

Miigwetch

- Saginaw Chippewa Tribal Council
- Saginaw Chippewa Tribal Administration
- CMU Office of Indigenous Affairs
- Eagle Staff, Flag & Pipe Carriers
- Jingle Dress Dancers
- Culture Bearers/Spiritual Leaders
- Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort
- City of Mt. Pleasant
- Sweetgrass Productions
- Cooks - BBQ
- Anishinabe Ogitchedawag
- Zenba Odan Ribbon Town Singers, Dowagiac Michigan
- FSU - Diversity, Inclusion & Strategic Initiative
- Pokagon Band of Potawatomi
- Brothers in Music

Saginaw Chippewa Tribal Departments & Organizations

Anishinabe Ogitchedaw Veteran & Warriors Society, Elijah Elk Cultural Center - 7th Generation Program, Housing Department, Information Technology/SCIT Media, Nimkee Public Health, Public Relations, Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort/Food & Beverage/Marketing, Saginaw Chippewa Tribal College, Tribal Historic Preservation Office, Tribal Observer, Tribal Operations Utilities/Maintenance Department, Tribal Police Department, Ziibiwing Center of Anishinabe Culture & Lifeways, and Facilities Department.

Visit the Ziibiwing Center Booth

Donations will be accepted at the Ziibiwing Center table for items commemorating "Honoring, Healing & Remembering."

All proceeds go to the MIIBS Committee for security and maintenance

- American Indian Boarding Schools Curriculum Guide - \$5 donation
- Buttons made for donations
- HHR bracelets

Fellow Tribes:

- Please consider making a financial contribution to the 2027 event.
- Call 989.775.4750 for more information.

**DONATE
TO MIIBS**
Scan QR code



Honoring, Healing & Remembering

Friday, June 5, 2026 • 7 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Mt. Pleasant Indian Industrial Boarding School

Miigwetch (thank you) for joining us on the 92nd anniversary of the Mt. Pleasant Indian Industrial Boarding School closing. We recognize the suffering, strength and resilience of the children through a day of memoriam and fellowship.

The Mt. Pleasant Indian Industrial Boarding School operated from June 30, 1893 to June 6, 1934 with an average enrollment of 300 students per year.



www.sagchip.org/miibs • miibs@sagchip.org

Safety & Rules

- 1: Due to the presence of lead and asbestos contamination, for your health & safety PLEASE STAY AWAY FROM THE BUILDINGS.
- 2: Please respect & stay within the designated areas.
- 3: DO NOT leave your children unattended.
- 4: Listen for announcements that direct you to refrain from taking photographs or video during particular portions of the program.
- 5: DO NOT litter. Trash & recycling receptacles are available throughout the area.
- 6: No pets allowed - service animals permitted.
- 7: The only fire allowed onsite will be the Sacred Fire.

History of Mt. Pleasant Indian Industrial Boarding School

To fulfill part of the 1855 Treaty with the Anishinabek in Michigan, the United States Congress established the Mt. Pleasant Indian Industrial Boarding School (MIIBS). Anishinabe Three Fires Confederacy lands were taken, and in exchange government officials promised to provide an education to all American Indian children. The 1855 Treaty became the basis for the 1934 Comstock Act legislation which pays for the college education of American Indians in Michigan. Today, it is known as the Michigan Indian Tuition Waiver.

The Mt. Pleasant Indian Industrial Boarding School consisted of 37 buildings on 320 acres of land, with an average enrollment of 300 American Indian students per year in grades K-8. The school operated from 1893 to 1934. Daily life was very regimented. Like other American Indian Boarding Schools, students were forbidden to speak their language, honor their culture, and practice their spirituality. The students performed work such as laundry, farm work, cleaning, and other manual labor for the majority of the school day. They also received basic academic instruction for the remainder of the day.

State of Michigan Land Conveyance

Public Act 208 was signed into law by Governor Granholm and became effective on October 25, 2010. The act authorized conveyance of a tract of land (the former Mt. Pleasant Indian Industrial Boarding School campus) to the City of Mt. Pleasant and Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe of Michigan.

For \$1 each the City was offered 311.14 acres and the Tribe was offered 8.86 acres, which included six historic boarding school buildings and the Mission Creek Cemetery. The City and the Tribe were given 180 days to render a decision on whether to accept or reject the conveyances.

The Saginaw Chippewa Tribal Council launched a community-based participatory feasibility study on January 29, 2011 to address Public Act 208. Tribal Council charged an Advisory Group of internal experts to rigorously assess community interest and identify key factors to consider in order to provide the Tribal Council with enough relevant information to guide their final decision.

On April 20, 2011, the Saginaw Chippewa Tribal Council voted to accept the land conveyance. The official \$1 deed transfer from the State of Michigan to Tribal Chief Dennis Kequom took place on Monday, April 25, 2011 at the Ziibiwing Center of Anishinabe Culture & Lifeways.

The former MIIBS Advisory Group became a sanctioned committee by Tribal Council in October 2011 and continues to meet regularly at the Ziibiwing Center.

Agenda

Mission Creek Cemetery

7 am: Sunrise Ceremony

- George Martin & Steve Pego with Ogitchedawag

MIIBS (Mt. Pleasant Indian Industrial Boarding School)

9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Breakfast

Silent Auction and 50/50 Raffle Begin *(both fundraisers end at 3 p.m.)*

- All proceeds to benefit the MIIBS security and maintenance projects

Grand Entry & Flag Song - Blue House Singers

Opening Prayer

- Jennifer Wassegijig, Tribal Council Chaplain

Welcome

- Chief Luke Sprague, Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe of Michigan
- Dr. Neil MacKinnon, Central Michigan University President
- Boomer Wingard, City of Mt. Pleasant Mayor

Pipe Ceremony

Student Roll Call "Remembering the Deceased"

Lunch Prayer

- Isabelle Osawamick, Anishinabe Outreach Specialist, SCIT Anishinabe Language Revitalization Department

Lunch - Musical Selections by Brothers in Music

Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort Check Presentation

Tours of the Buildings (Outside) - With Dr. Wilson-Rood and Dr. Colleen Green

Speakers

- Charlee Brissette — Native American Boarding School (NABS) Program Updates
- Jo Troxell — Native American Boarding School (NABS) Oral History Project
- Marcella Hadden — Current & Future Status of Mt. Pleasant Indian Industrial Boarding School (MIIBS)

MIIBS Committee Update

Silent Auction Closes

Jingle Dress Healing Dance, Celebratory Round Dance & Giveaway

Traveling Song

50/50 Winner Announced & Silent Auction Payment and Pickup