

Mariemont City Schools

Report for the Board of Education

Research & Findings on the Use of Native American Imagery As a Mascot

Community Feedback on the use of Native American Imagery As a Mascot



Introduction

Over the last few years one or two inquiries have been made about the use of Native American imagery as our mascot. In July 2019 a graduate from the class of 1995 reached out to share her concerns:

“I am incredibly concerned about what terrible stereotypes Mariemont is perpetuating through the use of the warrior mascot and the surrounding ideology. I am hoping with the many changes being made to Mariemont Schools, now would be a good time to make changes so Mariemont can be seen in a positive and progressive light. I am hoping to champion this cause to other alumni that I know. While I no longer live in Mariemont, I am still vested in the high school from which I graduated and hope that I can help in encouraging the Mariemont community to see the mascot warrior for what it is-a gross misuse of Native American iconography.”

Most recently a graduate from the class of 2020 made this suggestion and plea to the district for action:

“The image of a Native American used as Mariemont’s mascot and practices such as the “pow-wow” and “warrior chop” actively promote cultural appropriation in the community. Many studies have shown that practices like these belittle the struggles of the indigenous population and subsequently demean other cultural groups. By removing and discouraging the logo, “totem-pole”, and terminology, the school would acknowledge the struggles that the Native American community faces and set an example for its students to be better, proceeding into the world with respect for other cultures. To be clear, I see no issue with the term “Warriors” as long as it is not associated with Native Americans. In the case of keeping “Warriors” I suggest that the logo is changed to “M” for Mariemont. If the school feels the need for a more characterized mascot, I suggest an animal. What better time to make this change than with the introduction of a new high school building.”

During the summer of 2020 there were a number of unfortunate events that happened in our nation that produced a renewed focus and emphasis on social justice, racism and equality. Within the Mariemont school district we observed many of our current and former students along with community members and staff members educating themselves and others about these topics, forming petitions, protesting, bringing awareness to various topics and issues and advocating for change.

There were four overarching issues and themes that were prevalent throughout the statements and feedback that was received throughout the summer of 2020:

1. Teach about the history of Mariemont being a Sundown Town.
2. Educate teachers on anti-racism and anti-bias education
3. Implement programs, policies and practices that dismantle racism and racist behavior

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4. No longer use the image of a Native American as Mariemont's mascot and recognize that practices such as the "pow-wow" and "warrior chop" actively promote cultural appropriation in the community.
 - a. The definition of Cultural Appropriation: The unacknowledged or inappropriate adoption of the customs, practices, and ideas of one people or society by members of another and typically more dominant people or society.

During the August 2020 board meeting a recent graduate who had also written a [Letter to the Editor](#) in November 2019 in the high school's newsletter called "The War Path" and who had also started a petition this summer against the use of Native American imagery as a mascot spoke publicly about her research and concerns on this same topic.

Below you will find a summary and compilation of research, resources and findings on the use of Native American imagery as a school's mascot.

Research And Findings

Overwhelmingly the research and resources found on the use of Native American imagery as a school's mascot indicate that this is not a way to honor Native Americans. In the research article "Reclaiming Native Truth" it states that Native themed sports mascots do not honor Native American and that the majority of Native Americans find Native-themed mascots harmful and offensive.

A resource published by the American Psychological Association was frequently referenced. This group wrote a resolution in 2005 recommending the retirement of American Indian Mascots. Below is a copy of that summary:

"The use of American Indian mascots as symbols in schools and university athletic programs is particularly troubling because schools are places of learning. These mascots are teaching stereotypical, misleading and too often, insulting images of American

Indians. These negative lessons are not just affecting American Indian students; they are sending the wrong message to all students."

- Former APA President Ronald F. Levant, EdD

In 2005, the APA called for the immediate retirement of all American Indian mascots, symbols, images and personalities by schools, colleges, universities, athletic teams and organizations. APA's position is based on a growing body of social science literature that shows the harmful effects of racial stereotyping and inaccurate racial portrayals, including the particularly harmful effects of American Indian sports mascots on the social identity development and self-esteem of American Indian young people.

Research has shown that the continued use of American Indian mascots, symbols, images and personalities has a negative effect on not only American Indian students but all students by:

- *Undermining the educational experiences of members of all communities-especially those who have had little or no contact with indigenous peoples. The symbols, images and mascots teach non-Indian children that it's acceptable to participate in culturally abusive behavior and perpetuate inaccurate misconceptions about American Indian culture.*
- *Establishes an unwelcome and oftentimes hostile learning environment for American Indian students that affirms negative images/stereotypes that are promoted in mainstream society.*

According to Stephanie Fryberg, PhD, University of Arizona, this appears to have a negative impact on the self-esteem of American Indian children, "American Indian mascots are harmful not only because they are often negative, but because they remind American Indians of the limited ways in which others see them. This in turn restricts the number of ways American Indians can see themselves."

- *Undermines the ability of American Indian Nations to portray accurate and respectful images of their culture, spirituality and traditions. Many American Indians report that they find today's typical portrayal of*

American Indian culture disrespectful and offensive to their spiritual beliefs.

- *Presents stereotypical images of American Indians. Such mascots are a contemporary example of prejudice by the dominant culture against racial and ethnic minority groups.*
- *Is a form of discrimination against American Indian Nations that can lead to negative relations between groups.*

"We know from the literature that oppression, covert and overt racism, and perceived racism can have serious negative consequences for the mental health of American Indian and Alaska native people. The discontinued use of American Indian mascots is a gesture to show that this kind of racism toward and the disrespect of all people in our country and in the larger global context, will not be tolerated," said Lisa Thomas, PhD, APA Committee on Ethnic and Minority Affairs.

There was one organization, Native American Guardians Association, who strongly advocated for education about Native American history and not eradication. They pushed for schools and teams to keep the Native American imagery. Below are a few excerpts from their letter and statement regarding school names and logos:

" Having a Native theme to represent a school's athletic teams comes with a heavy responsibility to do so accurately and respectfully, with a heavy emphasis on educating about Native American history, culture, and heritage. NAGA endorses education over eradication and encourages Native themed schools to modify any logos that could easily be identified as overtly stereotypical or cartoonish in favor of something respectful and regionally accurate. NAGA opposes costumed "mascot" entertainers and adds our voice to those calling for an end to sideline mascots. We endorse authentic cultural celebrations at athletic events consistent with that widely precedented and accepted in the Native American community.

We do take the majority opinion among Native Americans that the respectful use of American Indian names and logos by sports teams is at the least not problematic, and at best a tremendous show of respect and honor to our people.

We would like to challenge the key assertions of the radical change movement, chief among them is the 2005 Stephanie Fryberg study which was published by the APA. The study was widely criticized in the social science community for issues pertaining to gross generalization and the tactic of effectively priming the study participants to elicit a desired outcome. The conclusions of this study that Native American sports imagery may contribute to low self-esteem and even suicide among Native youth is in and of itself a humiliating stereotyping of Native Americans as psychologically fragile and weak minded. This ludicrous assertion serves only to downplay the very many real causes of low self-esteem and suicide in Indian country which includes poverty, drug abuse, and alcoholism to name but a few actual contributors. Objectivity to truth suggests that if native names and images were in any way harmful, then why would so many tribal schools uphold the very same images to represent their sports teams as the ones being eradicated elsewhere?"

A Conversation with April Hester, Member of the Muscogee Nation & Representative of the Greater Cincinnati Native American

April Hester is a member of the Muscogee Creek Nation. Born in Norman, Oklahoma, she has spent most of her life living in Cincinnati and Northern Kentucky. She is a founding board member and the Education Coordinator of the Greater Cincinnati Native American Coalition.

During a recent conversation (8/19/2020) with Ms. Hester she shared that there is a misconception that if we remove Native American imagery from the mascot that we are no longer honoring our culture. She stated that mascots do not honor Native Americans.

Ms. Hester believes that schools should consider lessons about Native Americans that debunk the stereotypes and myth that they don't exist anymore. She spoke about the diversity of Native Americans made up of 574 federally recognized tribes with their own languages, foods and governments. Ms. Hester went on to say that when we focus on holidays like Thanksgiving, instead of teaching about the Pilgrims and Indians we should

focus on the values of the Native People and their connections to the earth, to water, to giving and community.

Ms. Hester stated that when others take from a culture and the “others” are the dominant culture it is taking away from the other culture. Native American items like chants and names are all tied to some sort of spirituality. She said that the Indigenous perspective is that we are all connected, therefore others should respect and not take from their Native American culture and spirituality.

Lastly, Ms. Hester spoke about “Land Acknowledgements” as a way to recognize the Indigenous people who have occupied the land in the past as a way to honor and show respect.

Contact with the Miami Tribe of Oklahoma

Two attempts were made to reach out to the Miami Tribe of Oklahoma via the “Contact Us” and phone number provided on their webpage. A typed message was sent through the website on August 21st and a voice message was left with the education department on August 27, 2020.

While attempts to reach out to the Miami Tribe of Oklahoma were unsuccessful, there was, however, a recent Resolution on the Miami Tribe of Oklahoma’s “Position on Ethnic or Race-based Derogatory Mascot Names or Derogatory Mascot Caricatures that was adopted and signed on July 27, 2020.

“Now Therefore Be It Resolved, the Miami Tribe of Oklahoma adopts this Resolution as our stated opposition to the derogatory and stereotypical names, icons and mascots’ and to reaffirm our commitment to providing meaningful and informed education about the culturally distinct indigenous peoples of this land” [Here is a link to the full Resolution](#)

Conclusion

In an article titled, [“Where Pride Meets Prejudice”](#) the author shares a brief overview of the NCAA’s quest to answer the question of whether or not Native Americans should be used to brand sports programs. A quote from the article states the following: “A change in tradition is not an indication that institutions were ‘wrong’ in the past or that institutions harbor ill will toward American Indians. It is simply acknowledgment of changing times and growing awareness and sensitivity.”

Additional Resources & Links

[Native American's Guardians Assoc. Letter: Educate Not Eradicate](#)

[Summary of the APA Resolution Recommending Retirement of American Indian Mascots](#)

[APA Resolution Recommending the Immediate Retirement of American Indian Mascots](#)

[When the School Mascot Is a Native American Stereotype](#)

[Opinion: Native Americans: We're not your mascots](#)

[Not Your Mascot: Native Americans & Team Mascots Video](#)

[Blog & Research Conducted By Mariemont Resident Cortney Scheeser](#)

[Allyship: Indigenous Ally Toolkit](#)

Community Feedback

Community feedback collected through the district website is on the pages that follow.

The district received 161 feedback responses.


Personally identifiable information has been removed from responses.

I think that, while there are certainly more distasteful uses of Native American imagery in sports logos, there is no defensible reason for a public institution like a school to reduce human beings to the level of simply being a mascot. I certainly don't believe that the district or anyone living here means to trivialize Native Americans but I believe that is the end result of the continued use of the logo. Thank you for opening up dialogue on this issue!

Please discontinue the use of Native American logo on all of our Spirit wear. Both the NCAI and local tribes have asked all schools to discontinue using race-based Native American logos for schools. It's ridiculous that we haven't done so before now. As far as I know there are no Native Americans even in our school district and what gives us the RIGHT to use this imagery. Stand Up and stop dragging your feet.

Get rid of it. Find a new mascot.

