

# The Dreamer

Exclusive news for the St. Joseph's Indian School DreamMakers



May 2023

## "Only an Open Heart Will Catch a Dream"

*It's graduation time at St. Joseph's Indian School!*

Each month, you send a gift to St. Joseph's Indian School with the intent to provide Lakota (Sioux) children the essentials they need for success. Each month, you're putting your trust in our school to carry out that intent. Together, our partnership has accomplished some truly wonderful things over the last school year! As we near graduation, we've reached one pinnacle on this journey of milestones.

Because of your help, 22 eighth-grade graduates will receive their completion certificates this May. Of our 22 graduates, five of them have been at St. Joseph's since the first grade, a total of eight years. Two have been here since the second grade, or seven years. While another three have been here since the third grade, or six years.

In fact, the average enrollment stay of any child in this eighth grade class is four-and-a-half years. But those years were once months. Those months were once weeks. Those weeks were once days.

**You made those days leading up to graduation**



**possible!** You helped provide students with a quality education, nutritious meals, warm clothing, Christmas gifts ... the list is endless. And now, they're reaching the pivotal milestone of eighth-grade graduation, in no small part, thanks to your **wáčhántognaka** — *generosity*.

The eighth-grade graduates of 2023 chose their class motto, "Only an Open Heart Will Catch a Dream." It's fitting for a number of reasons. Each child had to open their heart to counselors, teachers, houseparents and other staff members in order to dream of a brighter future. However, that could not have happened without you. You opened your heart, too. Your monthly support made all of the services they received possible. Without you, they may not be graduating or dreaming

*(over, please)*



about their future ...

The following eighth-grade graduates had this to say to you about their dreams:

*“When I grow up, I want to be a physical therapist because I enjoy helping other people. Thank you so much for donating to my school. God bless.”* — MaKaia

*“Thank you for donating to this school. When I grow up I want to be in the NBA because my mom would be proud.”* — Oyate

*“Thank you very much for donating to my school. When I grow up, I want to go to college.”* — Jerome

As these intelligent, kind students graduate from the eighth grade, their class flag with their motto will hang in St. Joseph’s Rec Center among all the other graduating class flags. Therefore, continuing the legacy that’s held strong for over 95 years.

**And we couldn’t be more proud.**

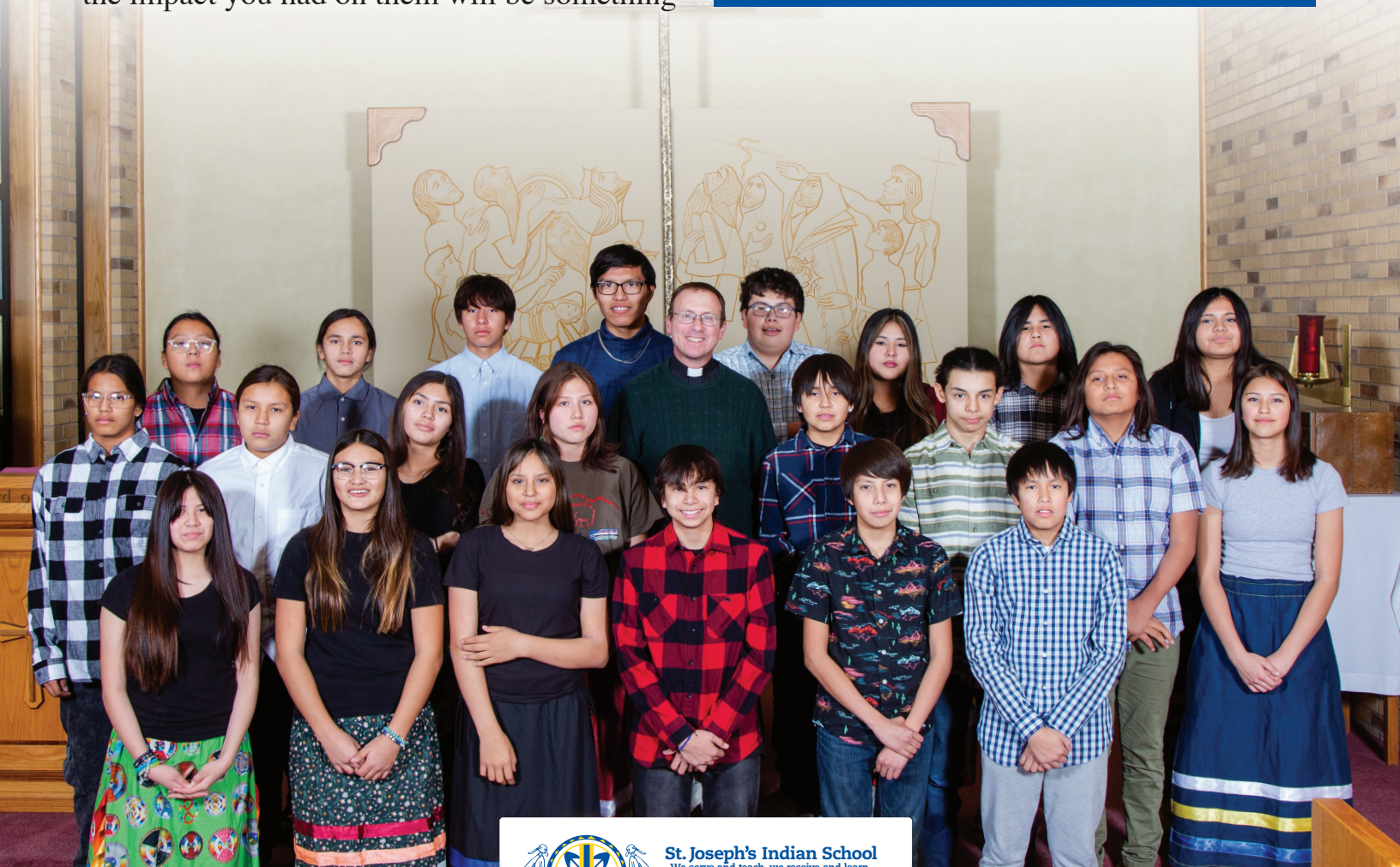
We hope you are filled with the same sense of pride, too. This time of celebration, as much as it’s a testament to the students, is also a time of victory for their families. Although it’s likely you won’t meet the students in person, the impact you had on them will be something

they carry with them into high school and throughout the rest of their lives.

