



Dear Country Day Families, Alumni, and Friends,

We are writing to inform you that the Country Day Board of Trustees met last evening and voted to no longer use the Indian as the school's mascot.

Country Day has a long history of educating students to become citizens of the world and instilling its character virtues of respect, responsibility, integrity, courage, and compassion. We are incredibly proud of our community for coming together, showing respect for each other's opinions, and acting to make our school stronger.

More than 300 community members, including students, parents, alumni, faculty, and staff, shared their views, through emails and participation in a series of five Zoom meetings. We were impressed with the thoroughness and thoughtfulness of the individuals who took the time and effort to state their cases and are grateful for their engagement in the life of our school. Country Day is fortunate to have the support of constituencies that are both informed and caring.

An overwhelming majority voiced their desire to see the mascot changed (90% of those who spoke on the Zoom calls and nearly 80% of those who emailed the school with their opinions), and none spoke more loudly than the students themselves. Significant factors in the board's decision included:

- A plea from the executive director of the Greater Cincinnati Native American Coalition for Country Day to cease use of its Native American mascot.
- The importance of teaching respect for all people in delivering our mission and preparing students for college and life.
- A desire that our learning environment be vibrant, inclusive, and diverse, where every individual feels they belong. A strong body of evidence demonstrates use of Native American mascots reinforces stereotypes that marginalize all people of color.

For these reasons, along with other compelling research and commentary shared by our stakeholders, we recognize the mascot—adopted with positive intent in the 1950s—is not consistent with the guiding principles that have shaped a Country Day education for many years.

Country Day will immediately initiate a process to select a new mascot to represent our school and will use the 2020-21 school year to transition away from the "Indians"—both the imagery and as a reference to our athletic teams. Effective immediately, our teams will no longer be referred to as the Indians in school communications and official OHSAA competitions, and until we identify the next mascot, our teams will compete under the name of Cincinnati Country Day School. During the coming year, we will begin replacing more permanent items such as uniforms, scoreboards, and facility signage.

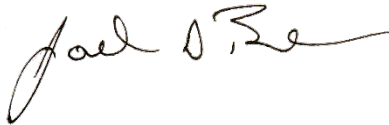
In participating in this debate, our alumni shared how proud they are of their alma mater and the athletic successes they enjoyed as students. We, as they, want to emphasize that this change does nothing to diminish the decades of success our athletes have enjoyed in competitions representing our school.

We are excited to begin the process of selecting a new mascot and will keep you apprised of our plans and progress on this front. We know our community will offer many wonderful suggestions, and we look forward to the time

when we can come together and celebrate Country Day with a mascot behind which we are united. If you have further thoughts you would like to share with the board on this topic, please use the email address mascot@countryday.net.

Go Country Day!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joel S. Brant". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Joel S. Brant '87
President, Board of Trustees

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Anthony T. T. Jaccaci". The signature is cursive and somewhat stylized, with a large initial 'A'.

Anthony T. T. Jaccaci
Head of School