



The Navajo Nation
Office of the President and Vice President

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Dził Na'oodilii community receives new K-8 school and dormitory

DZIL NA OODILII, N.M. – On Tuesday, Navajo Nation President Jonathan Nez toured the newly-constructed Dził Na'oodilii Community School, located within Nageezi Chapter on the Navajo Nation, which was recently constructed and is now being used for the new school year for students in K-8 grades. The new school serves several communities including Counselor, Nageezi, Huerfano, Nenahnezad, and Shiprock.

During the visit, President Nez was joined by Nageezi Chapter President Ervin Chavez, who credited school officials and local leaders for advocating and planning for the project. The design/build replacement project consisted of the construction of the new 57,000 square-foot school to include a library/media center, administrative offices, kitchen/dining, gymnasium, play fields, facilities, maintenance building renovation, and utilities. A new 13,000 square-foot dormitory was also built next to the school to house as many as 60 students. The project was funded through the Bureau of Indian Affairs at a cost of approximately \$44 million.



PHOTO: Navajo Nation President Jonathan Nez with students at the newly-constructed Dził Na'oodilii Community School on September 20, 2022, in Dził Na'oodilii, N.M.

“This is a great achievement for the Dzil Na Oodilii community, teachers, and students. The new state-of-the-art school facility includes the latest technology and amenities that will help our students to learn and develop their skills and knowledge at a more advanced pace. This milestone took years of careful planning and collaboration with the Bureau of Indian Affairs and local

leaders. The development of new projects takes time, but we are seeing great progress across the Navajo Nation,” said President Nez.

The construction site is approximately 20.5 acres and consists of 190,000 square feet of landscaped area, 79,000 square feet of turf play fields, softball, baseball, hardscape, and approximately 12,500 square feet of play equipment areas. Paved roads and parking areas can accommodate over 200 vehicles and bus loading zones.

President Nez was also joined by Office of the President and Vice President Chief of Staff Paulson Chaco, Navajo Nation Division of Social Services Executive Director Deannah Neswood Gishey, and Division of Transportation Director Garret Silversmith as they visited with students and teachers in their new classrooms. Last week, teachers and administrators began moving into the new classrooms, which are fully furnished, for the new school year.

“We congratulate all of the students, parents, and teachers and we wish them a safe and successful new school year! Working together, change and progress moves forward and this is a great example of that. With the new school and delivery of more clean water through the Navajo-Gallup Water Supply Project, the region will continue to grow for future generations,” added President Nez.

The Nez-Lizer Administration thanks the Dził Na’oodilii Community School officials, Nageezi Chapter, the Bureau of Indian Education, and many others who contributed to the successful completion of the new school and dormitory.

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