



DreamMakers

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

August 2025

Welcoming New and Returning Students to St. Joseph's Indian School

August marks the start of an exciting new chapter for students at St. Joseph's.

A new school year at St. Joseph's Indian School will be starting shortly. Can you feel it? The air will soon be buzzing with eager anticipation from students and their families once they step back onto campus, marking the first day of a new school year filled with promise and excitement.

The day will begin with a trip to the Health Center, where each Lakota (Sioux) child will complete essential paperwork and undergo a quick health check. This routine won't just involve administrative tasks, but will also be a gentle introduction to the supportive, caring environment that characterizes St. Joseph's.

After completing these initial steps, their

principal will guide the children through the school's halls and classrooms. Once students and families meet their teachers and become acquainted with their new learning spaces, they will refuel with a meal. After the meal, children and families will go to their campus homes. The sense of a close family dynamic will be prominent. Returning students often rush to staff to greet their houseparents with enormous hugs.

As students check into their campus homes, they will be given a variety of essentials that many would find in an everyday household, such as a toothbrush, toothpaste, brush, comb and a backpack filled with school supplies. Along with these necessities, houseparents will

(over, please)



welcome every child with a warm smile.

“I think the kids are so happy here because they can express themselves,” said Rosy, a houseparent at St. Joseph’s.

A Day of Rest and Rejuvenation

Monday will be dedicated to relaxation and rejuvenation. The kids will have the whole day to explore the playground, ride their bikes through campus and build relationships with friends and staff. It will be a beautiful day with the perfect balance of fun and relaxation before the school year officially begins.

“The rest day allows students to acclimate to the home, meet new students and possibly new houseparents. It also provides an opportunity to learn the routine of the home,” said Nicole, a Family Service Counselor at St. Joseph’s.

Let the Learning Begin

As students prepare for their first day of classes, Tuesday will dawn with fresh excitement. Each child will receive a backpack and a set of school supplies because every child deserves to start school with everything they need to succeed. The new, full backpacks represent the beginning of new school adventures.

The school day will end with a Back-to-School Parade. Students will bask in the attention and positivity as they parade through campus. The event will be a delightful spectacle of enthusiasm and school spirit, with staff members lining the route, offering candy and words of encouragement. Music will fill the air and treats will sweeten the walk. The parade

is a heartwarming reminder of St. Joseph’s dedication to each child’s well-being.

“The Back-to-School Parade shows our new students how many staff members we have on campus that are here for them! The amount of smiles that I see from everyone shows how excited everyone is for the new school year,” said Coleman, St. Joseph’s Residential Liaison.

As the students settle into their routines and the echoes of the Back-to-School Parade fade, it will become clear that this year at St. Joseph’s will be filled with growth, joy and a journey of learning and friendship.

Philámayaye — *thank you* — for being a crucial part of our St. Joseph’s family, where students pursue a love for learning!

DID YOU KNOW?

Some students at St. Joseph’s arrive with nothing — no extra clothes, hygiene products or school supplies. But thanks to generous supporters like you, we ensure every child is prepared and cared for. Here are the Lakota translations for common things every child receives at St. Joseph’s:

- wók’iŋ — *backpack*
- wíčazo — *pencil*
- haípažaža — *soap*
- thehíla — *love*



To learn more about the Lakota (Sioux) culture, visit stjo.org/culture today!





Pear Donor,

Thank you for donating to St Joe. I enjoy alot here at St Joe. because of you and for that I thank you. Some fun activities we been doing in class are learning in science. To me science is one of the best classes I got. I love all the activities we do in the science lab and the gear we get to work with. Also there are many good things we talk about. At school I joined the Aca Olympic team.

At home and on campus I do alot of activities like swim, go bowling, fish, and many more. My most favorite sport is basketball. It is also currently basketball season and I am on the team.

Also I forgot to tell you I'm in 6th grade. I appreciate everything about this school and I hope you do to.

Sincerely, Romeo