



## Land Acknowledgment

### What is a Land Acknowledgment?

A Land Acknowledgement is a formal statement that recognizes and respects Indigenous Peoples as traditional stewards of this land and the enduring relationship that exists between Indigenous Peoples and their traditional territories.

### Why do we recognize the land?

To recognize the land is an expression of gratitude and appreciation to those whose territory we reside on, and a way of honoring the Indigenous people who have been living and working on the land from time immemorial. It is important to understand the long standing history that has brought us to reside on this land, and to seek to understand our place within that history. Land acknowledgements do not exist in a past tense, or historical context: colonialism is a current ongoing process, and we need to build our mindfulness of our present participation.

### Our Acknowledgment

Niles West High School sits on the stolen land of the **Kiikaapoi** (Kickapoo), **Peoria**, **Bodéwadmikiwen** (Potawatomi), **Miami**, and **Očeti Šakówiŋ** (Sioux) nations.

It is by means of genocide, ethnic cleansing, and forced removal that colonizers did, and do, occupy this land.

We hope that in this acknowledgement Niles West Theatre brings to focus the atrocities that are committed to our native community and commit ourselves to the struggle against the systems of oppression that have impacted and exploited Indigenous people.

*“When we talk about land, land is part of who we are. It’s a mixture of our blood, our past, our current, and our future. We carry our ancestors in us, and they’re around us. As you all do.”*

- Mary Lyons (Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe)