

U. S. Department of Education Green Ribbon School Award Winner 2012

The U. S. Department of Education Green Ribbon Schools recognizes schools that save energy, reduce costs, feature environmentally sustainable learning spaces, protect health, foster wellness, and offer environmental education to boost academic achievement and community engagement. This award recognizes the highest performing green schools in the nation.



First All Off-Grid Solar and Wind Powered Charter School in the Nation

STAR School is located 10 miles from the nearest utility lines and is supported by an extensive off-grid solar and wind power system, and water from our own well. We promote self-reliance, alternative building methods, sustainable living, and place-based education. STAR School often hosts workshops on these and other sustainability topics. Please contact us to schedule visit and to see how you can do this in your own community.

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A Green School



STAR School

Service To All Relations

Being Green and In Harmony
With Our Environment

A Model for Sustainable Schools and Communities

The STAR School is committed to utilizing recyclable products whenever possible, utilizing environmentally friendly materials and building methods, and the maximum involvement of students in outside environments. The school provides fresh vegetables as much as possible from local farms and gardens in the school breakfast and lunch program. In addition, each class develops year-long projects that show students how they can help the environment and give them opportunities to actively do things that are helpful to the school and community environment.



Honoring Our Place and Place-Based Education

We are a small rural school located on the edge of the Navajo Nation, about 20 miles east of Flagstaff and the San Francisco Peaks. The larger area is part of the Colorado Plateau, which extends not only across the Navajo Nation to the north and east but also to the west including the Grand Canyon. It is an area of incredible cultural, botanical, and geographic diversity and awesome beauty. Since the late 1800's this area of pinion/juniper forest that borders the high desert, has been an interface between Navajos, Hopis and Anglos.

This is our place. The STAR School's location in this place is purposeful, so it is part of our core values to honor this place, the people, the plants, and the animals that live here, as well as the cultures that have grown out of this land.

Woven into the curriculum are lessons in the uses of native plants, the local knowledge of how to successfully farm and ranch, and lessons on the local history. Our students are engaged in advancing that knowledge and sharing it with the community.

STAR students participate in service learning activities that honor the school's focus on relationships which comes from the Dine' cultural concept of K'e - the acknowledgement of our relationship with one another and to all things in nature: plants, animals, rocks, rivers, mountains, the sun and the wind. We are told that K'e extends out even to the stars. Our name STAR, Service To All Relations, recognizes that we have many relations and that being helpful in those relations is a worthy goal.