Being a warrior is an honorable, noble thing. We champion and cherish warriors. We call veterans injured in service "wounded warriors." Please don't cave to the loud extremist polluting society with unjustified demands and a bully pulpit.

per my analysis shared in July 2020, Native Americans are opposed to our homogeneous, stereotypical imagery. We ought to keep the name and change the logo. There are many ways to partner with the Miami Tribe on this topic (as Miami University did in the 1990s) and bring sensitive thoughtful education to life inside and outside the classroom. Analysis can be found here: 

I am hopeful that Mariemont is working towards stepping on the right side of history with the removal of the Native American logo. I do think it is important to keep the Warrior logo, but we can proudly be Warriors without the connection to Native Americans. I feel like it would be beneficial for the community to have access to the studies showing the harm to Native American youth by using the logo, and be able to view the letter from the Miami Tribe. Thank you for the consideration!

Many complain about the headdress being used by people who don't have a cultural understanding of it. Without changing our branding as Warriors, we can simply change a logo to be a knight or Viking or something similar and less racially charged. It is a simple compromise. The other option would be to seek input from Native Americans themselves, though that is more difficult to explain to people who are simply driving through town or playing a game against us. Much easier to change the logo entirely.

While I support the use of the name "Warriors" as our mascot I believe the use of Native American imagery might be considered offensive. I think reaching out to specific groups with ties to our area (descendants of the Miami, Shawnee, Wyandot, etc.) to see what their feelings are is appropriate and necessary. If they feel it is offensive we should remove the imagery and use the royal blue "M" as our imagery/branding instead.

Change it.

In my opinion, the Indian warrior profiled logo/mascot is not culturally appropriate and is offensive. I would rather see an "M" as the logo. Mariemont kids can still be Warriors, but must the Indian profile be used?

While I don't think it's intended to be offensive, it does make me grimace internally when I see it. I even made a point to buy spirit wear that only had text and not the picture. I think that going the extra mile to avoid what could be considered cultural appropriation and err on the side of extra respect and caution is always valid. Also, we do appreciate the work as a district for inclusivity, anti racism, and diversity. Thank you!

As a society we are moving forward and many of us now see things through a more forward-thinking lens. We are trying to teach and model sensitivity and acceptance to our children. These types of images, although frequently used in the past, no longer have a place in our culture. A entire race of people should not be used as a mascot. Although I don't think it's the district's intention to disrespect Native American culture, it's time to stand up for moving forward and leaving behind relics of the past that we can now acknowledge as harmful and insensitive. Let's be on the right side of history.

The term "Warrior" has a generalized, non-racist meaning and, by itself, "warrior" as a school nickname is not objectionable. However, Mariemont's current logo is far different. At best, the use of the logo amounts to cultural appropriation. At worst, the logo is racist. In either case, without deep reflection and consultation with and affirmation from the peoples whose image we are appropriating, the usage is wrong. Obviously, the simple answer is that the logo must go if it offends even a small minority of people. However, there is precedent for reaching out to those who are likely most offended by the logo to seek advice. Miami University consulted with local Native Americans before moving to the Red Hawk name and logo. Has the district taken this step and consulted with Native Americans? A recent case study for this approach can be found at: <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/08/03/sports/baseball/indians-team-names-mascots.html>. I hope my comments are helpful.

I applaud the work you are doing to ensure our school system is active and engaging in the broad issues in our society. I also appreciate the opportunity to participate and provide feedback as I am sure many see several of these matters differently. Our kids will be stronger and better prepared by learning to openly discuss and consider the topics they will be dealing with in their adult lives. If a mascot or team name is blatantly condescending or offensive, I support a name change (the Washington Redskins changing their name and the Cleveland Indians dropping the Chief Wahoo cartoon mascot). In the case of the Mariemont Warrior, my personal reaction to this symbol is that it is honoring the Native Americans who settled in this area as a image of strength, courage and commitment to community. However, this question should be filtered through the lens of those with Native American heritage to truly understand its impact. I would assume there is some data and research on the matter given that this is now an open question in communities, universities and with professional sports franchises. I would encourage a decision to be reached based on insights from those most impacted and not by pressure from those on either extreme.

I think the use of Native American likeness and imagery as mascots is an outdated practice. As a society, we understand now that many "historic" and "traditional" symbols, statues, flags and other characterizations of people of color as dispensable props designed through the lens of perspective of people in power for amusement and sport is not acceptable in today's world. Since we have asked ourselves "is this okay?" we know that it is not. If we actively choose, even after thoughtfully consideration, to retain this outdated, racist logo, we, as a District, should be prepared to be seen as out of touch, insensitive, and unwilling to change for the betterment of our community's future. We should take the hard step towards change.

The Native American imagery is outdated and no longer an appropriate image to represent our school. I am very careful about letting my children where ME spirit wear for this reason outside of a specific ME event. My strong preference is that it would be changed. Probably already a bit overdue.

In the recent Instagram controversy among current and graduated mariemont students that I have fully read up on, I saw a few people trying to stoke a debate about a logo that to this day has been pro Indian, pro warrior, pro bravery. We've been in this district for 10 years and I've never gotten a whiff of this being about condescension toward Native Americans. I urge the school administrators to not cave to the pressure of people claiming otherwise. At some point if not already, innocent students are going to become frustrated and rebel due to the constant virtue signaling that is being forced among them at every turn. Please do not make this an issue.

While I don't think that the use of Native American imagery is the the most egregious use I've seen, I don't see any reason to keep a symbol that is racist/is seen as racist. There are plenty of good artistic interpretations of "Warrior" that don't touch on sensitive cultural issues and run the risk of hurting those in our community. I would recommend that we pick some other "warrior" image as our mascot and avoid the harm to others.

If the imagery offends 1 person it should be changed. Symbols and imagery have been created by a white dominant culture- ours too. We need to be part of the solution to break down the systems that have marginalized people of color. We do better when we know better. We now know better- it has taken us too long to see this. We are all learning and what an important stand our community will take by changing the symbol. I understand it is less offensive than many Native American imagery but if it is offensive to ANYONE it should be changed. Thank you for providing the opportunity for input. We can be the change we wish to see!

Remove all American Indian imagery and chants from our school system and its athletics. It is simply wrong. Do not listen to the many white families who will insist that people are being too sensitive. Local and national tribes have expressed their want for schools and colleges to change mascots. You have two choices: listen to white families who have little to no connection to American Indian history and culture, or listen to the people our mascot depicts. Pretty clear to me who you should listen to. Reach out the Miami Tribe. They worked with Miami University to change their logo and mascot in the 90s.

It is time for the Native American imagery in the Mariemont logo to go. It makes me cringe every time I see it. The logo has no relationship to the Native American people who once populated this area. It is a generic, stereotypic depiction of a Native American; similar too those found in far too many Cincinnati area schools. Mariemont could take its lead from the Golden State Warriors, whose blue and gold logo once featured a cartoonish Native American, but now features the iconic Bay Bridge. Mariemont school could take its lead from the Mariemont Rec Association's blue and gold logo featuring the Bell Tower, or from the simple and elegant blue, block M featured at the new high school building. The Warrior name can stay, but it's time for the Native American image to go.

<https://www.google.com/amp/s/amp.cnn.com/cnn/2020/08/01/us/trader-joes-racist-names-petition-trnd/index.html> Please see the above article for Trader Joe's response two people demanding change. I am not sure if this logo was selected as a way of minimizing Native American culture or celebrating it. I am assuming it was the latter. If so, in 2020, it would be a wonderful thing for people to stand up for the original sentiments and not look for EVERYTHING possible that controversial. Just my two cents... keep the logo.

Hello - I think that the time has come to remove Native American imagery from our schools. There are many more significant ways to honor the heritage of this region including indigenous land acknowledgement at school gatherings and partnership with the Native American Cultural and Education Center.

It is important to, if not completely change the logo, educate on Native American cultures and the issues plaguing them still today. We can not use it and not know anything about the history or culture.

Native American imagery that is offensive should be purged. Yet, not all imagery is offensive. I attended the University of Notre Dame, the Fighting Irish. Notre Dame means “Our Lady” in French. So how did a French school end up with a very different nickname? In the 1910/20’s, the school teams were sometimes called the Dirty Irish because ethnic slurs were common and many students were of Irish descent. Knute Rockne, a Norwegian, flipped this negative into a positive. Instead of drunken brawling, he repositioned Fighting Irish to mean gritty, hard working, just folk. In 1924, those Fighting Irish students violently clashed with the anti-Catholic Ku Klux Klan in a weekend of riots that drove the Klan out of South Bend and helped bring an end to its rising power in Indiana at a time when the state’s governor was among its members. When you say “Warriors” or use Native American imagery, are you insulting or celebrating? I believe Warriors and the imagery can be used to celebrate brave fighters. Fighters on the right side of justice. Steven Denson, a professor at Southern Methodist University and member of the Chickasaw nation, has stated that there are acceptable ways to use Native American mascots if it is done in a respectful and tasteful manner. He states: “I believe it is acceptable if used in a way that fosters understanding and increased positive awareness of the Native-American culture. And it must also be done with the support of the Native-American community. There is a way to achieve a partnership that works together to achieve mutually beneficial goals.” Almost since its founding, Mariemont has celebrated and studied Native Americans through the finds at the Madisonville Site. If the history is preserved and celebrated, the Mariemont schools can be proud Warriors.

There really is no justification to keep it. Native Americans are humans, not mascots.

Our family discussed this very issue over the summer as we watched other districts and sports teams change their names . We wondered if Mariemont would do the same. While a “warrior” could mean many things and is represented across cultures, the Native American image seems dated and inappropriate. I was a graduate of a high school whose mascot was the “Aviators” (Dayton area school!) and I was proud then of our name. In college, I wasn’t fond of Miami University’s former “Redskins” mascot and applauded the university’s decision to change it to the “RedHawks.” I think it’s time for Mariemont to do the same. We loved the Terrace Park “Bulldogs” but never felt great about the Warrior mascot. I’m glad to see the high school has a large letter “M” on its facade, and not the Native American logo.

I think the warrior logo is outdated and unnecessary. At Miami, I served on the multicultural concert and lecture series board and I remember hearing from the leader of a tribe about how referring to their group by a skin color and with Warrior/fighting imagery was painful - our name was eventually changed to the RedHawks. My high school Mascot growing up was also the Warriors, and they simply used a big W (██████████) with an arrow through it. Even in the 90s they didn’t use the Native American imagery. It’s high time we updated it ??

In my belief, this is completely useless virtue signaling, which accomplishes nothing. Well, perhaps it makes you feel better about yourself for “doing something”. As a matter of fact, members of Native American tribes were polled about whether the name “Redskins” from the Washington Redskins NFL team was offensive, and the vast majority reported that it was not. But of course, the powers that be simply had to “do something”, so they removed the name. And yet, what does such an act actually do to improve lives? Did the dramatically higher than average rate of alcoholism within Native American communities lower? No. Did rates of literacy in remote tribes increase? No. In reality, it serves no real purpose, it just makes a bunch of folks with elite jobs feel like they’re improving the world. Spare us, and please focus your efforts on things of actual value and meaning. Hey, you asked...

