



St. Joseph's Indian School

We serve and teach, we receive and learn.

Chamberlain, SD 57326

(605) 234-3300 • www.stjo.org

NEWS RELEASE

Contact: Danielle Kucera, St. Joseph's Indian School
605-234-3380

January 15, 2020

NEW HIGH SCHOOL LEARNING CENTER MAKES THE GRADE

A new, spacious High School Learning Center with current technology and a positive environment is boosting confidence, ratcheting up learning and making grades for St. Joseph's Indian School's high school students who reside on St. Joseph's campus and attend Chamberlain High School. The center opened in fall 2019 in refurbished space in the Benedictine Building. The area includes a well-lit, large open area with a student union vibe and three quieter side rooms where students can receive individualized instruction from a tutor or just find the space they need to focus.

Students say:

- “The different Rooms allow me to get a quiet place where I can focus and be alone to work on my assignments.” – Lilli
 - “I like that there are staggered times and rooms where the tutors can sit with me and help me.” – Paige
 - “I went to the Learning Center a lot last year, but it was hard to get assignments done because it was so crowded. Now I can go and focus because there is more space.” – LaShawn
- Houseparent and tutor Renee Left Hand Bull says, “The kids respect the new space much more and seem to take pride in it. Now there is an area on campus to support their educational success. Students encourage others to do well, and they support each other.”

But the results speak for themselves. At the close of the first semester, ten students achieved a 3.0 grade point average, with three of them at 3.5 or higher. Sixteen students had started the year on an academic agreement, but at the end of the semester, only one remained. Some 600 individual student visits to the center during the semester tell the rest of the story.

There are currently 39 students enrolled in the St. Joseph's Indian School High School program. 43% of those students participate in sports and 12% are involved in clubs at Chamberlain High School. 25% have a part-time job in the community.

More Than 220 Native American students in first through twelfth grade find hope and opportunity through our educational, counseling, and residential programs. Strengthened by spirituality and culture, St. Joseph's Indian School transforms lives—mind, body, heart and spirit—every day.

###