



# NAVAJO MATH CIRCLES

*A film by George Csicsery*



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[www.navajomathcirclesfilm.com](http://www.navajomathcirclesfilm.com)



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Mathematician Tatiana Shubin with Navajo students



Henry Fowler of Diné College



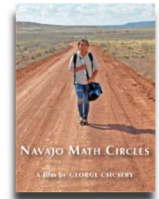
Students competing in a summer Math Camp "math wrangle"

*Navajo Math Circles* opens a window on the lives of several Navajo students who have participated in a lively collaboration with mathematicians and math educators since 2012. The students stay late after school and assemble over the summer to study mathematics, using a model called Math Circles. This notion of student-centered learning puts children in charge of exploring mathematics to their own joy and satisfaction, with potentially long-lasting results.

The documentary reveals the challenges of education in the largely rural educational system. Preservation of native culture, traditions, and the Diné language are essential components of the Navajo Math Circles project. For the teachers, the natural beauty of the Navajo reservation in the Four Corners area, and applications of math in native culture provide tools for increasing math literacy. The presence of Math Circles raises the hopes of parents, students, and teachers for a brighter future.



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