The use of Native American imagery is inappropriate and racist. The school district brand and logo need to be changed as soon as possible. Numerous institutions in both in Metropolitan Cincinnati and nationally have recognized that using Native American imagery in this manner is no longer acceptable. Use the dedication of the new building to make this change for the community's sake.

I am a Mariemont alum ([REDACTED]), and I will always cherish the memories and friendships that I made at MHS. However, I have been embarrassed for some time by our logo, and I firmly believe the time has come to end our use of Native American imagery in this manner. I know that you will receive messages urging you not to give in to "political correctness" or to "overreact," but weighing the benefits vs. harms of keeping this logo is an absolute no-brainer. The American Psychological Association has been urging for the retirement of Native Americans as mascots since 2005 due to a body of literature outlining the negative impacts that racial stereotypes have on indigenous people (source: <https://www.apa.org/pi/oema/resources/indian-mascots>). I believe that this change is long overdue, and I have confidence that the school district will make the right choice.

The current brand and logo is not appropriate. It is offensive. It does not represent our district very well. Thank you so much for putting this to a discussion. I'm really excited for our children to learn about how society evolves and the beauty in progress.

Keep the warrior name, lose the logo. It's offensive and it in no way honors the culture. If you want to honor the culture, teach the accurate history. In addition, the tribes in Ohio did not generally wear a headdress, Plains Indians did, so it is factually and historically incorrect.

I dislike the imagery to the point that I avoid purchasing or sporting any logo merchandise. It is an outdated, insensitive stereotype that adds insult to injury (since Mariemont is built on American Indian land). Why not a historic European warrior? Such an easy fix.

I think it should be retired, I attended Terrace Park/Mariemont ([REDACTED]) and always found the statue in the high school cafeteria off putting. One of my friends who also went to Mariemont and is one of the only people who attended the school with Native American heritage finds it incredibly offensive and that's enough for me. I'd highly encourage adding into the curriculum that Mariemont was originally white only as well. We can educate our students and peers to be better than the past!

After much research, I have come to the conclusion that it is wrong to continue to use native american imagery in any form for Mariemont School District purposes. Although when originally adopted by the district it was not intended to do harm, the continued use of the Mariemont Warrior by our school at this time would demonstrate an intentional harmful act. The research available indicates the use of native american imagery is offensive and causes psychological distress. Use of the current graphic and iconography associated with the Mariemont Warrior is contrary to the fundamental values of our district. Continuing to use the Warrior goes against the best interests of the district -- a district whose stewardship emphasizes the worth of all children. Please see the three articles below for further information: <http://www.ncaa.org/static/champion/where-pride-meets-prejudice/index.php?division=d1> <https://www.apa.org/pi/oema/resources/indian-mascots> <https://news.umich.edu/native-american-mascots-names-chants-more-offensive-than-previously-reported/> I am happy to discuss these issues at any time. thank you, [REDACTED]

I don't think there is anything wrong with the logo or mascot name. It's not degrading, it honorable I think. It's also fitting with the history of the area where Mariemont is located. [REDACTED].

The image does not match with the idea that Mariemont was settled first by Native Americans, which I believe may have been the rationale. The stereotypical image should go. The current image teaches that all Native Americans are the same. We can do better.

I think it is a good time to think about using some other kind of imagery for the Warrior brand and logo, and I strongly encourage the district to stop using the Native American imagery. I am sure there is another image that could evoke the Warrior spirit that isn't unintentionally harmful to Native Americans. Thank you for seeking feedback on this.

Our family is in consensus that change is in order regarding the mascot and logo for Mariemont Schools. We will support that change.

I'd prefer we stop the use of the Native American logo. Warriors as a name is ok, but the logo is not.

I do not think it is appropriate to use the image of a dismembered head as the logo for a school district. I think using native people as a mascot is wrong. A long time ago, native people were not seen as human beings worthy of being treated fairly and with dignity. At that time, teams and schools thought it was ok to use them as mascots. We have hopefully come farther than that and it's time to fix the mistake.

When we moved here a couple of years ago, we were shocked, honestly, to see the school's mascot. While it wasn't enough to prevent us from moving into the district, it definitely raised some concerns, [REDACTED]. It made us nervous about how we would be received here. Would we fit in in the community? Would our children be accepted?, [REDACTED]. While we are not of Native American descent, the use of the mascot suggests a lack of progressive thinking, a tendency towards stereotypes being made in and by the community, and an overarching lack of cultural awareness. That was alarming to us, and illustrative of potential undercurrents of thought that we wanted to be aware of as we entered the school district. The logo functions as a quite unwelcoming icon to many who are new to the community. While it is clear that traditions are incredibly important to Mariemont, it is so important to realize that there are some traditions that require a new lens to recognize the need for change. A big part of the educational process is listening, acknowledging the need for movement forward, and a duty and responsibility of the schools to open minds rather than staying stuck in the past. We need to replace the mascot. We are at the forefront of so much excellence as a district; keeping the outdated image stunts that progress, and is a disservice to the students it serves by propagating an archaic way of thinking.

I think it's important to respect indigenous people's perspective on the issue of appropriation of their images and symbols. I think the mascot should absolutely be changed. I'm uncomfortable allowing my child to wear the school logo in its current rendering. The school logo should be a source of pride, not of shame. It's shameful to have knowledge of how these images are hurtful to indigenous people, yet do nothing to change them.

Thank you for asking for input. I implore you to move away from the district logo and Native American imagery. It is culturally insensitive. Also, the imagery and logo we use do not appear to have anything to do with our area or school district. Formal Native American headdresses that were used by some tribes (not all) were popularized by Western television programs where Native Americans were often depicted using racist stereotypes. My family moved here [REDACTED] from another part of the country. Frankly, we were shocked to find such wide-use of Native American imagery for school logos and sports teams around the region. I'd be thrilled to see us move away from this imagery. Warriors can be represented in many different ways. Also, I've heard talk that we may "phase it out." I say that it's time for us to join present-day and make a bold stance with and for our children- we must take anti-racist actions if we truly want to foster an equal and inclusive environment in our community.

I think that the school should not be using a dated image of a Native American as their mascot. There are plenty of warriors throughout history that could be used in its stead.

I feel that the term Warrior is a positive and complimentary acknowledgement of the general feeling of strength people have toward early Native Americans. The logo to me connotes strength, bravery and determination, all positive characteristics and ones I would love to have people think of when they think of me.

My great grandparents were Cherokee and I am proud Mariemont uses Warrior and anything along with it. Mariemont was formed on an old Indian reservation and it is one of our founding cultures. To rip it away from the true proud Mariemont residents who actually have Native American blood is insulting. It's our history.

I think changing it is the right thing to do

Dear Board Members, It is time to change the Native American Imagery as the Warrior logo. We when know better, we do better! Let's be one of the first districts to make this positive change and lead the way for the others. We can still be the Warriors, just need a different image. A shield perhaps?

I believe the imagery is NOT disrespectful to Native Americans. In fact, i believe it shows reverence to the great history and culture of the Native Americans. In addition, I don't believe the name Warrior is derogatory, but a sign of respect to one who exhibits courage, strength, and spirit. Also, please focus the curriculum on the core subjects of reading, writing, math, history, science, language, and health. As parents, we are more than capable of providing our children with a moral compass and religion to ensure they respect all individuals based on the content of their character and not the color of their skin.

IMHO the use of Native American imagery for our school district's mascot is at best cultural appropriation and at worst a dehumanizing and racist use of a stereotypical image which contributes to "othering" by members of our school district. Having attended ██████████ which was once the "Indians", (now the ██████████), and having been raised in a family that long provided significant financial support to athletics at Miami University, (formerly Redskins, now Redhawks), I have seen this debates play out on multiple occasions over decades. Just as there is no place for racial or gender-based slurs in our community, there should no longer be a place for this mascot. The time for change is well past due. Full Stop. Assuming there are counter arguments that the mascot is not intended to be disparaging or that the imagery is respectful, you cannot say that the mascot is an image treated with dignity and respect or that no offense is intended when you do not consider its impact on those it purports to represent. Students in the football and soccer stands doing the "tomahawk chop" is not a sign of respect or any indication of an understanding of the long history of violence, oppression, and discrimination suffered by Native peoples in North America. Again, if the District is at all serious about inclusivity, civility, diversity, and racial justice as it has recently publicly stated, this should not even be a point of debate. It should simply be changed. I am more than happy to discuss this issue more thoroughly with any members of the BOT or other administration officials should you wish to contact me. I thank you in advance for your thoughtful consideration of my comments.

<https://insights.som.yale.edu/insights/when-the-school-mascot-is-native-american-stereotype>

I think the use of Native American Imagery should be phased out. Since moving to the district [REDACTED] I was shocked that this was still being used. The fact that a majority white population has warm feelings towards the image is not a good reason to keep it. Also school events such as the powwow and the chanting at sporting events is something that should have stopped LONG ago.

Continuing to use indigenous and native American imagery and terminology (pow wow) is appropriation of a culture that has been marginalized and continues to be insensitive and inappropriate. This is a poor example for the students of Mariemont and continues to perpetuate the racial and cultural disparities that exist between groups in our country. The logo should be changed and the appropriation of Native American culture should be stopped immediately.

I can only answer for myself. I do not find MCSD's Native American imagery offensive or disrespectful. (I have Cherokee in my family heritage, however I am not registered with a tribe.) I have no problem keeping the logo as is. Perhaps if someone prefers a non-Native American logo, a choice of two designs could be offered for clothing, signs, etc. The Native American imagery suggests to me a message of strength, perseverance and leadership since the specific logo shows a NA as an individual, respected and trusted to lead a community. I believe this was the intent of who ever originally designed and adopted the image. There are no signs or implications of violence or hate in the current design. It's just a part of history. "Warriors" do not have to be equated with literal "war". Warriors also promote strength, dignity and excellence in their learning, professional and personal goals. Please keep the current imagery as an option from which MCSD members can choose.

The Warrior imagery Mariemont has is not offensive to me. It's a symbol of strength and respect to honor a great people. It would be a travesty to retire the Mariemont Warrior head logo. Anderson H.S is where I went to school [REDACTED] They just recently retired the Redskins and it has divided the community. Getting rid of the Native American imagery is erasing history. Please leave it alone. The majority of Native Americans (90%) are not offended!

Honestly, I think the best people to ask are Native Americans. I would never presume to have anything to add to the conversation more meaningful than their feedback. I am sure such a conversation could be an education for us all.

