



GALLUP-McKINLEY
COUNTY SCHOOLS



Empowering our Future

McKinley Academy marks five years and amazing growth.

This school year marks the fifth year of McKinley Academy. This unique program has weathered some challenges since its inception, most notably the Covid pandemic. Throughout all the many challenges they have managed to grow as a program and their students are thriving. Academic Counselor, Danny Matkovich has been there from the beginning and says of the program “I think it’s an exciting opportunity for students, particularly this group that has been traditionally underserved in our area.” He added, “I think this provides an opportunity for those students to be challenged and to open doors and help them to their next step.”

The McKinley Academy is an accelerated program that allows students to finish their high school credits while simultaneously taking college level courses. This very intensive program creates opportunities for those students involved with the program, however this program is not for every student. Principal Brittainy Garro stated “the students are definitely more challenged here. Things go at a faster pace. They have a higher workload.” According to both Matkovich and Garro the type of student that may thrive in this program may not fit a cookie cutter mold. Matkovich stated, “They (the student) must be academically ready to be challenged at this level, but they also have to be. Ready and in some other ways, like being responsible, being organized.” He added, “students who are successful here are those who are organized, mature, responsible. They come here and do what they’re supposed to.” He also said “I’ve had students who come here who were very strong academically but didn’t have that responsibility piece and therefore maybe it’s not the right fit for them right now.” For others this program has provided an amazing opportunity for more of a challenge than they would have received in a traditional school setting.



Current McKinley Academy Sophomores, Attif Saramah, Nyomi Vidales and Ezekial Garcia all said of the program that they enjoy the freedom and opportunity that this program gives them. The responsibilities of carrying a college workload have taught each of them how to manage their time and has made them feel more adult and more prepared for the life after high school. These students are challenged every day and they are all very open to the amazing possibilities that come with this program, like graduating with an associate degree while simultaneously graduating from high school.



GMCS celebrates our Amazing Athletes

GMCS is so proud of all our student athletes. This year Miyamura High School’s boys’ soccer team won the District Championship. This is the first District Championship for the MHS boys’ soccer team and possible the first for the city of Gallup. We want to congratulate these young men for all their hard work!

In addition to our MHS Boys Soccer District Champs, we have a number of athletic teams competing in State this week. This year we have MHS Football team competing at the State level this Saturday, November 5th in Albuquerque. They have come a long way and have proven to be a force to be reckoned with. Thoreau High School Football team will also compete in State finals against Hope Christian this Saturday as well, in Thoreau.

We would also like to commend our Cross-Country teams from Crownpoint, Miyamura, Gallup, Navajo Pine, Ramah, Thoreau and Tse’ Yi’ Gai for all their hard work. Each will be competing in the State Cross Country Meet this weekend at Albuquerque Academy.

Thank you all for representing our district with your talent and determination. We are so proud of each one of you.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Native American Heritage Month

Veteran’s Day - November 11

Rock You Mocs Week - November 13-19

GMCS School Board Meeting - November 14

Thanksgiving Break - November 21 -25

Native American Heritage Day - November 25