**Philámayaye** — *thank you* — for being a DreamMaker, and for making the wishes of our eighth-grade graduates come true!

## DID YOU KNOW?

There’s a private DreamMakers Facebook group! We post content just for you, our special supporters. To join, go to [www.stjo.org/FBDreamMakers](http://www.stjo.org/FBDreamMakers) and click on the “Join Group” button and answer the accompanying questions. We can’t wait to connect with you on Facebook!

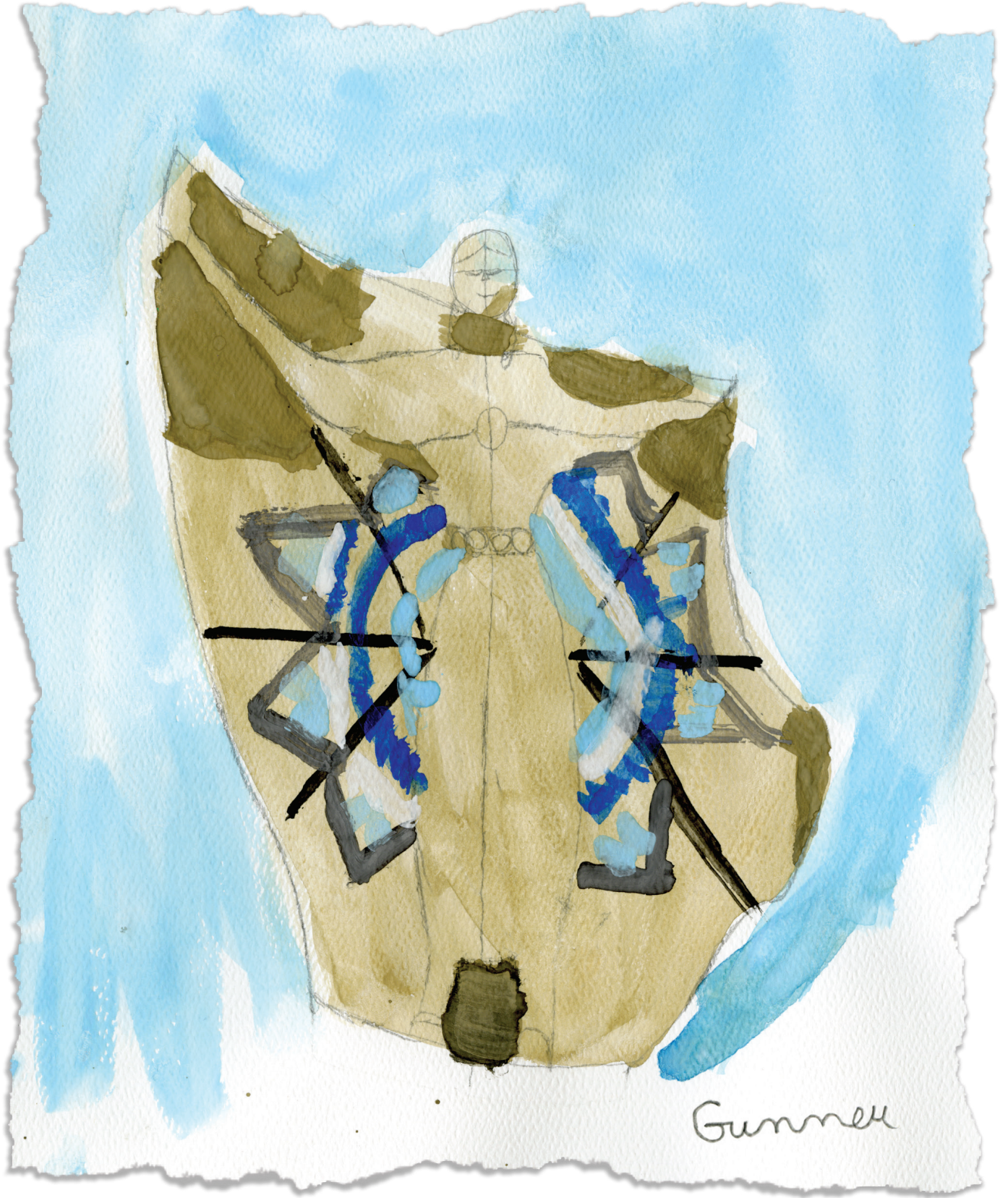


**St. Joseph's Indian School**

We serve and teach, we receive and learn.  
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Gunner

Hi, my name is Taylen and I am in the 7th grade. I like St. Joseph's because there is a lot of sports to play but my favorite is basketball. My favorite thing to do at St. Joseph's is to play basketball and do art. One thing we are learning in school is Math; it is my favorite subject. Math is my favorite subject because it is fun. When I grow up I want to go to college.

Thank you very much for donating to my school.

Taylen