

The Dreamer

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



August 2023

The First Day of School through the Eyes of an Educator

Another school year is beginning at St. Joseph's Indian School!

The first day of school through the eyes of a child is magical, and maybe a little scary at times, but mostly exhilarating! A new school year is a fresh start. It's a new beginning. It's a blank slate.

Our students are second-to-none, and we're so proud to say our educators are, as well. That got us thinking ... What does the first day of school look like through the eyes of an educator? We know it's exciting for students, but a glimpse into the perspective of

an educator sounded interesting, so we started polling a few. Their answers warmed our hearts, and we hope they warm yours, too!

Jennie



"Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it."
— Proverbs 22:6

Jennie, Student Coordinator,
Educator for 28 years

Q: What does the first day of school look like for you?

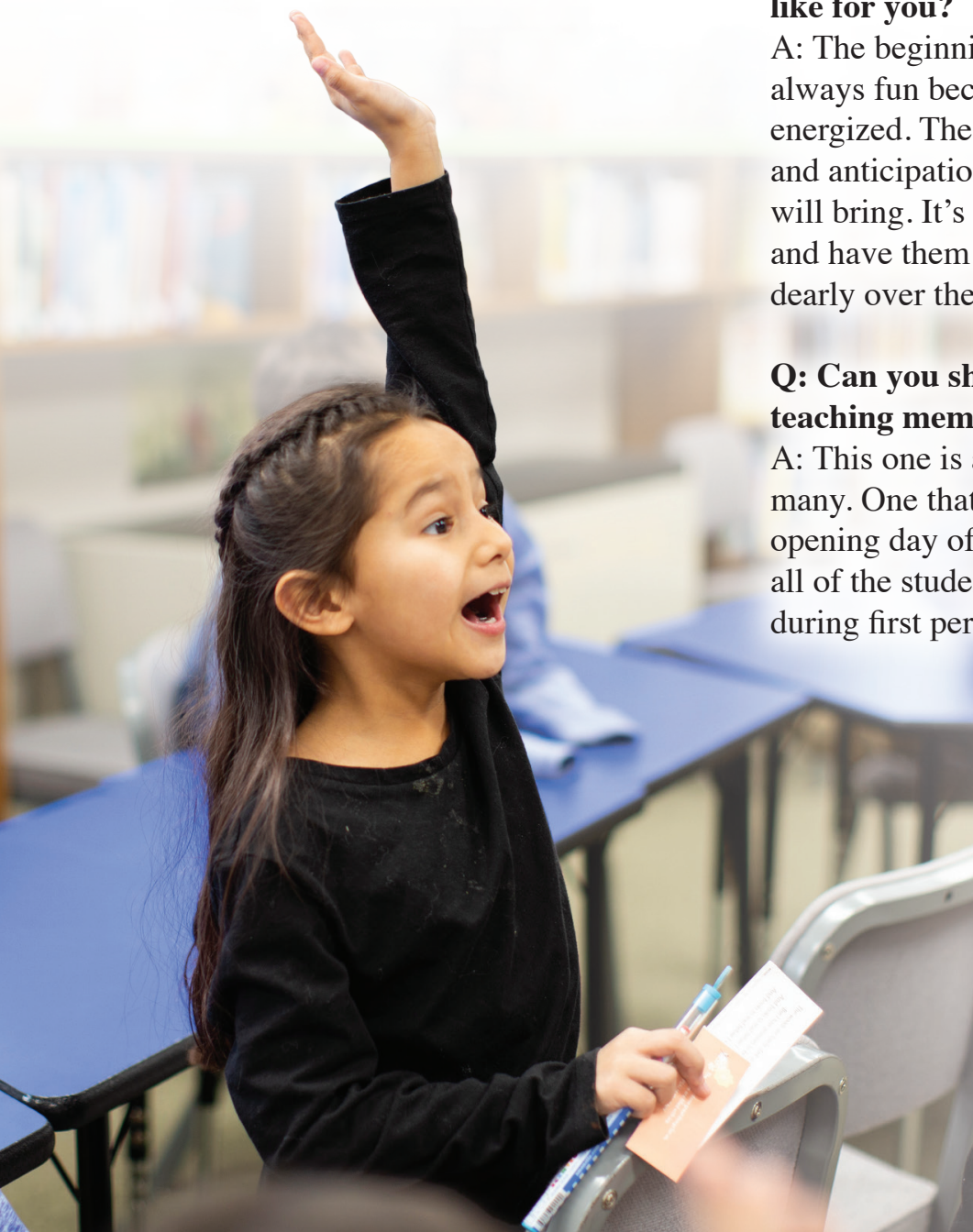
A: The beginning of the school year is always fun because everyone comes back energized. The air is abuzz with excitement and anticipation for what the upcoming year will bring. It's always awesome to see the kids and have them back, because they are missed dearly over the summer.

Q: Can you share one of your favorite teaching memories?

A: This one is a hard one, as there are so many. One that comes to mind is from the opening day of our new playground. We had all of the students outside on the playground during first period. I called them by age group

(over, please)

Annie



to go onto the playground and try it out. When all of the kids were playing, the sounds of joy and laughter were abundant. I could just close my eyes and live in the happiness of that moment!

Q: What motivates you?

A: No matter what's happened over the years, all it takes to get back on track is a smile and hug from a student; a picture drawn for you by a first grader; a conversation with a student about the game they played; etc. When this happens, you feel warm inside. You're reminded why you do what you do.

Annie, Second Grade Teacher,
Educator for 16 years

Q: Can you share a favorite memory from teaching?

A: I have so many favorite and wonderful memories — I love, love, love when a student finally grasps a concept they have been struggling with. Those “Ah-ha!” moments are what make teaching worth it!

Q: What are some things you look forward to at the start of each school year?

A: I look forward to getting a new group of students to build relationships with and reconnect with my colleagues.

LaRayne, Native American Studies Lead,
Educator for 23 years

Q: What is your favorite teaching memory?

A: Whoa, there are a lot! But, my favorite memories are teaching kids about the ceremonies, songs and language. I like seeing them happy about living their culture in real life experiences. Examples of this are dancing at powwow and experiencing the sites on our cultural trip where their history is alive today. My favorite parts of school are having students (I have had three) tell me that they want to be me someday. I truly hope that happens.

Nancy, Special Education Teacher,
Educator for 26 years

Q: What do you like most about the start of a new school year?

A: I love to see the smiling faces walk through the door. I can't wait to get them excited about their culture, literature and writing!

DID YOU KNOW?

You can speak Lakota for everyday back-to-school words!

Wók'iy — *backpack* **Wówapi** — *book*
Wíčazo — *pencil* **Owáuŋspe** — *class*

Learn more Lakota words at stjo.org/Lakota.

LaRayne



Nancy





A summer to tweet about

This summer was lots of fun. I
I slept in. I went swimming.
I went fishing. I had lots of fun this
summer. By Caleb

Dear Friend,

Thank you for donating to our school!
it helps us to do activities like our powwow.

My favorite things about St. Joes is that
we learn about our own culture, Native Americans,
Lakota.

What I do for fun is to draw.

When I grow up I want to be an
animator. I want to make disney movies!!

Your friend,
Millie