



DreamMakers

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

July 2025

A Splashing Good Time with the South Dakota National Guard

Who said summer school had to be boring? Read on to discover how a day at summer school turned into a splash filled experience!

When you think of summer school, the first image you might think of is a classroom with children sitting in seats, reading from a textbook. But who says summer school can't be an exhilarating adventure?

Summer school students at St. Joseph's Indian School embarked on an unforgettable adventure with the South Dakota National Guard. The day began with a fascinating introduction to the Guards' impressive machinery. Lakota (Sioux) students eagerly took notes as one **akíčhita** — *soldier* — explained the functions of their enormous trucks, marveling at their size and power.

But the real excitement began when the soldiers rolled their machines toward

the mighty Missouri River, located right next to St. Joseph's campus in Chamberlain, SD. The students gathered eagerly on the riverbank, watching patiently as the operation unfolded. Eyes widened in amazement as the Guards expertly transformed heavy equipment into a massive, functional bridge. The Guards' coordinated efforts captivated the students, sparking curiosity about engineering and the power of collaboration.

The day's highlight came when the children buckled up their life vests and boarded the floating bridge. Their excitement grew when they realized this wasn't just a stationary bridge — it moved! Powerful boats propelled the structure across the water, giving the children a thrilling ride they would not soon forget. Laughter ricocheted across the river as students felt the water splashing upon them.

This adventure was extra special for many students because it was

(over, please)



their first time on a boat, giving them a new way to experience the Missouri River. As they gazed across the open waters, they took in the breathtaking views of the riverbanks and the beauty of the landscape. Students waved enthusiastically to other passing boats, sharing smiles with fellow boaters.

This unique experience is just one example of the opportunities summer school offers at St. Joseph's. Students spend their mornings engaged in reading, math and science activities, often venturing to the library or museum for storytelling and interactive lessons. Yet, experiences like the one with the National Guard show that learning can extend far beyond the classroom walls.

Jesse, one of the summer school teachers, shared, "I absolutely love teaching summer school. The best part is working with different students and incorporating fun activities they genuinely enjoy. The kids discuss these experiences every time they see me on campus."

This summer school adventure and so many others like it are only possible because of you, who loyally help care for our students

— *mind, body, heart and spirit*. Your **wačháptognaka** — *generosity* — ensures our students participate in unique, hands-on experiences that combine learning with joy and wonder.

This fun, splash filled day with the National Guard will surely be a story the children will share for years to come. **Philámayaye** — *thank you* — for making unique experiences like this a reality.

DID YOU KNOW?

St. Joseph's Indian School has an Alumni Relations Team that helps recent graduates navigate college applications or career paths with personalized support and valuable resources. The team provides guidance to build confidence and knowledge for success. Even after graduation, the team stays connected, offering mentorship and celebrating alumni achievements. Learn more at stjo.org/alumni.



Watch this adventure in action at stjo.org/Guard.



St. Joseph's Indian School
We serve and teach, we receive and learn.
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