft shops. Dedicated to serving the community, there are local facilities that include an exercise fitness center, skating park, movie theater and outdoor park with several playgrounds for children. Many religious organizations are represented in Kayenta.

Kayenta Township is the only municipal-style government within the Navajo Nation. Kayenta Chapter is a political sub-division and works in partnership with Kayenta Township. Kayenta is home to Kayenta Fourth of July Rodeo, Monument Valley Film Festival and Annual Balloon Fest in Monument Valley. Arizona does not observe Daylight Saving Time (DST); however, the Navajo Reservation does.

Kayenta is centrally located in the northeastern corner of Arizona and is the hub to many great area attractions. It is within one to three hours drive time to a land of great contrasts and beauty sculptured by nature. Thousands of tourists each year are attracted to Kayenta and Monument Valley for its breath-taking scenic wonders and unparalleled beauty of towering formations of red sandstone walls, arches, slot canyons, natural bridges and sandy desert terrain. The backcountry offers intimate opportunities for solitude, quiet and the thrill of exploration while respecting Nature and the sacredness of the land.

The climate is mildly hot in the summer and cold in late fall and winter. The air is fresh and dry and the monsoons are a welcome sight! Spring brings unpleasant winds but酣畅en rain showers and awe-inspiring phenomena of bright rainbows and pristine night skies. Winter snow blankets the landscape creating winter wonderlands.

Near Kayenta is Navajo National Monument with puzzling wonders of architecture of ancient ruins. A visitor can go back in time and see how the ancient ones, the Anasazi people, lived thousands of years. The Navajo Reservation is shoreline to Lake Powell, about 185 miles of water, Lake Powell, and is a quick-get-away. It offers leisure-time activities—fishing, camping, hiking and water sports.

Mission Statement

TÓDINÉESHZHEE’ ÓLTA’ GI OHOO’ AH BINDII’ÉÍ
Mission Statement of Kayenta Unified School District

T’àa hwó át’éego éí líná yà’ át’éehigí nizhhoodóléél. It is the individual’s responsibility to attain a successful life.

Nitsááhákees, nahat’a, ihoo’ah, ‘ahlík’a’âná’áwó’
Thinking, planning, learning, working together.

Nídaádanídizí. Halee beehliná níidiílyéél. This is what we want for you. Through guidance we will get there together.
Teaching on the Rez...

Your life and career can be filled with excitement, fulfillment and accomplishment. Such rewards are yours to claim if you prepare carefully and your attitude is open and right. Only then will the adventure ahead be successful.

In some isolated rural communities, the infrastructure is not developed resulting in no paved roads, no electricity or running water. Families haul water many miles for everyday use, therefore conservation is a key ingredient in water usage. Because there is no electricity, schoolwork may be affected because it is difficult to read and write by lantern. The problem is magnified by demands to tend to chores as well as long bus rides which may take as long as an hour or more each way. In spite those challenges our students meet their buses as early as 5:30 a.m. to attend school. The inexperienced teacher may regard incomplete homework assignments as insubordination. Those teachers who have been around a while know better. They know that a little creativity will help the students in surmounting these difficulties.

Important factors when teaching Native American students:

- Respect their Native American culture
- Build trust, be fair and consistent
- Ask them to achieve at their full potential and reach their goals
- Get to know them and their culture and values
- Learn what they like to do
- Integrate Native American history and culture in the curriculum
- Accept humor and make school fun
- Encourage parental support and involvement
- Help them to be proud of their heritage
- Become a part of their community

Teacher Salary

- Competitive salaries
- The District gives up to five years verified teaching experience

Supplemental Pay Opportunities

- After School Tutoring
- Addenda for Extra-curricular and Department Chairpersons or Grade Level Leaders
- Teacher Performance Pay (Proposition 301)

Teacher Housing

- Apartments, townhouses and houses ranging from one to four bedrooms.
- Utility expenses to tenants include electricity, water and sewage, and garbage pick-up.
- Monthly rental fees range from $140 to $205 dependent on number of bedrooms.
- Rental fees are subject to change from time to time.

Employee Health Benefits

- Medical
- Dental
- Vision
- Prescription
- Dependent coverage is available

District-Wide Programs

- Structured English Immersion
- McRel’s Classroom Instruction That Works
- Northwest Evaluation Assessment (NWEA)
- Pathwise’s Framework for Teachers Evaluation
- Navajo Language and Culture Orientation

Cultural Center

The Cultural Center provides a variety of Native American resources and other services to students as well as parents, staff and community members.

- Library books available for check-out.
- Evening cultural sessions, with special emphasis on the Navajo language and culture.
- The Rosetta Stone is available to learn to speak the Navajo language.
- Exhibits of Native American Indian artifacts and arts and crafts.

Natatorium

A 200,000-gallon swimming pool is available for school and employee use.