



November

On a bright, crisp morning, a small group of Red Cloud seniors led the entire school in a traditional buffalo harvest, a cultural rite of passage. History, language, and spirituality is integrated into every aspect of a Red Cloud education—through a Lakota Studies curriculum that works to strengthen students’ cultural identity and self esteem. As one student said, “My culture is a huge part of my life, and it means so much to be able to incorporate it into my school life.”

December

Each year, Red Cloud seniors have the chance to design their own independent community service project to address a social challenge or need. As winter began to bear down on the reservation, two young seniors, Sadan and Imani, worked together to arrange their own “giveaway” for less fortunate community members to gather, enjoy a warm meal, and bring home cold-weather clothing for the bitter months ahead.

January

On Wednesday evenings, families gathered on campus to practice speaking, reading, writing, and listening to the Lakota language. As part of Red Cloud’s initiative called Lakó’iyapi Kihímani or Walking with the Language, family nights create opportunities for parents, siblings, and other loved ones to expand their language skills alongside their students—and make speaking Lakota a part of daily life.

February

Red Cloud students in every grade had the chance to start using their very own laptops. Going “one-to-one”—putting computers into the hands of each and every student from kindergarten through high school—was one of the first steps in the school’s new technology plan, which focuses on using cutting-edge tools to improve academic outcomes and help students prepare to be part of the 21st century workforce.

Red Cloud Indian School 2017-18 Year in Review

March

After three years of intensive study and preparation, a group of parishioners from Red Cloud’s churches completed the Lay Ministry Formation Program and were commissioned by the Bishop of Rapid City. As lay ministers, they play a crucial role in their parishes, serving as pastoral assistants, Eucharistic ministers, religious educators and youth ministry directors, and leaders in caring for the elderly and sick.

April

Red Cloud officially broke ground on a number of new housing units on campus, as part of a new initiative to recruit and retain the best faculty and staff. These new units will help address the severe shortage of quality, affordable housing on the reservation—and allow more Red Cloud graduates to return to the reservation after college and build their careers here on campus.

May

The class of 2018 received their diplomas and celebrated their graduation as families, friends, and school staff applauded all of their extraordinary accomplishments. Together they earned nearly \$1 million in college scholarships, and 95 percent are going on to post-secondary education. In the fall, Red Cloud’s newest group of graduates will be attending outstanding colleges and universities across the country—from New York University, to the University of Minnesota, to the University of New Mexico.

June

Over 250 Native artists, art advocates, and visitors from across the region and around the country gathered on campus to mark a very special moment in Red Cloud’s history: the opening of the 50th annual Red Cloud Indian Art Show at The Heritage Center. The show is the largest and longest-running Native art exhibition of its kind—and one of only a few held in an indigenous community. Over the past five decades, it has created opportunities for countless Native artists from across North America to share their talent and vision.

2017-18 HÉKTA WANÍYETU ÉTUNWE
YEAR IN REVIEW





Each spring, as our seniors prepare to graduate and take the next step in their education, it is always astounding to hear them speak about their dreams for the future. Some are interested in becoming health care professionals, to provide quality care to those who need it. Others want to start their own businesses, to spur economic development where it is so desperately needed on the reservation. And others want to become educators and teach the Lakota language, to ensure it lives on for future generations.

Their specific plans and dreams may differ, but there is no doubt: Red Cloud students are living examples of the Lakota virtue of *wahátognaka*, or living generously and with compassion. As one of our newest graduates, a member of the class of 2018, said recently, “no matter what profession I end up in, I want to help people and give back to this community...because it has done so much for me.”

During the 2017-18 school year, our students, faculty, and staff demonstrated their deep compassion, and their commitment to living with *wahátognaka*, in so many ways. As part of a community service project, two young women organized a full-fledged, reservation-wide basketball tournament to raise funds to support a classmate who had been diagnosed with a serious illness. After three years of study and preparation, six parishioners from Red Cloud’s churches were commissioned by the Bishop of Rapid City as lay ministers, so that they can expand their work ministering to those in need across the reservation. And The Heritage Center team launched a new initiative to create economic opportunity for Lakota artists—and to deepen the world’s understanding of Lakota history and culture.

Witnessing this kind of commitment to community convinces me that together we are doing God’s work. Indeed, I believe what we are doing at Red Cloud—by nurturing our staff and students and creating the kind of environment and programs that allow them to thrive intellectually, spiritually, and artistically—is not only making a difference today. The hope that we are creating will continue to bring about positive change on the Pine Ridge Reservation, and in communities all over, for many generations to come.

Fr. George Winzenburg, S.J., President



25 Percent

More than 45 graduates have returned to Red Cloud to serve as teachers, administrators, coaches, and counselors; alumni now make up close to 25% of our staff.

Nearly 1 Million

Together, the 46 graduates of Red Cloud’s Class of 2018 earned nearly \$1 million in college scholarships.

95 Percent

95% of the Class of 2018 will be going on to postsecondary education, and one student will proudly serve in the Armed Forces.

Over 250

Native artists, art advocates, and visitors from across the country gathered to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Red Cloud Indian Art Show in June.

25

Colleges and Universities

Our newest graduates will be attending colleges across the country—from New York University, to the University of Minnesota, to the University of New Mexico.

July

For the fourth summer running, Red Cloud students, graduates, teachers, and community members came together for the annual Lakól’iya Wihóthi, or Lakota Language Camp. The camp provides students with an important opportunity to be immersed in their heritage language outside the classroom walls—and to help revitalize their culture and community. As one camper said, “Our language strengthens us. It’s our identity.”

August

After more than a year of preparation and planning, members of Red Cloud’s pastoral team helped to bring over 800 Native Catholics to Rapid City for the annual Tekakwitha Conference. Held in honor of Kateri Tekakwitha, the first Native American saint, the conference allowed participants—who came from every corner of the continent—to explore new ways to amplify the voices of indigenous peoples in the Catholic Church.

September

Graduate Maka Akan Najin Clifford ‘05 became the first alum to be named Red Cloud’s Director of Curriculum and Assessment, focusing on new ways to strengthen classroom instruction and academic outcomes. After attending college in San Francisco, teaching abroad in Japan, and earning his master’s degree at Columbia University in New York City, Maka fulfilled his dream of returning to Pine Ridge to advocate for the next generation of Lakota leaders.

October

To create needed opportunity for Lakota artists—many of whom support their families by selling their work—The Heritage Center launched a new initiative designed to spur cultural tourism on the Pine Ridge Reservation. By bringing more visitors to campus, The Heritage Center is leading Red Cloud’s efforts to expand the marketplace for Lakota artists and to deepen understanding about Lakota culture, history, and art.