



**Anthony T. T. Jaccaci**  
Head of School

Dear Country Day Families,

Today marks the end of Cincinnati Country Day School's 94<sup>th</sup> academic year. What a difference nine months make. Last August's opening on a sunny summer day seems a world away and strikingly different from life today. Yet in other ways, there are constancies about the Country Day experience that are unchanging. As educators, our purpose and passion for educating students endures, and it grows even stronger as we tackle new challenges. Simultaneously, Country Day students and their families remain steadfast in their commitment to a learning environment that nurtures intellectual curiosity and promotes critical thinking—timeless skills that ensure our students are ready for whatever is next.

The pandemic has resulted in transformational shifts, compelling us to become architects of academia's future. How we rethink and restructure the delivery of education is being determined at this very moment. While the Great Depression and world wars gave birth to the "greatest generation," our legacy will be somewhat shaped by how we respond to this defining moment in our history.

Not surprisingly, the very challenges we face today underscore the time-tested aspects of a Country Day education. Over the years, CCDS has continually evolved its program to stay relevant to ensure essential and enduring learning outcomes.

The school's early embrace of technology has helped maintain the continuity of our students' learning, whether it takes place on campus or online. The pandemic, a reminder of just how globally interconnected we have become, affirms our efforts to build our students' ability to work collaboratively and across boundaries. And, our efforts to develop non-cognitive skills, such as resilience, adaptability, and creativity, will serve our students well as they navigate challenging times, today and in the future.



The last nine weeks have been a sobering reminder of the need for human connection, and I have been moved by the many caring ways our community has come "together" during our time apart. Our Parents'

Association made sure our teachers and staff felt appreciated by extending teacher/staff appreciation week into a month-long tribute. Our faculty found creative ways to stay in touch by hosting Facetime lunches, sending home hands-on projects to help break the monotony of screen time, and reimagining year-end events to keep Country Day traditions alive. Equally, our students banded together in new and different ways to stay connected. (I bet we all wish we had stock in Microsoft and Zoom!) Every day, I hear about poignant, and often creative, ways we are staying united as a school, and I am deeply grateful to you for keeping us Country Day strong.

The teachers and I also greatly appreciate the enhanced role you played in your child's education while juggling other responsibilities. Your participation led to the success of Country Day ConnectED. Though the PA could not include you in their incredible faculty/staff recognition efforts, you, too, deserve thanks for your teaching ingenuity this spring.

While this last quarter is certainly one for the history books, I do not want to lose sight of other highlights from the 2019-2020 school year.

### **Academic Program**

This past year, Country Day continued to enrich many aspects of its academic program. Just as we broke for spring break, the school wrapped up its second year of CCDX. This year's offerings gave our students more hands-on learning experiences with many taking place beyond the classroom walls. While parents were unable to join us for our closing showcase, X-Fest, to see the fruits of their children's explorations, the students proudly demonstrated their newly acquired talents, which included boat building, metal making, bird watching, money managing, and more. This learning will last a lifetime.



This year, our modern language offerings extended to our youngest learners with the expansion of Spanish and French into the preprimary programs. By introducing them earlier to a second language and extending the amount of time they devote to learning this language, our students will gain an advantage that helps build fluency and deepens their connection with other cultures.

Despite the pandemic, many of our upper schoolers still had opportunities to gain insight into the inner workings of various professions through our virtual job shadowing program. The program continues to grow and has been extremely successful in helping students explore their interests. Several students have pursued college coursework, and eventually careers, as a result of their job shadowing experiences at CCDS.

### **Athletics**

Athletics have always played an integral role in the Country Day educational experience, imparting valuable lessons about teamwork, character, and leadership. This year, Country Day had history-making athletic seasons through which students cemented behaviors that will lead to healthier, more successful lives.

Last fall and winter, the girls varsity soccer team won a second successive state title, we had state qualifiers in golf, cross country and swimming/diving, and our girls and boys basketball teams won MVC championships with the girls' team advancing to the regional finals for the first time in school history. In the Middle School, teams won basketball championships and proved their dominance in swimming, while our youngest students developed their athletic abilities through our youth sports teams.



It was also our first year under the new leadership of Athletic Director Dennis Coyle. Coach Coyle brought his trademark enthusiasm to the program and was greatly supported by the newly energized booster program. Dennis has been a welcome addition to Team Country Day.

Each year, I am impressed with our athletes' commitment, which requires tremendous discipline as they balance rigorous academic schedules with training. I am endlessly proud of how well they represent the ideals of Country Day.

### **Arts**

The arts continue to thrive at Country Day, and this year's performances and gallery showings attest to the abundant talent of our budding artists. February's US musical, *The 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*, was a huge hit, and students particularly enjoyed a few "celebrity" cameos involving their teachers.



The visual arts program, always well-represented in our hallways, provided ample opportunities for our students to demonstrate their flair with pen, paint, and paper. And, it was a record-breaking year for Scholastic Art Awards. Our students amassed 76 medals (a school record), and it was particularly thrilling that senior Cader Rowe received a coveted national gold medal for a photographic portrait that would have been on display in Carnegie Hall had it not been for Covid-19.

### **Service to Others**

Our students continue to impress me with the many ways they engage in work that demonstrates their understanding of the needs of others. They are involved in endless pursuits that reassure us we will be in capable and caring hands in the years to come. Whether fundraising to help animals threatened by Australia's bush fires or participating in walks to raise needed dollars for medical research, they are industrious and hardworking, but most of all compassionate. Empathic savvy at such a young age is something in which we can all take great pride.

Our students' service was matched in equal measure by that of their families, who committed countless volunteer hours to athletic coaching, support of theatrical pursuits, participation in the Parents' Association, chaperoning field trips for our younger learners, repackaging food on MLK Day to distribute to less fortunate families, and more recently in the delivery of PPE donations to assist frontline responders. Families also donated significant financial resources to the school, through gifts to the Country Day Fund, sponsorship of CountryDate and donation of raffle and auction items. The service of our families sets the standard for all, and none more so than our students, for what it means to be a part of a vibrant and supportive community.



It has been a taxing last quarter as we have worked to adapt to changing routines and yet, as an educator, I cannot help but appreciate all we have learned. This summer, it will be more important than ever that you care for yourself so you in turn can help your children safely navigate the changing landscape as restrictions ease and guidelines evolve. I wish you all a healthy and relaxing break and look forward to seeing you when we convene for Country Day's 95<sup>th</sup> academic year.

Sincerely,

Anthony T. T. Jaccaci  
Head of School

