



DreamMakers

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

May 2026

From Seeds to Sweet Success: Second Graders Dig into Business

The second-grade class at St. Joseph's Indian School discovered a little dirt and a few seeds can grow more than just plants — they can grow life lessons, too.

As part of a fun, hands-on learning experience, second-grade students at St. Joseph's Indian School planted seeds and nurtured them into healthy, vibrant plants. The tiny seeds were planted with care in small dirt cups in the classroom. With the help of warming mats and grow lights, students waited patiently as the seeds gradually germinated, learning that growth takes time, care and persistence. Once the plants were large enough, they were transplanted into larger pots and moved to the greenhouse connected to the science lab.

The young gardeners grew various herbs, vegetables and flowers: cucumbers, squash, sunflowers, sweet corn, zinnias, wildflowers, spider plants, tomatoes, Brussels sprouts, watermelon, cantaloupe, peppers, pumpkins, dill and basil.

But this project wasn't just about agriculture — it was also about entrepreneurship. The



second graders learned how to manage money and run a small business by selling their plants to houseparents, teachers, nurses, counselors and other St. Joseph's employees. They carefully priced their goods, greeted their customers and responsibly handled the exchange of money. With their teachers' guidance, they explored real-world math skills in a meaningful and exciting way.

“We decided to price the plants by quarter amounts so the kids could practice and feel comfortable counting change back to their customers. Each plant ranged from twenty-five cents to two dollars,” said Jessamy, a second-grade teacher at St. Joseph's.

The support from the St. Joseph's community left the kids bursting with pride and happiness. The little entrepreneurs were smiling ear to ear as they provided customer service by carrying

(over, please)



boxes of plants, thanking people for shopping and even giving plant suggestions.

In fact, their plant sale was such a success that they sold out of many items and had only a few leftovers. The high demand boosted the students' confidence, showing them the value of their hard work and dedication.

The success of the plant sale exceeded expectations, so teachers made it a priority to take the business knowledge full circle. They explained to students that setting aside money for expenses like seeds and containers for the next year is essential. Once that money was set aside, they realized the students had raised enough money to treat themselves to a celebratory ice cream outing. Pleased to see the students' dedication, the second-grade teachers are excited to see this business and budgeting project bloom in the years to come.

“The whole experience was such a cool thing to see. It allowed us to reflect on how far the students have come during our time with them and just watching their hard work pay off. It was a very proud moment for us,” said Jessamy.

By turning seeds into sales, the second graders got a sweet and educational taste of working

hard, thinking creatively and managing money wisely. It's safe to say the future is looking bright for these budding entrepreneurs.



SEE YOU IN SOUTH DAKOTA!

Mark your calendars! St. Joseph's Indian School's 50th Annual Powwow will be held September 19, 2026, in Chamberlain, SD. Visit our campus to experience the heart of our mission, tour our facilities and witness our incredible **wáčhípi** — *powwow*! Enjoy a weekend filled with culture, community and connection as we honor 50 years of tradition. We can't wait to celebrate with you! Learn more at stjo.org/powwow.



St. Joseph's Indian School
We serve and teach, we receive and learn.
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Some things on campus I like are sports and playing basketball. It's my dream to be a NBA Player but I also have plans for education. When I'm bored I like to go to the Rec center and just recently they built a new one that connects to the old one. My favorite part of the Rec center is the weight room because I am able to workout and stay in shape for sports I join.

In School my favorite subject is NAS and in NAS I learn about my culture and my native language. It's my favorite because I am able to learn about my cultures past and with that I am able to pass down that knowledge to younger generations.

Last year I was able to go on a five day trip to see the important sites to my Native Culture. Being on that trip made me thankful for the Donors because without your donations I wouldn't be able to enjoy the views and see these important cultural sites. I also was able to go hiking while on the trip. I have fun almost every day here at STJO because of your help. Thank you!

Thank You, Donors!
From: Romeo