



THE BOBCAT GROWL

September 2026 Principal's Newsletter

Dr. David Lee Propst, Principal | Reporting Period Beginning September 1, 2026

Building the Future at Mariano Lake Community School

Yá'át'ééh, Bobcat families, staff, students, and community partners! September is a month of service, celebration, and innovation. Together, we are strengthening our campus, expanding opportunities, and preparing every child to thrive while remaining connected to Navajo language, culture, traditions, and values.

Our vision is to transform Mariano Lake Community School into a STEAM School of Innovation that prepares students for a rapidly changing world while keeping them rooted in their identity and community.

Enrollment Growth

Enrollment is 78 students, with registration continuing. The residential program is at full capacity with 24 students.

STEAM in Action

The Bobcat Innovation Model integrates science, technology, engineering, arts, mathematics, AI, robotics, coding, and project-based learning across K-6.

Instructional Focus

Schoology and NAVVY support standards alignment, weekly formative assessment, and timely instructional decisions.

Community Strength

Mariano Lake and Pinedale Chapters continue to build momentum toward our STEAM School of Innovation vision.

Together We Shine

September 4, 2026, community clean-up campaign

On September 4, 2026, teachers, parents, students, and community members joined the Mariano Lake and Pinedale Chapters to clean, cut, paint, and improve our school. Their time, energy, and teamwork helped create a safe, welcoming environment and gave our students a stronger sense of ownership and pride.

We extend our sincere appreciation to our teachers, parents, the Pinedale Chapter, and the Mariano Lake Chapter. Your partnership showed what is possible when our community works together for the best interests of our children.

Together we work. Together we grow. Together we shine.

Navajo Nation Fair Parade



Mr. and Mrs. Mariano Lake Community School, Princess and Brave, representing our school at the Navajo Nation Fair Parade.



Mariano Lake Community School's parade float carried the message "Our Land, Our Water, Our Future."

Celebrating Our Bobcats

We thank the parents, students, and staff who represented Mariano Lake Community School during the Navajo Nation Parade on September 12, 2026. Special appreciation goes to Kimeriah Charley, Ms. Mariano Lake Community School, and Cooper Morgan, Mariano Lake Community School Brave, for representing our school with pride.

The parade allowed our students to celebrate Navajo culture, strengthen community connections, and proudly share Mariano Lake Community School's spirit and vision with the Navajo Nation.

Navajo Nation Fair Kids Day

Students had the opportunity to experience Kids Day at the Navajo Nation Fair. The field experience supported social development, strengthened relationships, and allowed students to participate in an important community celebration.



Learning Beyond the Classroom

Students are preparing arts and crafts for the float for the Navajo Parade at Window Rock, AZ.



Students painted paws throughout the school, creating ownership of Mariano Lake Community School.



Greenhouse Learning at the Chapter House

During their visit to the greenhouse at the Mariano Lake Chapter House, students observed how plants are grown and cared for. The experience connected classroom learning to horticulture, ecology, nutrition, and the responsible care of land and natural resources.

These experiences reflect the Bobcat Innovation Model by connecting culture, community, science, and hands-on learning.



Student Spotlight



Kayla McCabe with her winning 'Honorable Mention' Navajo Coloring Contest entry

Congratulations Kayla McCabe

Congratulations to Kayla McCabe, winner of the Navajo coloring contest. Kayla's creativity, effort, and artistic expression reflect the talent of our Bobcat students. We are proud to celebrate her achievement and display her work.

The arts are an essential part of STEAM. Creative projects help students communicate ideas, make connections, solve problems, and honor the stories and experiences that shape their lives.

Teaching, Learning and Innovation

The Bobcat Innovation Model

The Bobcat Innovation Model guides our instructional transformation. STEAM learning will be embedded across instruction so students can connect classroom standards to real-world applications.

- STEAM Education: Science, technology, engineering, arts, and mathematics.
- Emerging Technology: Artificial intelligence, robotics, and coding.
- Applied Learning: Engineering, ecology, horticulture, soil testing, and outdoor learning.
- Future Readiness: Project-based learning, career exploration, leadership, and problem-solving.

Data-Driven Instruction

Teachers are implementing Schoology and using NAVVY formative assessments to align instruction with standards, monitor learning in real time, and respond when students need additional support or greater challenge. As BIE Summative Assessment results are reviewed, staff will identify priority standards and plan focused instruction to move students toward proficiency.

- Align daily instruction and assessment to grade-level standards.
- Use student evidence to adjust teaching and interventions.
- Increase hands-on engagement, academic rigor, and relevance.
- Integrate technology purposefully across learning.

Priorities Moving Forward

We will continue increasing enrollment, filling certified positions, expanding partnerships, securing grant support, strengthening STEAM and robotics, improving BIE Summative Assessment performance, and advancing toward STEAM School of Innovation designation.

Building opportunity • Developing innovators • Honoring culture • Preparing future leaders

Thank you for your continued support and partnership. I look forward to sharing our progress as the Bobcat Innovation vision grows.