

TATANKA ACADEMY

Tatanka Academy is the first public, year round PreK-3rd grade full-year school in Minnesota aimed at ensuring academic and social success of children living in poverty. In partnership with the Minneapolis Public Schools, Hennepin County Strong Beginnings, and Little Earth United Tribes, the Academy opened September 2, 2008 by offering kindergarten and 1st grade (adding 2nd grade in 2009 and 3rd grade in 2010).

WHAT'S UNIQUE ABOUT TATANKA ACADEMY?

Tatanka Academy is located in the Phillips Neighborhood of South Minneapolis, MN, specifically near the Little Earth of United Tribes Housing Development. The school creates a comfortable, state-of-the art, learning environment highlighting American Indian culture. Like its sister-organization Baby's Space, which provides high quality infant, toddler, and preschool education and care, Tatanka Academy will provide services that combine childhood education and programming with family services. Tatanka students will benefit from:

- Learning environments calibrated and expanded to full year to meet the educational and social needs of pre-kindergarten through grade 3.
- Qualified educators, state-of-the-art curriculum, and enrichment activities designed to prepare students for current and future academic success.
- Parent engagement and support.

ENSURING SUCCESS OF YOUNG CHILDREN

By the 3rd grade, 40% of American Indian children living in Minneapolis fail basic reading and math, not because they are incapable of learning but because traditional educational systems fail to address the stresses brought on by poverty, neighborhood violence, and historic trauma that can hinder academic progress and success. Tatanka Academy students will achieve success through a solid academic curriculum combined with our year-round programming in a comfortable, stable learning environment that also teaches emotional and social skills as well as mentor parents.