As a proud Mariemont Warrior Alumna, I see the Warrior head as a symbol of pride and as a symbol of strength and greatness. I also see loyalty within the symbol which is one of the greatest qualities of the students and grads of Mariemont. Growing up in Terrace Park, I moved up to MHS in the 7th grade and was only then able to call myself a "Warrior." From my point of view, I have never thought of the Mariemont Warrior as having anything to do with hate or racism. It is Native American imagery which is used because a lot of people respect warrior chiefs and see them as a symbol of strength, valor and as extremely loyal people. All positive reasons why Mariemont chose the warrior as the symbol of the school. Having graduated from MHS and then coming back to purchase a home in Mariemont to raise my (redacted) children, I can't imagine Mariemont without the Warrior nor imagine not ever getting to see my youngest become a Mariemont Lady Warrior. My close group of friends, (who all also graduated from Mariemont, but whom no longer reside within the district), and I have discussed this topic since it was brought up in May/June of this year. We all seem to agree on what the Mariemont Warrior means to us and having spent so many years as Warriors, removing the warrior, would also seem like removing some of our own identity. Twenty years post graduation, we are all still 'Warriors.' I think that It would be hugely helpful to hear from Native American tribes on whether they as a whole or as individuals, take offense to the reasons why Mariemont chose to use the warrior symbol and why we consider it part of our identity as students, graduates and as members of the village. Open up a dialogue and humbly ask if we can continue to use this symbol. Explain that it is not that we want to take what Native Americans hold dear, nor is it any kind of bigotry - - it's that we, as a school, as graduates and as a community, deeply respect them as a people and see the Warrior as an incredibly proud, brave, and humble symbol of strength. Maybe we should have more Native American History and a High school class or spend a lot more time educating the younger elementary students on the meaning being the warrior symbol and about Native Americans, alone. Not just a quick couple pages of history that is soon forgotten. Let's explain what really happened at the first Thanksgiving too. Teach our children to respect the Warrior for all the reasons it has become part of Mariemont. A symbol that young and formative students can look up to and respect while also striving to be a little more "Warrior like", themselves.

The warrior logo should remain the way it is, as it represents strength. We have entered a cancel culture where anything offends someone. This is dangerous because if you cancel big moments in history, you may repeat them.

I'd like to see the district remove Native American imagery from the school logo.

We should change the logo, however if you are going to keep it we need to implement a program that truly educated on the tribes that have occupied this land

It is my belief that we are honoring the land that Mariemont was built on, by using a distinguished and historically appropriate image of an Indian Chief. As long as we continue to teach our children the deep heritage that our land holds, and continue to uphold the respect of the indigenous people before us, we are doing a favor to the generations of caring, and culturally educated, Mariemont School District students.

I think of the group that it represents thinks it's racist then it is racist. I think we can support non-majority viewpoints by simply changing the logo. If it had potential to hurt someone we should stop the behavior.

Since Native Americans feel that any such logos and school names are offensive, they are offensive. All Mariemont Native American imagery and names should be changed.

On this issue, I would suggest to seek input from people in the community that have Native American heritage. They are in the best position to decide if they are offended by the logo or not. Right now it seems the only voiced being heard are from other groups who taking defense or offense by proxy. This may not be representative of the Native American community and likely to be subjective. However, [REDACTED], if it would help all at to hear what I think about the use of logos in the context of “Fighting Irish” of Notre Dame, I would be happy to comment. On a separate topic, I do find the some of the language used in reference to sport somewhat aggressive eg the phrase “kill the hill”. However I assume that is me not understanding the sporting culture in the US. I hope this helps.

The district should not be using Native American imagery. It is clear that this kind of imagery has a negative impact on the Native American population. Justifying the use by invoking tradition ignores this harm and places more value on trivial ‘tradition’ than on people and is unacceptable from an institution that exists to educate and help shape leaders.

As a Mariemont alumni and 3rd generation resident, I have always been proud to say I am a Mariemont Warrior. A warrior is by definition “a person who shows or has shown great vigor, courage or aggressiveness, in politics or athletics”. Using the Native American image ties into our historic surroundings. I’ve never thought of the image as degrading Native Americans but as respect and pride for our community and history.

The mascot is racist and insensitive. Mariemont uses it without the approval of the Native American communities in the area. Additionally, America has a long and brutal history of slaughtering Native Americans and stealing their land. How are we justifying using them as a team mascot now??

Warriors are proud, strong, brave, and confident and the mascot of a Native American in headdress depicts these character traits in a positive not negative way. We are not focusing on the skin color as in Redskins or any other derogatory aspect. Our family has been very proud to have two Warrior graduates and looking forward to a third. Please don’t change our longstanding mascot. This is going too far and unnecessary. We can certainly manage to teach respect for other races, nationalities, and religions through our day to day thoughts, words, and deeds and don’t need to change our mascot to do this.

Good morning, all. As a graduate of Mariemont ([REDACTED]) and a [REDACTED] resident of Mariemont with 2 children going through the schools, I associate the Warrior image with strength, leadership, courage, and determination! It is also symbolic of our community’s history as a place where Native American’s settled and lived. I do NOT see our logo/brand as discriminatory in any way, shape or form. I personally am disgusted with our nation’s current “cancel culture” on so many traditions and symbols just because they might offend someone. We all have things we don’t agree with/like, but to get rid of everything just because someone’s feelings might be hurt is immature, unrealistic, and leaves no history for our children and future communities to learn about or from! I am against hatred and discrimination in all forms, and that culture needs to change from within each person and community and through the way our country’s leaders choose to act and lead, but to consistently wipe out historic images, brands, and traditions simply because it’s the “sign of the times,” or out of fear of liability or not being considered a “player,” is to me unacceptable and shows our school district as weak, which we are NOT. If we change our Warrior image, I think it shows us as jumping on the “fear bandwagon,” and not standing up as strong “Warriors” for ourselves and our history and culture. If we were “redskins” - or another truly slang term - I may think otherwise. But strong warriors settled this area, and strong warriors continue to learn, grow and lead our community! Here is a great article I came across by MHS graduate Jon Hanley, that says it all: <https://warpathonline.org/13505/news/opinion-warriors-a-people-and-a-community/>. AND, we are not the only school district who feels this “change” path is wrong. Here is a link to a current petition by parents in Loveland: <http://chnng.it/vsR7qWQgCh> I strongly encourage the School Board to really take time to consider this “cancel” trend and steer away from the few argumentative and vocal citizens who do NOT represent the majority. Thank you for the opportunity to voice my opinion.

I think that the district should end the use of a native American as our mascot. We could still continue to be the warriors but use a different icon. We don't really use an actual mascot in school when I went to school so we don't even need a person in the logo or there are other warriors that are not offensive like a knight or vikings or even make an animal as the warrior like an eagle or something.

It would be interesting to know what the origin is for the adoption of the "Warriors" as Mariemont's logo. I am totally on board with the elimination of the name "Warriors" and the logo. As an alternative, since we seem to have an abundance of them in the area, why not adopt "Coyotes"? I am delighted with the news that the gifted Ericka Simmons is being utilized as the Director of Equity and Inclusion. Our district is blessed to have her talents at work in Mariemont Elementary and the lives of our children.

As an adult who grew up in an area of the country that was highly populated by Native Americans and having Native American friends, I believe I have a better pulse than some on the matter. I have had conversations in the past with my Native American friends about similar issues and recently spoke with one friend about the specific issue of the Mariemont Warrior. The consensus was that the images of the Native Americans that are strong and brave are not offensive. The real issue I have heard mentioned many times before is non Native Americans speaking for them. One actually said "if I don't have a problem with it, why should they?" Just something to think about...

Hello I am a graduate of Mariemont. I attended Terrace Park Elementary, Mariemont Junior High And graduated from Mariemont High School in [REDACTED]. I have lived in this community for 40+ years. My husband and his siblings along with his mother and her siblings all graduated from Mariemont. Two of my children are graduates of Mariemont and one is now in high school here. My father and aunt also graduated from Mariemont. My husband's siblings and their children along with my sister and her children all attended or still attend Mariemont. We are a true Warrior family! As a student I will tell you I was nothing but proud (still am) to be called a "Warrior". Not for a second Have I ever thought of this logo or name as anything negative or inappropriate, and I'm saddened to see that this is even a discussion we are having right now. To me a Warrior is someone strong, confident, respected, a leader and the traditional outfit on him is showing respect for this culture. It is in no way showing that he is bad or aggressive. I think it is an honor to be a Warrior and feel respect for the Native American culture because of it. We are the Warriors because the Native Americans settled here. What a great lesson to teach our students about this culture and the life they lived in our very own community. Let's show our children that we will stand by this amazing figure and not bow down to fear. Let's show them we are true Warriors!

There is nothing offensive about the logo. What in the world could possibly be offensive about the image of a native american? In fact, getting rid of it would be offensive as it would be a sign we don't want to be associated with native Americans. The fact this is even in discussion is disgusting and a prime example of how screwed up this country has become.

Strongly in favor of keeping the image! The image is extremely positive and honors the Native Americans - there is no derogatory intent displayed in the image.

Thanks for taking up this important topic. I am proud of Mariemont for being aware of potentially sensitive issues regarding race, ethnicity, and cultural heritage. I have always felt that Mariemont's use of Native American imagery/branding was in good taste. Mariemont is home to ancient Indigenous peoples and I feel the name "Warrior" honors that culture. My mother served for years as the executive director of the [REDACTED] and by way of this connection I have studied at length the history of the Ohio Valley and her native peoples. I would be disappointed if Mariemont wipes clear the connection between the land and its native people. I am GLAD the name is not "Mariemont Indians". To me, the Warrior name honors the courageous spirit and ethic of the original inhabitants of this land. I would hope Mariemont would focus/increase its focus on teaching its students the history of this territory and people. I hope and trust the curriculum paints an honest and accurate picture of how European settlers and early colonialists mistreated and killed the majority of indigenous peoples. We must reach our students the reality of the ills and prejudice that have created the modern day system of reservations and disenfranchisement of this lands native peoples, while at the same time finding ways to honor and life up the history and culture of this specific land. I know so many residents of Mariemont who honor and treasure our connection to the land and native culture. Our Municipal Building includes a new museum to honor this heritage. I'm afraid if the school does away with this connection, overtime Mariemont simply "washes away" the native history. I would recommend consulting with Tribal organizations and indigenous communities in dialogue. A name change does little to educate or change perspective. In fact, it can do the opposite. It can enflame people for the wrong reason which in the end does very little to shift thinking. I would recommend the district find creative and meaningful ways to promote and celebrate native culture and education. Thanks again for taking up this important matter!

I think it shows strength and courage, two positive character traits of Native Americans.

I am not of American Indian descent so take my feedback accordingly as I do think the input of that ethnic group is important in the decision making. I personally see the Mariemont Warriors imagery as a symbol of strength - that's the feeling it exudes for me. However, I've never been discriminated against due to my ethnicity. If the American Indian people feel it's offensive, I think it's appropriate to change it.

Must be changed

I strongly support removing all Native American imagery from Mariemont school brands and logos. I no longer wear/use any of my old apparel or memorabilia from Mariemont because of the Native American imagery. I am ashamed that it is still being used at my alma mater. Particularly given the current makeup of the student body and communities in the Mariemont school district, which is overwhelmingly white, I see no legitimate reason to continue appropriating Native American culture and imagery. I also think that Mariemont should change the name of the traditional "pow wow" before the homecoming football game and stop using the "Tomahawk Chop" chant at sporting events. While I do not think that added context around the use of Native American imagery would be enough to justify its continued use, I would like to add that while I was in Mariemont schools (all my education from K-12), I learned very little if anything about the Native people who once lived on this land. As a member of the cross country team, I ran past the historic Mariemont Native American mounds for years before a teammate, not a teacher, told me of their significance. I believe that Mariemont schools needs to do a much better job teaching students about the experiences of minority communities. Removing all Native American imagery would be a good place to start. Please contact me if you would like to discuss this further. Best, [REDACTED]

It is hard for me to discern when Native American imagery is honorable vs. degrading. I believe the Native American tribes from this region and their policy statements should be the standard and /or invited to be part of this discussion.

I think it's beyond time that we move on. There are many other better choices.

