

CINCINNATI BUSINESS COURIER

Jaccaci's work abroad motivated him to bring the world back to CCD



BARRETT J. BRUNSMAN
Staff reporter

Cincinnati Country Day is putting the finishing touches on a three-year, \$11 million renovation of its campus that will include a new athletic center with facilities for wrestling, gymnastics and basketball plus a renovated swimming pool.

The Leonard Athletic Center will open in phases, beginning this winter through

spring, thanks to donations from school boosters.

Tony Jaccaci, head of school at CCD and an active triathlete, is especially looking forward to the pool. "It will be one of the best high school pools on the East Side of Cincinnati. I would love to swim a half-mile to a mile a day."

Jaccaci, who launched a boarding school in China before landing at Country Day, is working to build global connec-

tions for students as part of a three-year strategic plan that's now in the implementation phase.

"We're trying to make sure we can get our kids out into the world, or to bring the world here," he said. "We'll set up partnerships with other schools. We have 15 French students coming to join us for two weeks in November, and then in the spring we're going to send the same number of kids over to France to live."

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Do parents pick up the cost of the trips abroad? They do. An important part of our global initiative, though, is to try to make it affordable for all of our students. It wouldn't be appropriate for us only to offer an educational opportunity to children who can afford it. We would seek a way to have a portion of our endowment fund this type of program. I see that as absolutely necessary.

How does CCD get such a diverse student body? We rely on our families to spread the word about the opportunities and why Country Day might be a good school to look at and potentially a good fit. Our children come from 60 different ZIP codes.

We also have a very good and full financial aid program because we want Cincinnati Country Day to be a reflection of the city. There are people from all different backgrounds in the city, and we have worked hard to make sure our student body reflects that. One of the ways we do that is by trying to make the school affordable for any student who is well-qualified.

Do you have enough kids to field sports teams? Our sports programs are an intentional part of a child's development. Everybody makes a team. We have a no-cut

policy. We're focusing on mind, body and character. So our children from 8:15 a.m. until 3 p.m. are in classes, but from 3 until 5 p.m. they are doing their sports or clubs.

How did you land in China? I was approached, being a global educator who also spoke Chinese, to start a boarding school. They were looking to start a school that would take kids out of the national curriculum but prepare them well to attend American and British universities. I was there for five years, and there was no blueprint for a bilingual, bicultural boarding school.

How did you end up here? I was a finalist for head of school in several different searches. When I came here for the first time, I just felt the spirit of the place. It felt so welcoming and so inclusive and so vibrant. I told my wife ... it seems like a great city, and this school and community feel authentic.

Where do you live? If you look over your shoulder (out the window of the head of school's office), that's Broadwell House. That's the original homesteader house from about 1804. That's where I live with my three boys and my wife. When we lived

in Shanghai, the boys would be on the bus two to 2.5 hours a day back and forth because it's such a huge city and the traffic was terrible. So now they have a 30-second walk to commute.

Biggest surprise about Cincinnati? It's a city that punches above its weight for culture in terms of the music concerts that my wife and I have gone to, the shows that we have seen, the museums that we have enjoyed, the sports events that we've been able to go to. Let's also talk about the food, the delicious restaurants!

Favorite restaurant? Sotto downtown. For business lunch, Trio's in Kenwood.

How often do you bike and run? On weekends I'll get on the Little Miami Trail and bike up to Loveland, or if I'm feeling strong maybe up to Morrow, which is maybe 50 or 60 miles. And then during the week I run a couple of miles two or three times a week.

What might people be surprised to learn about you? I ski raced in college – on the Harvard varsity team – and was a ski instructor in Jackson Hole, Wyo., for a year before I became a teacher.

► CLOSER LOOK

TONY JACCACI

Title: Cincinnati Country Day head of school

Age: 49

Family: Wife, Lucia, a history teacher at the school; and three sons who attend CCD, Nick, Sam and Ben

Resides: Indian Hill

Born: Lawrence, Mass.

Education: Bachelor's in East Asian studies, Harvard University; master's in law and diplomacy with concentration in Asian studies and business, Tufts University; Phillips Academy in Andover, Mass.

Career path: U.S. Naval War College instructor, 1999-2000; Chinese and history teacher at St. George's School in Newport, R.I., 1997-2010; executive principal at YK Pao School Secondary Division in Shanghai, China, 2010-2015; joined Cincinnati Country Day as head of school in 2015