

# Potawatomi Language Revitalization at Hannahville

Revitalization of the Potawatomi language at Hannahville experienced a resurgence just as the new millennium began. A project was initiated then to identify existing fluent speakers of the Potawatomi Nation, and to utilize these speakers to create language learning resources, and to design a strategic plan to sustain the language. In 2006, the Digital Connections Language Project was launched to promote language revitalization by meeting technology goals stated in Hannahville's *Keepers of the Fire: Ensuring the Survival of the Potawatomi Language Strategic Plan* which was adopted by the Hannahville Tribal Council in 2005. Outcomes of this project include a broad selection of computer based language resources.

Gde sheshmomenan weye i ghemadzimenan



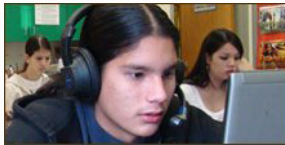
Our Language Is Our Life

*Language learning is provided for ages birth through adult.*

- Daily Language Lessons for Daycare, Preschool and K-12 Students
- Community and School Based Language Labs
- Web Lessons & Storybook
- Interactive Website Language Games
- Online Course 1 (36 week)
- Online Course 2 (Learn-at-Your-Own-Pace)
- Adult Language Classes (Mondays) at the Heritage Center for beginner and grammar basics levels

### School Language Lab

The Digital Language Lab at the Hannahville Indian School - Nat Tah Wahsh PSA has been integrated into the middle and high school Potawatomi language classes. The lab is set up with laptops and headphones to allow students to listen and speak Potawatomi as a part of their daily class assignments.



School Language Lab



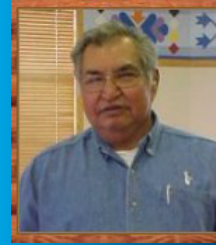
The new community language lab located at the Potawatomi Heritage Center is only a small part of the language resources created during the three-year ANA Digital Connections Language Project. This project, to promote language revitalization within the Hannahville Indian Community, was generously funded by a grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Native Americans (ANA) and the Hannahville Indian Community.

### Preschool & Elementary

Infants, toddlers, and preschool children learn language and culture with instructors using songs, pictures, and speaking in Potawatomi to them. K-5 students learn through language exercises, activities and playing games like the body parts game and nokmes doll shown below.



Potawatomi Heritage Center  
 Language Learning Lab  
 N15756 Hannahville Road  
 Wilson, MI 49896  
 Phone: 906.723.2270  
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Fluent Speakers

*We depend upon fluent Potawatomi speakers for language comprehension, grammar, sentence structure, accurate translations, and so much more. Jim Thunder, Sr., a fluent speaker from the Forest County Potawatomi (pictured above) has had a significant impact on our language program. Chi migweth to Jim for his dedication to assuring that Potawatomi remains a living language. Migweth to Billy Daniels, another fluent speaker who has also provided assistance in our language project. Thanks also goes to Earl Meshigaud (HIC), Mike Alloway, Kim Wensaut (FCP), Justin Neely (CPN) and Laura Buzzard Welcher for expert language assistance, and facilitation of language conferences.*



Community Language Lab

Nde-bodewadmimo! / I am speaking Potawatomi

BODEWADMI

## Language Learning Opportunities

at the  
 Hannahville Indian Community

# Potawatomi Heritage Center

## Zagidowen



*The roots of our Potawatomi heritage run deep, with our cultural histories, ceremonies and identities embedded within our traditional language. We intend to ensure that Potawatomi remains a living language for the generations yet to come.*

# Choose Your Learning Mode



### Potawatomi Heritage Center Hours

Monday: 8:00 AM to 7:00 PM  
Tuesday - Friday: 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM

### Monday Potawatomi Language Classes

Grammar Basics: 3:00 PM  
Beginner: 4:00 PM

## Learn Potawatomi

Hannahville community members and employees are encouraged to come explore and learn at the new Language Learning Center located in the Potawatomi Heritage Center. Find out what language classes and other learning resources are available to you. From a broad selection of choices, you can decide on a study pace and learning approach to fit your own personal style of learning.

## Language Classes

Monday afternoon language classes are scheduled for 3:00 PM and 4:00 PM in the new Language Lab Classroom at the Potawatomi Heritage Center. These two classes are conducted in a traditional face-to-face classroom instruction style. Hannahville community members and employees are encouraged to register for beginner or grammar basics classes. Employees may seek supervisor's approval to attend language classes for continuing education credit. If community response is significant, additional classes may be added for an alternate day and time.

## Language Lab

The community language lab is set up with computer workstations and headphones that allow users to tap into digitally recorded audio and video lessons, as well as to log onto our online Potawatomi language courses.

**Audio Lab Recording:** Listen to vocabulary from workbook lessons and then record your own voice as you speak Potawatomi. You can compare your recording to original audio for correct pronunciation.

**Video Lectures:** Watch a video lecture from a growing video archive created to help you understand language lesson content.

**Mini-Lessons:** Access the PotawatomiLanguage.org website to view short language lessons, practice vocabulary and take a lesson-based quiz.

**Online Learning:** As a lab user, you can register and take an online language course at PotawatomiLanguage.org.

**Videoconferencing:** Join a long distance learning session with Jim Thunder (FCP).

## Online Courses

We offer a thirty-six week online Potawatomi language course for high school students and adults. Some of the concepts in this course are the alphabet, sounds, pronunciation, word order, verb conjugation, nouns and pronoun identification and tense markers. Most instructional units include video lecture, audio, recording assignments, quizzes and more. This course runs annually from September to May. If you want an intensive language learning experience, this class should be your choice.

A less intensive class opened in February 2009 and is available to you right now. It covers the first nine language topics from basic pronunciation to verb conjugation. This is a learn at your own pace course that means you complete the lessons as your time schedules allow. Contact us if you are interested and we will get you in the class right away.

## CDs and DVDs

Multimedia CDs and DVDs to assist in language learning are in production or available now.

## Virtual Storybook

Storybook is an interesting and fun online resource that contains fully translated Potawatomi stories with rich understandable language concepts for Potawatomi students. This language resource includes video lectures, a word-clickable feature that allows users to click on any word to find out what that word means, and vocabulary games to practice words.

## Website

Another positive outcome of our ANA Digital Connections Project to assist community members in learning has been the ongoing expansion of our website, [PotawatomiLanguage.org](http://PotawatomiLanguage.org).

Content is intended for school students, for parents and other adults to learn and to assist by helping their children practice and to reinforce what has been taught in the classroom. In this way, the Potawatomi language can begin to filter back into active use in the home. Lesson vocabulary is posted regularly, along with audio, video lectures and interactive language games.



Hannahville's Potawatomi Heritage Center



Invest Time In Your Heritage Language



Commit To Future Generations