I personally do not mind, I think it honors native Americans. My son has proudly worn similar logos for other teams. However, considering all of the protest and unrest lately, I would rather it be changed before our school is targeted and forced to change it, which I feel strongly WILL happen. Many other schools and teams using the same likeness have changed, setting a precedent. I would prefer our kids not get caught up in and feel the need to fight for a losing battle. They need less distraction and controversy. Now seems a good time with the opening of the new high school.

Yes, please consider changing the Native American logo.

It is gross and makes the school seem outdated, backward and unaware of current social norms. If the school educated all about Native American history relevant to the use of the logo, including expressing remorse for this country's savage butchery of Native Americans, then it could be a bit more like cultural appreciation; however, as it stands it is true cultural appropriation. PS- Please consider having your freeforms intake questionnaire offer "other" as an option when specifying gender identity, instead of having male and female as the only options. Also, in case not in practice already, I would invite teachers to address children as "children" rather than as "boys and girls." I would also look at texts shared during lessons and invite teachers to teach about and remind students of spectrum gender identity rather than perpetuated binary gender identity. Thanks!

I am fine with using the current logo. Mariemont does have a connection to Native American heritage, so to me it makes sense.

The current use of Native American imagery is cultural appropriation. Mariemont School District should move to using more appropriate imagery and terminology to better reflect the population of the school and sports teams. Specifically, I would like to see all imagery and references to Native Americans abolished. Thank you very much for your consideration and for surveying the school district.

I support the continued use of Native American imagery in the school district brand and logo. My arguments in favor of it are not unique; nor are the arguments against its continued use. Any search online will find plenty of articles defending and attacking such use. You will not find any new arguments through community feedback, and I trust that the Board is reading these existing arguments and engaging them in an honest, logical, and unbiased way. What is unique about community feedback, though, is the personal connections the community feels with such imagery. These connections have value; community is built not exclusively on facts, but on relationships. So, these relationships between the school, the community, and the logo do need to be analyzed and understood for us to advance as a district. However, let's not mistake these connections for logical arguments. "My great-grandfather was part Cherokee and was proud of the Warrior logo" is just as inane an argument as "I was embarrassed to wear my Warrior sweatshirt at my elite private east coast university." These emotional responses can reveal what the community feels, but they cannot be mistaken for absolute truths. That said, I strongly urge the Board to think very carefully about whose voices are being heard through their community feedback. Anymore in America, the voices heard are not the vast masses with mild, moderate views. The voices heard are the fringe voices, the angry voices, the sensational voices. The voices heard make broad sweeping statements about America, about others, and about themselves. They do not see nuance; they do not see tolerance; they do not see empathy. They see only a game to win, and the only way to win is to crush the opposing side. This is not to say that an extreme voice cannot be right — its status as "extreme" is more a product of the society than of the truth. But I am increasingly alarmed by this wave of zero-sum thinking, this wave where we bully the other side into submission, rather than inviting them to join us. As it applies here, I have two concerns with the approach of asking for feedback online. First, online feedback is not representative of all of the community. I happened to hear about this through social media. There are many who are not on social media, or are not in the right circles to see such opportunities. If we want to truly gauge what the community feels, we must be responsible in how we engage in feedback. Now, let's recognize my bias here: perhaps the Board has sought community feedback through other avenues that I am unaware of. Perhaps this topic is scheduled to come up during parent-teacher conferences, or through door-to-door interviews, or some other method. If so, I applaud the Board for doing so, and also caution them to recognize the weaknesses of those approaches as well. Second, and more pressing, I am worried who constitutes as a member of the "community". The people I have observed talking about this issue tend not to be a part of the community in any real sense. They do not live in the school district. They do not have children in the district. They do not have parents or siblings in the district. And they have no intentions of coming back to the district, for they routinely denounce it as "too white," "too conservative," "too rich," or "too racist." There are honest critiques of Mariemont, and many of them revolve around some of these points. But in my experience, these people are not interested in being a part of the community. They are interested in "scoring points" for social justice, and then leaving when the game is won. They LARP as civil rights activists from the 60s, and when their roleplay is complete, they retreat to wherever else they deem to be superior. If we are interested in hearing what the community has to say, we need to recognize who truly wishes to be a part of this community, and who merely wants to further their agenda. (As an aside, I have mostly focused my criticism on the Left, as I anticipate most of the feedback will come from them. However, by changing a few nouns and adjectives, you have an equally valid argument against the Right). Now, it is certainly just to turn such criticism around and apply it to me. For this, I will not defend myself. I and my family do not currently live in the school district, but I do intend on moving back once I have children. Beyond that, I will not identify myself, as I fear being identified and attacked, shunned, labeled, etc. Such is the world we currently live in. I only ask, then, that the Board trust the author of this unsigned letter as a genuine member of this community, and consider my opinion and my concerns about the feedback mechanism. In sum, I support the continued use of Native American imagery in the school district brand and logo. If it stays, I will be happy. If it goes, I will be sad. But no matter which way the Board decides, I will always be proud to be a Warrior.

I believe Mariemont Schools should discontinue the use of the Warrior brand and logo since it is a clear insult to Native Americans. A fierce animal such as a panther might be an appropriate replacement.

The Warrior, for us, is one who sacrifices himself for the good of others. His task is to take care of the elderly, the defenseless, those who cannot provide for themselves, and above all the children - the future of humanity. _ Sitting Bull, Hunkpapa Lakota Sioux. People are offended by everything these days without know the true meaning. The meaning of the word warrior to me is strong community, united as one, no one left not afraid to back down, strong to the end. Just because other schools are changing doesn't mean we have to follow suite.

I think it is fine it is not a caricature or derogatory... maybe we should ask a Native American Tribe.

As an immigrant from [REDACTED] where the population is a mix from many races and coming from a mixed families with black, white and many native South American, I personally believe that Is not only an honor to be a wrong symbol of a respectable institution like Mariemont City Schools but also be recognized as a Warrior, because those Natives struggled during the Colonization process (all over America) and it's a way to give those people a Voice. A good idea would be talk to the leadership of Natives around and open a moment or create an event for them to talk about their cultures and history. It could be a Warrior week and all the students could be involved in learning and showing the community why those Native are important to America and why they are the symbol of the Athletes in Mariemont!

The logo should be changed, the name of the yearbook should be changed. The school COULD work with the Greater Cincinnati Native Coalition to learn how to be a partner in history teaching and future partnership/collaboration (<https://gcnativeamericancoalition.com/>) We are, after all, on stolen land and use of an Indian chief in warrior headdress was made illegal for the people from whom the imagery is stolen.

I would like to see the use of Native American imagery stopped in the Mariemont School District. That includes the "PowWow" in addition to the Warrior imagery. Tom Nerl has been pushing a message of "Be Better" for several years now. This is a perfect example to show the students of MCSD what that means in practice.

It seems disrespectful and insensitive to use a cultural group as a mascot - we should be better than that. Take a cue from the Regents of the University of California - they have some great ones (e.g. Anteaters, Banana Slugs, etc.)

Hi there, I'm grateful for the opportunity to share. I think that the Native American imagery should be retired and rebranded. I think that using this imagery is cultural appropriation and insensitive. This decision was made recently by other districts and I think that now is the time for change.

I strongly support retaining Mariemont's current Native American logo (the Warrior), ethos, and other text and imagery. This is not exploitation or "cultural appropriation," it is a sign of respect and an awareness of history (as opposed to attempts to whitewash or erase unpleasant aspects of same). I do not understand how it could be rationally deemed "offensive" to anyone, much less viewed as derogatory. The Warrior is a figure to be admired, respected and emulated. I believe that those opposed to it mean well but are misguided and unaware of the specific local history and tradition behind it.

While I believe the use of “Warriors” as our mascot continues to be appropriate, I would support changing the logo away from Native American imagery. I, personally, am not offended; however, I worry about the perception of the district to others. The Mariemont community was highlighted during the summer as once being a sundown town. Us continuing to use Native American imagery may communicate to those outside of the district that we continue to be an exclusive community not in support of diversity and inclusion. As you embark on this journey, I encourage you to engage the students as well as I believe this offers a learning opportunity regarding how they want their school community to be presented to others as well as a great, personal example of how what is happening around the country and in our streets directly affects them and how they can be a part of the change.

I object to Mariemont students being called “Warriors.” Who are they fighting against? What are they fighting for? Why are we fostering a fighting / competing mentality? Isn’t this perpetuating an “us versus them” or “me versus the other” mentality precisely at a time in our history when we should be cooperating with one another instead of fighting? Thank you.

I support changing the logo. I can’t think that “tradition for tradition’s sake” is a valid argument when our indigenous communities are *even currently* experiencing systemic hardship and oppression. I believe Mariemont should be a voice of progress regarding this; it hurts no one to change our logo, and signals that we are there to support all members of our community.

Hello Board Members, I hope you are all well. I wrote earlier in the summer at length about this issue, but wanted to submit also within the public comment time frame. Please cease the use of the Native American imagery. It is inappropriate, stereotyping, and racist. We can do better than this. On my sons’ very first day of remote learning this year, another student used a racial slur in a class zoom (the n word). I was shocked, angry and disheartened. But, upon reflection, it did remind me of some essential truths - racism is very much present among our students and it’s on all of us in the community, including the school district, to set the best possible example that racism, in forms big and small, is not acceptable here or anywhere. As a whole, all members of our community need to live up to the responsibility. We are not there yet, but changing the inappropriate imagery would be a step in the right direction. Thank you for your consideration.

The warrior image is special to all of us, but I think we’ve moved into a new era. Using any people group or person as a “mascot” is just in bad taste. An animal or inanimate objects is much more appropriate in my opinion.

There is no federally recognized Native American tribe in the State of Ohio. Thus, no “harm”, and nobody who can make an official claim against Mariemont. See discussions of repatriation with the Ohio History Connection in the last 10 years for more info. It is significant to me that the prehistoric groups who lived in Mariemont were most likely slaughtered by the Shawnee in the early 1600’s. Evidence exists that the site was burned to the ground, and the inhabitants killed; not by European Colonists, but by a historic Indian Tribe. As a born in Mariemont resident, I consider the prehistoric people my ancestors, regardless of skin tone. The prehistoric people were the first residents of Mariemont, and the warrior logo was meant to show respect / pay homage / memorialize these people. Any suggestion that the idea was to belittle, put down, culturally appropriate, or otherwise disparage is ludicrous. With all this being said, if the “Chief Headress” logo is considered offensive in the current political climate, then maybe a symbol of the prehistoric people would appease. A Prehistoric Arrowhead symbol has no association with modern tribes, who never used chipped flint arrowheads. Modern Indian Tribes who would claim cultural ownership over prehistoric symbols is an appropriation in my mind. Especially when these modern tribes came to Mariemont with European technology from the East, and literally committed genocide against the prehistoric people.

I believe we should hear from a local tribal group on their stance as it is their image. Additionally, I think change should be embraced and a new logo, while costly, opens the door to new ideas, image, and opportunities.

I do not see it as disrespectful, but I am not Native American. I would suggest you get feedback from any local tribes to get their take and make an ethical decision as opposed to using surveys.

