



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

Child Services Program

August 1, 2018 - July 31, 2019 Report

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Executive Director of Child Services



Strategic Plan: Vision 2025 - More Than Possible

Looking beyond present realities, making our mission
transformational for those with whom we walk!

Mission Statement

St. Joseph's Indian School is an Apostolate of the Congregation of the Priests of the Sacred Heart. We partner with Native American Children and Families to Educate for Life – Mind, Body, Heart and Spirit

- An **APOSTOLATE** of the Congregation of POSH
- We **PARTNER**
- With Native American **CHILDREN AND FAMILIES**
- To educate for life – **MIND, BODY, HEART AND SPIRIT**

Strength-Based
Relationship-Based
Student-Centered
Holistic

A Holistic and Integrated Approach

St. Joseph's Indian School provides students with a wide array of individualized support including the primary services of education, residential care, counseling services and mission integration (pastoral care, cultural education, alumni and family services). Supportive services include recreation, medical and food services. An individualized, child centered approach is used that meets the needs for belonging, mastery, generosity and independence to build a resilient future. Services are integrated as necessary to meet the individual needs of each student.



Outcomes

Long-Term Lifestyle Outcomes:

1. Our students will have the skills to live a healthy balanced lifestyle: body, mind, heart and spirit.
2. Our students will have the ability to enter into stable, healthy relationships as persons of character and virtue.
3. Our students will have the education and training to sustain their lifestyle.

Department Overview Highlights

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Program Overview

St. Joseph's Indian School is a residential/educational organization for Native American youth and families. St. Joseph's strives to provide services in a holistic and integrated manner. A focus on teamwork and the development of a student-friendly milieu allow for a seamless integration of services.

Our efforts to provide quality programming include an organized program evaluation system. Within this report are many highlights gathered in that system.



Education Highlights

The 2018-19 school year was successful in our grade school program. Twenty-three students graduated from the eighth grade in May 2019. Twenty-two of those students, 96%, plan to attend our High School Program. Below are a number of highlights noted for the 2018-19 school year:

- A Standards Based Grading program was developed throughout the school year. All grade levels and courses will follow standards based grading practices in the 2019-2020 SY.
- Two 8th grade students earned the President's Academic Excellence Award.
- Perfect attendance incentive awards were given each quarter. An average of 90 students (56%) attained perfect/outstanding attendance each quarter.
- Average daily attendance on the state report was 95.66%. This can be compared to the South Dakota average of 72% for Native Americans in public school.
- Full staff retention for this year helped provide a consistent educational program for our students.
- Twenty-five percent of our students qualified for special education services. The breakdown is as follows: 58% of those students received academic assistance, 12% received speech and language assistance, and 30% received both academic and speech/language support. The number of our students that qualified for services increased 29% from the previous year.
- Our Christmas and spring concert featured 28 students performing instrumental pieces as well as a band performance.
- Twelve students competed in three area Acalympic competitions.
- There are 14 students in the Beta Club. This is a national organization for 4-8 grade students. The program's purpose is "to promote the ideals of academic achievement, character, leadership and service among elementary and secondary school students. Our Beta Club received a National Recognition Award for Service.
- Four 8th grade students qualified for an Algebra I credit based on the End of Course Exam, MAPS results and the final grade in their Algebra course.
- The school held two Parent-Teacher Conferences this year. The one in October had 49% attendance. The February conference attendance was lower due to poor weather.
- Parent/Guardian participation in Case Service Plan meetings, held twice a year, has remained steady at about 54.8%. Participation can occur in person or via phone conference.



Case Service Plans: Parent/Guardian Participation in Meetings

First Semester	September	October	November		Overall
	40.4%	59.3%	57.1%		53.5%
Second Semester	January	February	March	April	Overall
	44.0%	63.8	44.4%	65.2%	56.1%

Student Test Information

Program Goal: To provide an educational program dictated by student’s needs.

Educational Objective: To have ‘one-year growth’ progress for every child and/or a remedial plan in place to meet their academic needs.



Specific Academic Measures:

MAPs – Measures of Academic Progress

DIBELS – Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Learning Skills

CORE – Consortium on Reading Excellence

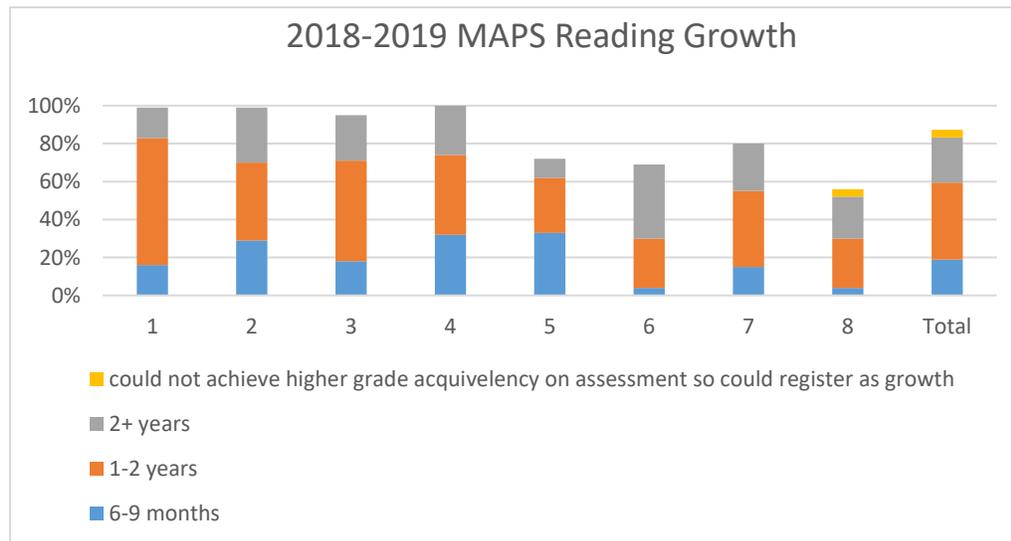
Smarter Balance State Standardized Testing – Direct

data method for measuring performance on core academic standards

Frequency of data collection:

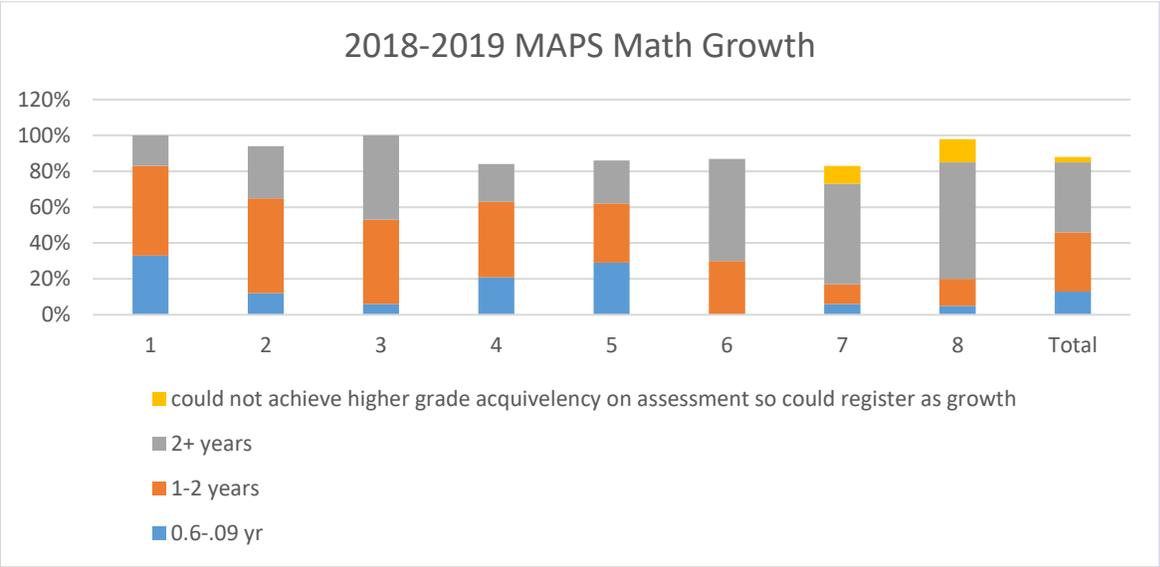
Three times a year for MAP, DIBELS, CORE

Once a year for Smarter Balance



Proficient Student Loss during the year: grade 1 -1, grade 3 -1, grade 5 -1

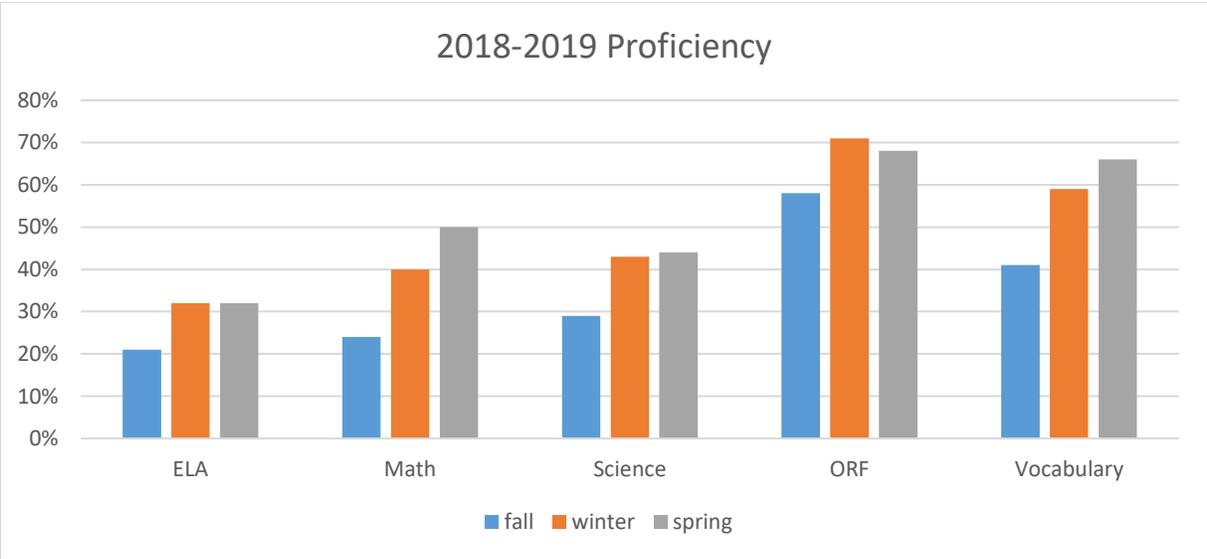
The loss of proficient students can impact the overall testing results as incoming students replacing them are generally behind in skills.



Continued growth is being made yearly in the area of math. Keeping students at proficient when they return in the fall is a challenge. Transition and the application of new concepts on previously learned ones is difficult for many students. A focus on note taking, the importance of using notes, and perseverance is a focus in grades 4-8.

Third through sixth grade has the largest group of students in small group or individual math instruction for special education services.

Proficient Student Loss during the year: grade 3 -2, grade 4 -1, grade 5 -2 and grade 7 -3.



The trend lines for the school year are positive overall. Reading fluency and vocabulary is less of an issue than in the past so an emphasis on comprehension, sustained reading stamina and writing abilities should help improve student achievement.

In education, assessments are a complicated area. Our students are improving and growing overall, but the data may not show all of their growth. The mission of developing the whole child may not reflect in academic growth numbers if emotional needs are the priority.

Counseling Services Highlights

Counseling Services provides quality therapeutic services for our students. Highlights for the 2018-19 school year include:

- A total of 180 students were referred for specialized services. Of these services, 144 received individual counseling and 106 were provided with group counseling. Seventy-one students received psychological services and 51 had psychiatric referrals.
- The number of students receiving individual counseling has increased 37% over the last two years.
- The percentage of students taking psychotropic/controlled medication was 25.8%. This is an increase of 7% from two years ago. Coinciding with this, an increasing number of students are coming to SJIS already on psychotropic/controlled medication. Each student is seen by a doctor or psychiatrist regularly to make sure medication levels are appropriate.
- Through the Equine Therapy program, horses were on campus twice a week in the fall and spring. During this time, six therapy groups were held serving 36 students. An additional 20 students were able to work with the horses during individual sessions with their counselor.
- Fifty-four Abuse and Neglect Reports were filled with DSS during the school year.
- Substance abuse prevention continues to be a priority. As part of this, 81 Red Path (Al-Anon) meetings were held with students in 4th-8th grade.



First through Twelfth Grade Residential Services Highlights

The residential homes provide students with a safe and secure environment. The goal is to teach life skills per age/grade level, preparing them for high school graduation and beyond.

- Within the 1-8 grade, 89% of students were involved with activities with the community. This included Flag football, Tackle football, Chamberlain Homecoming parade, Chamberlain fall festival, Inter-city basketball and 6-8 attendance of a Value Up presentation at CHS, Explorers, YES Group, Knights of Columbus free throw and hotshot contests, Chamberlain Summer Rec program and others.
- The students in grade 1-12 completed 58 community service projects in Chamberlain and surrounding communities during the school year.
- The 7/8 home enrichment curriculum included socio-emotional training with the Second Step program, Life Space Crisis Intervention training for students, and Mindfulness skills.
- This school year, there were 607 Incident Reports. Inappropriate talk/play/behavior continues to generate the highest number of reports for boys with 182 last year. Physical confrontation was a close second for the boys with 114 reports.
- On the opposite side of this, 61% of students consistently followed behavioral expectations as evidenced by 25% having zero incident reports and 36% having only one or two incident reports for the entire school year.
- Students have many opportunities to travel at SJIS. Last year, 80 students traveled beyond South Dakota in the US and Abroad.
 - Eight students attended Donor Luncheons held in Florida, California, Maryland, and New Jersey.
 - Four students traveled to Washington, DC over spring break.
 - Four students traveled to Germany in June.
 - Twenty 7th grade students traveled to Wyoming as part of the Cultural Trip.
 - Many students traveled to Minnesota as part of home and class trips as well as the Explorers Trip every May.



- The HS Program began the school year with 41 students and ended with 33 students. This put the retention rate for the year at 80%; this is lower than previous years. One student transferred to the Job Corp program at Nemo and the majority of the others left due to family reasons.
- The overall GPA for the HS program was 2.39.
- Eighty-three percent of students in the HS program were involved in extracurricular activities or had a part-time job – 26% had both.
- The High School Program had seven students graduate in May 2019. Five of those students are currently enrolled in technical schools or four-year colleges. Two are currently employed and planning to attend college next semester.
- In an effort to provide comprehensive training for Houseparent staff, a training program was implemented over the last few years. During the school year, 624 new staff observations were completed for a total of over 1,324 hours of observation time. The training program has also increased Houseparent retention.



Mission Integration Highlights

The Mission Integration department focuses on the development and integration of both religion and Native American culture. This impacts all areas of child services. The current Mission Integration Director moved into a different position in February 2019; a new Director was hired in April. Highlights include:

- Seventy-one percent of our second through eighth grade students are Catholic.
- Thirty-one students completed sacramental preparation and were received into the Church in April.
- All Child Services staff completed two Mission Basics trainings: “The Oceti Sakowin” and “The families with whom we partner”.



- School-wide participation in the CAIRNS Wounded Knee and the Horse Nation exhibits in the Akta Lakota museum, including pre-teaching for the school staff.
- Students wrote the Mass intentions during their religious studies classes. This opportunity to be part of the Mass service was well received by the students.
- A Teen Mass was piloted for the HS students; this will be reviewed and improved upon for next year.
- A Lakota Language immersion lunch table was available every Monday during the school year. This included one of the Native American Studies teachers and a community elder. This program was especially well received by the younger students.
- Joseph Marshall III provided training on traditional Lakota archery to 6-12 grade students and staff.



Admissions

The Admissions process seeks to match student applicants with available services and openings. Information of note includes:

- During July 2019, 116 applications were sent out to families (42 were sent in 7/18); 46 applications were returned (20 were returned in 7/18); and 47 interviews were completed (23 in 7/18). This large increase was the result of a Facebook ad in June. The ad will be run in March next year.
- The total number of students on the waiting list was 101 in July 2019.
- In May, our 1-12 enrollment was 192 students. This was 85% capacity.



	Start of school year enrollment	End of school year enrollment	Change
2015-2016	218	189	-29
2016-2017	191	178	-13
2017-2018	203	185	-18
2018-2019	217	192	-25



Alumni

Alumni services are in place to foster continued relationships with former students. Efforts to communicate with alumni and gather input are promoted throughout the year. Highlights include:

- Billie Jo Kingfisher, Ph.D. was chosen as our Distinguished Alumni for 2019. He was 8th grade graduation speaker as well. Dr. Kingfisher attended SJIS from 1976-1982.
- Two alumni women spent time with our HS girls instructing them in beading techniques.
- Alumni gatherings took place in Rosebud, Rapid City and Ft. Yates, ND.
- Alumni requested and received 164 foodboxes last year.
- Contacts continue to be added to our Alumni database. We currently have 6,794 in the system.
- Over 1,000 birthday cards were sent to alumni this past year. This is an effort to stay in contact and gather current information from them.



Scholarship Program

St. Joseph's Indian School provides scholarships to selected individuals who are enrolled in college.

- Over \$191,000 was given out in scholarships for the 2018-2019 school year.
- In the fall, 87 scholarships were awarded with 25 going to alumni.
- In the spring, 109 scholarships were awarded with 24 going to alumni.
- Fourteen graduates of the HS Program received an average of \$3,634 each for schooling last year.
- Twenty-six students who received our scholarships graduated from college with seven of those being alumni or family of alumni.



Reach Out Bookmobile

The Reach Our Bookmobile distributes books to reservations in South Dakota. This program encourages reading over the summer months. Highlights include:

- The Bookmobile made six additional stops this year, and adjusted some regular stops to get more visits.
- They saw 242 more children and 210 more adults. That means child visits were up 27% and adult visits up 52%.
- A total of 8,835 books were given out, a 34% increase from summer 2018 and a 54% increase from summer 2015.



Summer Programming

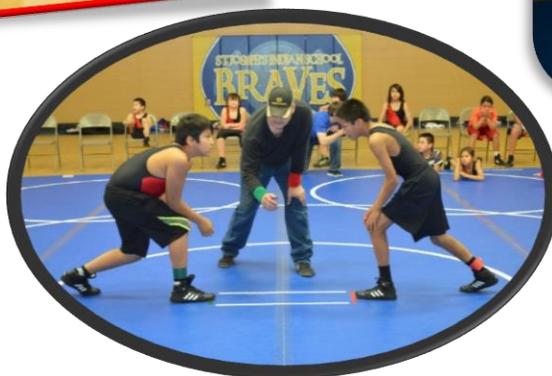
- The Soaring Eagle Summer Camp serves the Lower Brule and Crow Creek reservations for two weeks each in the month of June. An average of 58 children attended camp each day. The camp is staffed by St. Joseph's employees, high school students, summer employees and volunteers. Activities include cultural classes, arts and crafts, outside recreation activities, swimming, and lunch and snacks.
- The 1-8 summer program had 11 students on campus from May 24-July 12. The students have summer school every morning. They take part in Summer Rec activities during non-school hours.
- The HS summer program had 42 students participate. Twenty-two of these students were part of the freshmen orientation program, attending classes at CHS in the morning and classes on SJIS campus in the afternoon. This program also includes a college visit. The other 22 students took part in Driver's Ed, held jobs on and off campus, and participated in sports and career camps.



Recreation Center

The Recreation Center strives to create a welcoming fitness and recreational environment to promote lifelong leisure habits and skills. Highlights for the 2018-19 school year include:

- A fitness board that records student records in swimming, running, jump rope, chin hang, weight lifting, and other events are divided between boys and girls and five different age classes. Students can try to break records throughout the year. Fifty students currently have records posted.
- All new students are required to take swimming lessons; they earn a certificate and supervised use of the pool once they pass.
- For the year, the 1st-8th grade homes used the Rec Center gym 1133 hours, the pool 297 hours and the weight room 67 hours
- A camera was added to Rec Center in December to live stream events for families. Fourteen events were live streamed with 687 live views and 1,906 on-demand views. This is another way for us to connect with our families; especially those from a distance.



Food Services

Food Services oversees the Lunch Program and also manages the on-campus grocery store for the homes. The goal is to provide quality food and promote healthy eating. Data for the 2018-19 school year includes:

- A fresh fruit and vegetable cooler was available in the school for students and staff to enjoy throughout the day. This amounted to having 37,600 servings of fruits and vegetables available through the school year.



- The total number of meals served in the dining hall during the school year was 30,919.
- The total number of meals served for the Summer Program including St. Joseph's students, Summer Day Camp students, Chamberlain area children and guests was 4,349.

Health Center

The Health Center oversees the administration of quality health, eye, and dental care for our students. Health Center Services are also available for staff and their families. Highlights include:

- Quality, hands-on care was provided to students throughout the year.
 - There were 3,881 student visits to the health center during the school year.
 - Students saw the Provider 656 times during the year.
 - Students saw the Nurses 3,225 times during the year.
- Staff and their families continue to utilize the services of the health center in large numbers.
 - There were 487 employee/family visits to the Provider during the year.
 - There were 593 employee/family visits to the Nurses during the year.
- Health Center staff made 520 student transports in town for dental, vision, and other medical appointments.
- An Electronic Medication Administration Record (e-Mar) was developed and implemented this year. The e-Mar increases the safety and efficacy of medication administration. Staff complete a competency based training prior to using the system. This allows for nurse oversight of medication distribution in real time. Any errors in the administration of medications are documented, evaluated, and reviewed monthly by the Nursing supervisor and the Child Services Team.



Parent Advisory Committee

The Parent Advisory Committee (PAC) consists of parent/ guardians of our students. The group meets twice during the school year to discuss issues relevant to our students and families.

- In September 2018, PAC members toured the CAIRNS exhibit at the museum. They also listened to updates and gave feedback on the Equine Therapy program, Standards Based Grading, the possibility of offering Positive Indian Parenting classes, and Native Hope events.
- In March 2019, PAC members toured the Thrift Store. They also listened to updates and gave feedback on Lakota archery, the residential training program, Trauma Informed Training by Dr. Tonemah, and college visits/senior plans.



Conclusion

This report highlights many activities that took place at St. Joseph's Indian School throughout the 2018-19 school year. The organization continues to provide a safe environment and quality services for all of our students.

Looking ahead to the 2019-2020 school year, our focus will be on:

- Developing religious and cultural pride and expression.
- Continued growth of the Equine Therapy Program.
- Improving reading, writing and speaking skills among the 1-8 students.
- Continue to expand outreach to parent/guardians.
- Utilize our data to drive future programming decisions.

