



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

Facts

for you to know

Did you know?

All services are **FREE** to the Native American children and their families.

Our History

In 1923, Fr. Henry Hogeback, SCJ, traveled to the United States from Germany. Knowing education would be vital to Native American children in South Dakota, he began work to found a school shortly after his arrival. In April of 1927, the Priests of the Sacred Heart acquired the property that is now St. Joseph's Indian School. In September of 1927 classes began.

Nearly 100 years later, thanks to your kindness, our work continues with Lakota (Sioux) families to educate for life — *mind, body, heart and spirit*.

Our School

St. Joseph's Indian School is a residential school for Native American children. Students are never charged tuition. Admission is based on their need for a safe home and a quality education.

Church Affiliation

Though we are affiliated with the Roman Catholic Church, students are not required to be Catholic to attend. About half of our students practice Catholicism.

Many different denominations are represented, including Episcopalian, other Christian faiths and traditional Lakota spirituality. Some students have no religious background.

Facilities

- Our campus covers 55 acres.
- Buildings include the Nagel Business Office, Rec Center, Dining Hall, the Aktá Lakota Museum & Cultural Center, the Sacred Hoop Thiyóšpaye Center, Our Lady of the Sioux Chapel, elementary school, 20 student homes, Equine Therapy Complex and the Health & Family Services Center.

Our Mission Statement:

St. Joseph's Indian School, an apostolate of the Congregation of the Priests of the Sacred Heart, partners with Native American children and families to educate for life — *mind, body, heart and spirit*.

Homes

The campus has 20 student homes with up to 12 students and two houseparents in each. Students participate in household chores, including cooking and laundry, while learning the skills necessary to live independently as adults.

Students

Most of our students are Lakota (Sioux) and their families are primarily from South Dakota.

While attending St. Joseph's Indian School, Native American youth receive loving care and a top-notch education.

Our youngest students are six years old. Our elementary school on campus is for students grades 1-8.

High school students — still part of St. Joseph's residential program — attend Chamberlain High School, where they participate in numerous groups, clubs and are active members of the Chamberlain community.

Academics

Though we are a private school, St. Joseph's meets all the academic standards set forth by the South Dakota Department of Education.

In addition to core studies of math, science and reading, St. Joseph's students take Native American Studies classes, Lakota language and religious education. For children affiliated with the Catholic faith, additional instruction and sacramental preparation are provided at the request of families.



(over, please)

Accreditation and Memberships

- Federally-recognized 501(c)(3) non-profit charitable organization
- Council on Accreditation
- South Dakota State Department of Education
- Coalition for Residential Excellence (CORE) member
- American Indian Catholic Schools Network
- Recipient of multiple Top-Rated Charity Awards by GreatNonprofits
- Guidestar Platinum Seal Transparency

Extra-Curricular Activities

- Dance Group
- Drum Group
- Football
- Handgames
- Cross Country Running
- Basketball
- Archery
- Cheerleading
- Volleyball
- Track and Field
- Travel Opportunities
- And More

Counseling Services

There are 11 fully-certified Family Service Counselors at St. Joseph's. Counseling services include talk, art, play and equine therapies.

Each student has a counselor, regardless of the need for formal therapy. Counselors serve as the primary contact between school and home.

Family Integration

Students are enrolled by parents or guardians and families are encouraged to be part of their children's lives. Families are welcome and encouraged to visit.

The Sacred Hoop Thiyóšpaye Center provides a place for visiting families to stay.

Funding

St. Joseph's Indian School does not receive funding from the Catholic Church.

Of each dollar raised, approximately 66 cents goes to the children in our care and for future planned program growth.

Thanks to the kindness of our many friends, approximately 98% of funds come from private donations for the annual operating budget.

"St. Joseph's offers Native American children opportunities they may not receive anywhere else. I am honored to be a small part of St. Joseph's mission."

— P. Johnson, Minnesota

Administration

- Fr. Gregory Schill, SCJ, Chaplain
- Mike Tyrell, President
- Kory Christianson, Executive Director of Development
- Jennifer Renner-Meyer, Executive Director of Child Services



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