Think we should change it

In general, I do not believe that people should be mascots. With that paradigm in mind, the use of the image of a Native American isn't acceptable. If we truly want to honor the first people here in this area, we should reach out to the office at Miami University that has a connection to the actual tribe that once lived here and get their opinion. Theirs is the only voice that matters.

Thank you for asking for input from the school community. I believe the logo is more inappropriate than ever, given the heightened national discourse on equity, inclusion, appropriation and racial injustice. Mariemont has an important history related to the Native peoples on whose land we now live, and the school system should acknowledge that history, as it does, through the curriculum and perhaps through art and architectural commemoration. Having the Indian warrior image perpetuated as the district logo sends a mixed message to our kids about being ok to cross the line with racial stereotyping simply because we are well-intended, instead of clearly saying that we must always consider the perspective of others, particularly minority groups. Native Americans have said that appropriating this image of Indian warriors is offensive to them. Other schools across the country have discontinued its use long before now; we need to catch up. This is an awesome opportunity for leadership by Mariemont school officials to demonstrate to students and parents that we have the power and the responsibility to change and correct the things within our circles of influence, for a better and more just future for all.

I believe the name Warrior is perfect for Mariemont and reminds us of our region's rich heritage, something we should honor. As far as logo, perhaps consult Professor Ken Tankersley at the University of Cincinnati (numerous archaeological digs in Mariemont and consultant in Mariemont's Native American museum) for his expert opinion.

With being native American i do not find it offensive or anything i think it is fine to have it

Mariemont's Warrior logo is a point of pride for myself and MANY other Mariemont alumni. We would be saddened to see this be replaced with a different logo. What we find most interesting is that there are no native American groups lobbying our district to remove this logo. If this were a huge concern, they would have been done so long before now. We need to be steadfast as a district. Frankly, I would be offended to see it replaced.

Thank you for considering the Native American perspective in regards to our mascot! Is it really derogatory? I do not know, but thank you for investigating the issue! I trust that whatever you conclude will be respectful to everyone!

In full disclosure, Mariemont City Schools has been my part time employer for the past [REDACTED]. I work as the [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] However, I have long thought that the image of the warrior head is culturally insensitive. I have 2 kids, [REDACTED] [REDACTED] my eldest, wrote her own letter expressing her concern. My family has been talking about this issue over the dinner table now since [REDACTED]. While doing the Native American unit, she simply asked me, why is the mascot for Mariemont a Native American, aren't there still tribes today? I did not have a good answer for her, and I still don't. When I was a kid, I was active in sports (not in Mariemont). I was in this swim team, tennis team, softball, track, I even cheered for a year. I put myself in that frame of mind and think, what if my team went up against a school that had even one kid that was Native American? And my school used as a mascot something that she felt to be sacred. As a young athlete, this would have embarrassed me. We would not put up Priests, Rabbis or Imams; I am unclear why we think it is ok to use an Indigenous person's image as a mascot. There are a group of people who have said that this is offensive to them. <https://youtu.be/mR-tbOxlhvE>. I think we should respect what they are asking even if it isn't the most popular opinion. I am a Christian. One of the topics that the Bible talks about in both the Old and New Testament is loving our neighbors. Are we loving our neighbors if we are not listening to them? Are we loving them if we are using their image as a symbol of our strength? As a former athlete, I love the idea of being the Warriors. And I think with a simple redesign of the current mascot without the head dress. I can envision kids painting their faces and hair blue and gold with a band around their heads. We can still be the Warriors... maybe even include a female in this imagery as well, although that might be a whole other BOE meeting.

I am not Native American. Maybe this should be a question for the Hopewell Culture/Native People. Or maybe we should do a fundraiser each year and donate the proceeds to a Native American Cultural Center to show support and honor those who came before us. Native Americans are part of Ft Ancient/ Mariemont's history, so why erase that they even existed. I see the logo as proud and strong.

I support the use of the imagery. We should celebrate the Native American culture in meaningful ways including displaying it on Mariemont apparel and school related items. To think it is racist or demeaning in any way is just nonsense. If anything, we might want to consider making a donation(s) from Mariemont School to local tribes or chapters who support Native American activities. It would be a nice show of support.

The Warrior logo is insensitive. It is time to update!

First of all I applaud you all for taking this seriously and inviting feedback. I am neutral with regards to Native American imagery. However I do NOT object to the use of "Warrior" and see "Warriors" as I do Trojans, Spartans, Invaders. It is to fight when faced with a struggle/contest - be it football or a spelling bee. But if there is collective sentiment to rebrand based on supporting all cultures & traditions, I am in full support. Cannot the word "warrior" be disassociated with Native American imagery? (The origin of the word is old Middle English and was an expression for an old French warrior, which would pre-date native american association of warrior and respective logos.) Perhaps keep "warrior" but scrub all native american imagery from Mariemont? Would that be shown/be seen as respectful and the appropriate action? Good luck!!

I strongly encourage the district NOT to change our current imagery. As a graduate and current parent of 2 Mariemont Warriors, I can say that the Warriors has always been a sense of pride and in no way derogatory.

It is LONG past the time to make a change. But you know that already or else you wouldn't be asking. I doubt that most of my fellow Mariemont community members will agree. I suspect many will site "political correctness", "cancel culture" or "tradition" as reasons to keep the imagery. Those are not reasons to allow a 99% white community to misuse (and thus disrespect) the most sacred symbols and ceremonies of Indigenous cultures. Please do the *right* thing, even if it is unpopular.

I support the continued use of the current imagery.

I understand the importance of traditions; people get comfort and a sense of belonging from being a part of something that so many others have belonged to over a long period of time. But when a tradition is hurtful to real people who have been subjected to real harm, and your tradition perpetuates hurt that impacts those real people, it's time for the tradition to be revised. As for mascots, clearly some people attach a lot of meaning, value and (for some, apparently) self worth to these pictures and words and ideas. But they are a choice that people make. We don't have to beat ourselves up for having supported the Warriors logo/imagery in the past, but we also don't have to defend it just because its a tradition or as a (normal) reaction to feeling judged. Also, regarding mascots, any time you use a human as a mascot, you're inviting the kind of complexities and controversy that is currently happening. Even when it is well intentioned, turning people into cartoons will eventually make the target of the imagery feel less than human. With all of that said, here is what we hope the school district will do: - Remove all human imagery. - If you keep the Warriors name, find a way to represent a warrior without drawing upon imagery that can be traced to any particular current or historical group of people. - Or replace the Warriors name and imagery completely with something that is not tied to the concept of a human being. As alumni of Miami University, having been a student there during the transition from Redskins to Redhawks, we saw the enormous push-back that came from the alumni and heard all of the doomsday talk about how it would ruin the university and its heritage, etc. Today, I'm not so sure that anyone really cares, it's just the new normal. (Whatever blow-back you get from a the angry / vocal crowd will fade, and history will judge your decision to change as the right one.)

I would support efforts moving away from the Native American imagery used in our current logo. I don't have specific thoughts on an alternative, but agree with others that the logo should change.

I don't believe the Warrior logo as our mascot is problematic because it is not being used in a offensive or derogatory manner.

It is time for the Native American logo to go. A change would be good.

Honestly, I think it's fine. It's been our logo for a very long time and I don't think anyone is genuinely bothered by it or has any reason to be bothered. Let's please focus on more important things....

I feel like there is a lot to be said with tradition. Many of us parents are warriors. I can understand the sensitivity existing in the current ideology surrounding political correctness, however, tradition is tradition. What will be next? Shall we cancel Thanksgiving as this was a Native American idea gifted to the pilgrims. Coach Summerville would be appalled.

Leave our logo as is and use as we always have. The Warrior is used as a positive / powerful figure for our school.

I think that the Native American logos that are used in our school district represents a great understanding of history towards the Native American culture and should be preserved and kept as so because it is a tradition of our schools history to be what is called a "Warrior." I am an Alumni of our school district since [REDACTED] and I think it would not be the same to be without this great symbol to our history. I know people that are Native American that find the Warrior symbol to be one of honor and grace and would be highly upset if this was removed and replaced with something else because this symbol gives them great honor to their ancestors and for many more generations to come! Removing this symbol would not only be a disgrace but also a disrespectful measure to the Native American community!!!! We must not let our emotions keep us from honoring those who started this tradition and keep their memory alive and going for many years and decades to come!!!!

I personally can't find a valid reason to change something that was and has been used for years as a symbol of respect. It was not the original intent to show disrespect to the Native Americans and it still doesn't to this day. If you can find a group of three or more Native Americans that have more than a quarter blood that can make a valid stance on how it hurts their culture, then change it. It's not an uproar from their community, it's being made an issue from within. Thank you for my time.

We live on land once occupied by the Shawnee Warriors. Our British and Colonist ancestors brutally killed and forced an entire race out of this land that we now call our home. These Warriors fought multiple times for over a century, however the British and Colonists' militia were too strong. These Warriors were ultimately pushed west of the Mississippi and as far south as Oklahoma. They are a forgotten race and culture. Rather than ignore the horrific acts of our ancestors, we should remember and honor those Warriors who fought with their lives so many years ago. To be a Warrior is a symbol of honor and strength just as the Shawnee tribe was.

IMO, it's time to change the logo and reach out to the community for ideas that make Mariemont more progressive, understanding, and sensitive to all races & cultures. Back in early 90's, my high school was the [REDACTED] Indians and several people in the community disliked and disapproved of the name and logo. During my senior year, we invited a Native American woman to speak to our Senior class about changing our logo and name due to its insensitivity & disrespect towards NA women. She spoke for a while about how their culture was being depicted and treated by communities and schools who painted them as warriors, savages, and thieves. It was eye opening at the time and I agreed with her.

As a student at Mariemont high school I find it quite odd that we have allowed a stereotyping logo to remain in place for as long as it has. On the first day of school we were spoken to about being "globally and culturally competent". I however find it very contradictory for our district to say we are culturally competent and have a mascot that disrespects stereotypes Native Americans. Our district must not allow something as trivial as tradition hold us back in a pursuit to create an environment that is welcoming to everyone. It is crucial for our district's message, reputation, and overall understanding of racial stereotyping that we destroy our school's affiliation with our current mascot. Refusal to change will send a simple but detrimental message to the students of our schools: racial stereotyping is okay and accepted. Unless you wish this lesson to be implanted in the minds of your students and members of the district, change the mascot.

I would like to see the logo changed. Terrace park uses Bulldogs, why not use this as well? It is culturally insensitive to continue to use the warrior chief.

The term cultural appropriation or cultural misappropriation is a hot topic now a days, understandably so. I value the opportunity to listen, learn and self assess. It is good to take stock of how far we have come and how far we still need to go. I am also leery of over correcting in response to the current time and trends. There are many self-appointed guardians of culture asking for all kinds of change. We are Warriors. There is great pride in this name, in this identity. It also refers to a culture. As we assess this decision to use our logo or not, I ask if we are doing harm? Have we hurt anyone by identifying with the Native American culture. Do we disparage the culture? Are we perpetuating a negative stereotype? Are we using artifacts as accessories? Are we donning sacred headdresses that have spiritual and ceremonial significance? If we were Redskins, I would support changing the name. The term Redskin is viewed by many as derogatory. "Redskin" is a slang word the white man used for the Indian. As is the case with slang words, it is infused with attitudes about the thing it names. If we are disparaging a culture by perpetuating a negative stereotype, can we not have standards to how we behave as Warriors. Eliminate the PowWow and call it a bonfire (we did that, and also stopped burning a football player in effigy... I am amazed we did that for as long as we did). If someone is doing a warrior chop, stop that (this is something I have never seen). Can we use the name in pride and perpetuate and honor a culture and heritage vs. dismantling? There are legitimate reasons to step carefully when referring to a culture; when dressing ourselves with the clothing, using culture in arts, artifacts, or ideas of other cultures. I do not consider the idea that appropriating elements from one another's cultures is in itself problematic. Is it appropriate to guard cultures and subcultures in efforts to preserve them? Is this naïve, paternalistic, and counterproductive? Isn't this how culture or creativity work. The exchange of ideas, styles, and traditions is one of the tenets and joys of a modern, multicultural society. I would like to see us move past the finger pointing, and co-exist in a way that's both creatively open and culturally sensitive. If my voice matters, I prefer to be a Warrior, logo and all (respectfully).

[Here is the link to my statement as a Google Doc, since I am unsure if the dialogue box removes formatting and hyperlinks: https://docs.google.com/document/d/1pOpvvA8EHkOkhe0s8NE_HDPMym3uHJ9S6uFqud9qA6k/edit?usp=sharing I know the statement is long, but I figured I might as well be thorough and cite my sources.] To the Mariemont Board of Education: I have already expressed to you my opposition to the Mariemont logo and branding, both this summer and in years past. I will therefore use this space to rebut a few of the most common arguments you may be hearing in favor of keeping the mascot. By keeping the current logo/branding, we are honoring the Native Americans who once lived in this region. If we are to honor the Native Americans who once lived on the land that MCSD currently inhabits, then we must first think about what it means to respect them. To respect a group of people would involve getting to know them, truly listening to what they have to say, and putting their needs as a priority. Mariemont does not do these things with respect to Native Americans. I recall learning very little about any Native Americans during my thirteen years in MCSD. I have a vivid tactile memory of building a wigwam out of clay and popsicle sticks in second grade, and I remember reading the first few chapters of A People's History of the United States by Howard Zinn at the start of APUSH in junior year. Beyond that, I don't remember any other lessons or units about indigenous people; we certainly never discussed the fact that Native Americans are still around today, or that they still face particular challenges due to stolen land, broken treaties, underfunding, environmental degradation, and mental illness. I don't know if I even realized that Native Americans "still existed" until I went away to college. If supporters of the Mariemont logo want to claim that we are "honoring" the Miami tribe, I have to wonder how much they know about said tribe. They probably hold some inaccurate ideas about the Miami people, due to the nonsensical amalgam of indigenous symbols that are used throughout the schools. For instance, Mariemont displays a carved "totem pole" statue inside the high school (outside the auxiliary gym, I hear?) and pulls it outside for football games. Totem poles were used by tribes in the Pacific Northwest; they bear no relation to the Miami or to other tribes who once inhabited the Midwest. Mariemont also uses a man in a "headdress," or war bonnet, in their main logo, and has a long history of allowing a football coach to wear one as he shouts chants at pep rallies. War bonnets were primarily used by tribes on the Great Plains and Canada; again, they have no relationship to the former tribes of Southwest Ohio. Furthermore, receiving a headdress is a great honor that must be earned. The fact that an image of a man in a headdress is thoughtlessly screen-printed on all sorts of Mariemont merchandise is

not compatible with the solemnity, dignity, and honor with which Native Americans regard the earning and wearing of headdresses. These points do not even account for the fact that the Miami are not the only indigenous people who used to live in this district. The Hopewell, Iroquois, and Shawnee all likely inhabited the land that is now Terrace Park. When does the school district ever mention them? The fact that the Miami tribe gets brought up so frequently by defenders of the mascot, while the other tribes from this region never do, suggests that the mascot supporters have not done much research on the people they are claiming to “honor.” The second element of respecting Native Americans involves listening to what they have to say. Fortunately, the Miami Tribe of Oklahoma has been very clear in their opposition to being used as school mascots. We cannot claim to be “honoring” the Miami while knowingly going against their expressly stated wishes. Many mascot supporters seem so ready to list the qualities they associate with the Mariemont mascot that they don’t stop to listen to how the actual people they claim to be honoring feel about it. It is arrogant to assume that we know how to pay tribute to a culture better than the members of that culture themselves. The final element of respecting Native Americans entails making their needs, safety, and success a priority. There are many ways that MCSD could do this, though using them as a mascot is not one of them. We could educate students about the resource extraction policies that have led to dangerously contaminated water sources on Navajo land. We could learn about the bravery shown by the Standing Rock Sioux as they fought to prevent the Dakota Access Pipeline, a project whose plan contained numerous inaccuracies and insufficient safety controls, from being built near their water supply. We could amplify the courage that the Sioux have shown by trying to protect their land, on which Mt. Rushmore is located, from the threat of fires and water pollution that a presidential Independence Day celebration would bring there. We could encourage student service and philanthropy organizations to raise money for Native-led organizations and charities, or to assist in conservation efforts of the historical site at the South 80. We could do away with caricatures and stereotypes, as they have been proven detrimental to the mental health of Native youths, who already have the highest suicide rate out of any youth population in the country. Respecting Native Americans today would entail learning about the challenges they continue to face, and then taking action to address those challenges. Wearing a drawing of a man in a headdress on our sports uniforms does not accomplish that goal. The community push to change the Mariemont logo is nothing more than a “politically correct,” reactionary response to current events. This is merely a “culture wars” flashpoint that will pass once a currently-aggrieved activist minority moves on to their next point of contention. Anyone who has cared to read up about the history of Native mascots in the United States would understand that this conversation has been ongoing for decades. The National Congress of American Indians first began calling for the removal of harmful Indian mascots in 1968. My alma mater, Dartmouth College, did away with using the “Indians” as their mascot in 1974. Miami University ceased using a slur and adopted the “Redhawks” as their mascot in 1997. The American Psychological Association recommended retiring Native mascots in order to protect the mental health of Native American youth back in 2005. Speaking personally, I first emailed MCSD about my opposition to Mariemont’s Native branding in 2013, after a couple years of discussing my discomfort with the mascot with other MHS alumni. The current use of Native American stereotypes by other high schools is not an excuse for Mariemont to do the same. Mariemont is far behind the times on this issue; people with greater convictions and empathy have been making the morally correct choice to discontinue these mascots decades prior to this summer. Furthermore, I want you to understand that when I think about Native Americans and how to reduce the harm and discrimination directed at them, I am thinking about my friends. I think about my college cheerleading captain, ██████████ (Pequot), telling our team about how her teachers at the elementary school just off her reservation refused to call on her in class, no matter how perfect her grades were. I think of the time her younger brother went to a bar near their reservation in Connecticut and was slashed in the face during a racially motivated knife attack. I think about my friend ██████████ (Anishinaabe) describing how her tribal-affiliated high school in Minnesota could not offer a wide range of courses due to lack of funding. I also consider that ██████████ has posted resources about the harm that stereotyping does to the mental health of Native youth as recently as two days ago. I think back a couple months ago to when I posted about the petition to remove Mariemont’s logo on my own social media account, and my old teammate ██████████ (Cherokee) responded to the post with gratitude and support. I am not writing this statement to you because I view “identity politics” as an entertaining pastime, or because I am trying to be preachy and self-righteous; I am merely trying to be a good

friend. It becomes much harder to shrug an issue off when real people whom you love and admire are telling you that it is hurtful. It will cost too much money to change the branding across the district. I fully understand that MCSD must operate within a budget, and that there will always be wish-list items that fall outside of feasible spending. I also recognize that state funding has been reduced due to the pandemic. However, MCSD still has one of the wealthiest non-commercial tax bases in the Cincinnati region. Mariemont finds a way to pay for far more staff, facilities upgrades, experiences, and equipment resources than most other districts are able to afford. MCSD finds a way to pay for its priorities. If not promoting racism is a priority to MCSD leadership, then they will find a way to afford this change. The "Warrior" mascot and Native American motifs are tradition, and tradition is one of the things that make the Mariemont school district so special. It's true that part of the appeal of raising kids in the Mariemont school district is that it is a small community with a strong appreciation for local history and tradition. However, not all traditions are good, and not all history should be deemed sacred and viewed through rose-colored glasses. Many community members now possess an understanding of how the MCSD branding is harmful and incongruous with the district's stated values. As the classic Maya Angelou quote goes, "when you know better, you do better." There is no reason to take pride in having used a racist mascot, simply because we have been doing so for decades. The things that many people love about MCSD will not suddenly disappear with the adoption of a new mascot. Alumni can still be just as proud of their former athletic accomplishments and can still look back fondly at the friendships they made in school. The district's state rankings and academic prestige will not be diminished by changing their insensitive branding. If anything, this is a positive lesson to teach local children. We don't have to keep doing what we've always done simply out of inertia; we have the power to take action and to make our communities kinder and more respectful for all. I hope this statement has been useful to the BOE as you consider whether or not to keep the current logo and branding. I also hope that you don't read my arguments as combative. As I stated earlier, I am simply trying to be a good friend to the Native people in my life, and to encourage the district into taking stances that are more thoughtful, caring, and inclusive. It is hard to read MCSD statements about how "we have made our stance very clear" in opposition to racism and discrimination, when continuing to use the Native imagery so blatantly defies those words. I am humbly asking that your actions start matching your words. Thank you for your time. [REDACTED]

What are the qualities of a warrior? Confidence. Strength. Aggressiveness. Discipline. Being Active. Bravery. These are all traits that I respect and want to represent Mariemont.

I just don't think it's appropriate at point in time to have a Native American symbol as our school logo. It's disrespectful. So many schools have dropped theirs and we should show the same respect and follow suit. We will always be Warriors. But we need to change the image.

The word warrior comes French word Werreier meaning soldier. Move away from the Native a American as this seems to be a dividing issue and move to a Warrior in armor.

To be candid, people need to look at the positive nature of the logo and the name "Warriors" instead of looking at it negatively, which I or anyone in my circle never has. This is a proud Village and the logo/name is part of the proud heritage. Im in my mid 50's and attending school here and then moved away. I moved back here due to the schools and family. Being a Mariemont Warrior and seeing the logo is a symbol of pride in our school system and heritage. I welcome any calls on this and believe me, my neighbors, friends and family agree with me on this. Mariemont has Indian Burial Grounds and that again, is part of the towns heritage. There is no need to have this changed and instead, be proud of what we represent.

A warrior is someone to be celebrated and admired. If any person has a problem with those adjectives they have bigger internal issues. Please do NOT allow a few random crazy people who are clearly NOT Native American to speak for those they do not represent.

Leave it alone

I think the warrior logo represents the strength, grit and resilience of the traditional Native American. I wouldn't think it would be insulting or degrading to Native Americans, but I don't know. It might be good to get feedback from Native Americans regarding their feelings/perceptions about it.

The majority are in favor of the mascot. This is tradition. The warrior is Mariemont. Do not let the few get their way.

Thank you for asking for my opinion on this. I think Mariemont's use of Warrior in its logo and imagery and mascot name is an important factor to consider, particularly in light of broader discussions happening related to race, equity, and diversity. I tried to educate myself on this topic to better understand the issue. It seems like the best next step is to ask the local Native American community so that they have a voice in this matter, in addition to the school community. It appears that the use of a Warrior is not overtly offensive (compared to a Redskin, for example). However, using Native American imagery in a predominantly non-Native American and mostly white school district without comprehensive efforts to educate the student body on Native American culture, why it is relevant to this community and why the school chooses to continue using this imagery would concern me that the school district is stereotyping and simplifying a diverse culture instead of embracing it. (My oldest is a [REDACTED] so I'm not familiar with any efforts throughout the school on what may already be done to educate kids on Native American culture. From my recent experience, the kindergarten curriculum greatly over-simplified and stereotyped holidays and cultures while completely mis-educating students on some of them, like Kwanzaa.) Thank you for considering this important topic!

Stand up for the Warrior imagery and everything it represents in selecting a school brand... Honor, respect, regional cultures and the very soil that you just churned. If I had to guess, Indians aren't calling your school for this fight. Quite the submission to the same 2 moms who have misguided passion for things they do not comprehend. Make a stand for once or be prepared to change the very name of Mariemont and the majority of its surrounding streets.

I have no problem AT ALL with our use of Native American imagery at MHS. As an MHS alum, I was honored and proud that we were and are called "Warriors." In my eyes, the re-branding of our logo a few years ago was very tastefully done, showing a strong, stoic Chief that represents Mariemont well for the Native American history surrounding this area of Ohio.

Good Morning, Thank you for requesting feedback on this matter. As a MHS parent with a [REDACTED] playing Football I would very much like to display school pride. That pride is lessened by knowing that the Mariemont Logo is a caricature of a Native American that is perceived as racist. One can argue all day about whether it is actually racist or not but the fact is that it is certainly perceived as such. We would not be having this discussion if that were not the case. Our logo is a marketing tool for the district. It should be a visual shorthand representation of our district. Given that the perception of the logo is racist that is a connotation that we just do not need. I strongly urge the board to initiate a process to design a replacement logo. Thank you, [REDACTED]

Board - I believe we should keep the current Native American imagery for our brand and logo. Unlike the Winton Woods imagery, which was a bit of a cartoonish image and not very flattering of a Native American “warrior”, I feel our logo represents a strong, fearless and fierce warrior ready to take on the challenges of the World. This is a message that our students should take with them as they move on from Mariemont. The area we live in clearly has had a long history of Native American people living here for thousands of years. I see the Mariemont Warrior brand as honoring and respecting this time in our local history. I am a 50 year old white male and maybe out of touch with society but I just can’t connect the dots on how our current image of a Native American “Warrior” (unlike the Winton Woods version) is condescending or filled with anything but respect and honor for the Native American peoples history of our river valley. Honoring history is not a bad thing. As a Warrior Alum, member of the Athletic HOF, and with 3 kids as 3rd Generation Warriors we would be extremely disappointed if a the logo was removed and changed. Please keep the current logo. - [REDACTED]

I have lived in the Mariemont School District for the past 50+ years and I see absolutely nothing wrong with Native American imagery. We need to stop trying to erase our cultural heritage. This area was inhabited by Native Americans who were warriors as well as farmers. Stop trying to erase history. Even Native Americans do not find The term warriors offensive. It would be different if you were using a derogatory term such as Redskins. Warriors are strong individuals. Even our military uses the term Wounded Warriors! We need to concentrate on more important issues.

I feel the Warrior brand and logo should continue to represent MHS. As an alumni [REDACTED] and now father on students attending MHS, the Warrior provides a sense of pride. When one searches the definition of Warrior it is hard to find anything derogatory (ex. a person who shows or has shown great vigor, courage, or aggressiveness, as in politics or athletics.). Furthermore; Warrior is associated with many civilizations, the fact that MHS uses the current logo of a Native American reaches back to the history of where we live. I see know better way to connect/teach the past of our neighborhood than providing respect to the original people who roamed where our kids roam.

The Warrior is a reminder of who occupied this country before us. By keeping the mascot we are celebrating the qualities a Warrior possesses; strength, confidence and bravery.

the indian head and the term “Warrior” is not insulting to any group of people. It’s complimentary actually.

I strongly believe the district should eliminate the current logo. The nicest thing to say about it is that it is outdated. But, to put it in stronger terms, we need to collectively recognize that the “Indian head” logo perpetuates an ugly, racist stereotype of Native Americans, and it’s a very poor way to represent our Mariemont School District. Why not keep Warriors as our mascot but immediately stop using the “Indian head?” It’s easy, other school districts in the Cincinnati area have already done the exact same thing, and most importantly it’s *the right thing to do.* I truly feel embarrassed by this logo and I never wear Mariemont spirit wear that includes it. The blue block M is a much better logo to use! Please get rid of the “Indian head,” and while you’re at it, please remove the cigar store Indian “totem pole” from inside the high school. I don’t want my kids seeing that every day and thinking it’s perfectly acceptable. It’s not; it’s a racist object. I would love to help facilitate the district’s donation of the high school’s “cigar store Indian” to Ferris State University’s Museum of Racist Memorabilia, because that is where it belongs. Here is the website: <https://www.ferris.edu/jimcrow/>. Thank you very much for considering these important issues.

It's my understanding that using the image and word "Warrior" as it relates to Native Americans, in the context of sports teams is offensive to Native Americans. I also think the Fort Ancient group of Native Americans are part of our culture and curriculum in Mariemont. I would like to hear from Native American groups on how they feel about the use of this imagery.

I fail to understand how the warrior name or logo is either culturally or racially insensitive. Rather than following the herd of organizations with this latest trend, Mariemont City Schools should become a leader and preserve its heritage, as well as honor Native Americans, by keeping the warrior name and logo.

We need to be sensitive to how the imagery is used. We don't really have a mascot, paint, dress, cheer or otherwise use the image other than as a logo. I would not want to be offensive with it but like the idea that we acknowledge that other people lived here before we did and that it is a great place.

The use of the Indian head as the warrior logo is extremely problematic, very outdated, troublingly racialized, and a profound embarrassment. As many other schools and teams have finally realized, there is no justification possible for the continued use of such logos and mascots. It is not meant to honor and it is not meant to celebrate; it is a caricature that needs to be replaced. There is no reference to heritage or history, either in the community of the school, that can justify the use of this logo. Furthermore the continued use of the logo (along with 'warpath', the 'powwow' and other racialized names and references) conflict directly with the school district's desire to "do the work" to eliminate hate and exclusion. Study after study has confirmed that the use of Native American imagery creates a psychology and culture of racialized stereotypes.

"In 2005, the American Psychological Association called for the immediate retirement of all American Indian mascots, symbols, images and personalities by schools, colleges, universities, athletic teams and organizations. APA's position is based on a growing body of social science literature that shows the harmful effects of racial stereotyping and inaccurate racial portrayals, including the particularly harmful effects of American Indian sports mascots on the social identity development and self-esteem of American Indian young people." 15 years later... How are we still having the conversation about using imagery that clearly makes individuals feel lesser than and perpetuates racism and stereotyping. We purchased a home in Mariemont because of the amazing school district and have found the neighborhood to be welcoming and truly a special place. With young children, we look forward to being a part of the district for a long time. We also look forward to having the Board of Education make the right, very delayed, decision to remove the Native American imagery. Academics and graduation rates will not be impacted by removing imagery but maybe, just maybe, students will grow up and be proud to be part of a district who made the right decision when it counted. It would be simple to just use the M branding - be Bold, be Better. Isn't it a matter of course, to extend empathy, kindness, and grace... to our Native American neighbors? <https://www.apa.org/pi/oema/resources/indian-mascots>

Hi Mariemont BOE, My name is [REDACTED] and I am a MHS [REDACTED] graduate. I was born and raised in Mariemont, and my parents still live in the village. I am urging you to please remove the Native American caricature from the Mariemont logo. I could write for a very long time about why I believe (and have been told by indigenous peoples) that this logo is very damaging. For one, this one dimensional view of indigenous people as warriors was a narrative that was used to justify their slaughter. But I don't feel I need to write this justification, because this question has been answered by indigenous peoples. They have asked for the removal of these mascots since the 1960s. Specifically, the Miami tribe, who once lived in our Ohio area, has even issued a resolution condemning these mascots: <https://www.miamination.com/sites/default/files/pdfs/MTO-Resolution-20-31-Mascot-Position.pdf>. I understand that there will be resistance to this change in the community. I understand that many people in the community believe the mascot honors the indigenous peoples that once lived on the land our community sits on. However, clearly indigenous people do not feel honored. I for a long time did not realize why this mascot was offensive and it was a very uncomfortable and shameful experience to realize and sit with the harm I perpetuated. We need to consider the impact of our actions over the intention. I would be happy with reverting back to our old M logo as the official logo or any logo that is not offensive to marginalized people. Our logo and mascot send a message about our community's values and who we welcome; let's send a more inclusive message. With love for Mariemont, [REDACTED]

Native Americans are just that.... Americans. They, like all Americans carry a pride of their legacy and the footprint they have left in our nation's history. Funny thing, history: you cannot change it but you can preserve it, and if you preserve it you just might learn from it. We are a nation of immigrants. Most arrived here for the opportunity that the "New World" offered. Our earliest settlers met with opposition, and later generosity from Native Americans. The ensuing decades were marked by conflict and compromise and by the dawn of the American Revolution, our country began to take shape. Across the globe, societies have struggled over land, raw materials, and geographical freedoms since the dawn of time. The Native American place in history is one of noble, steadfast commitment to their way of life. These various tribes that were the first inhabitants of our home, embody the true spirit of a proud and earnest society. Faced with diminishing lands and a changing way of life, they fought to preserve their heritage. The pages of history tell tales of savagery and if seen by itself could be interpreted as a dark time in America. However I see it as a transition between eras. Our first settlers were made better by the wisdom and craft they learned from Native Americans. In turn, Native Americans learned to transition into the inevitable new way of life that would come to be. "Warrior". Have we not proven that this noun isn't so much a person but a place....a place one goes to when the opposition calls for it? Warriors fight against social injustice. Warriors take up arms and defend freedom when it is in peril. Warriors fight their best fight against Cancer, ALS, COVID and other scientific foes. Simply put: Warriors stand for something. Their ferocity exists if nothing else to inspire others to take up the fight as well. The proud, noble, and steadfast image of a Native American figure should portray the unflappable courage to all as it does to me. I can't undo the negative transgressions of the generations that have come before me. All I can do is assimilate to the best of their ideals and encourage the same in the generations to follow. Keep and preserve this historical imagery! Let it speak to the Warrior spirit to which we can all rise to.

I consider it slightly ignorant, as we know this town was a sundown town.. native Americans today suffer just as they have since the beginning of time. We never had any truly native students, there is absolutely no reason I see to use a mascot such as an Indian and encouraging young Whore students to culturally appropriate the attire of natives is not an image I want Mariemont to be known for, as I come from the school myself. It has always been terribly embarrassing. My family is also part native American on my fathers side. It's never been looked highly on for a choice of mascot.

I think the school's mascot should be changed. It is clearly outdated and represents an insulting level of tokenism, particularly when you consider the relative lack of education about Native American people in Mariemont's curriculum. As an example of how this mascot puts Mariemont out of step with the rest of the country, after graduating from MHS I attended a college with a sizable Native American student population. The insensitive nature of the logo was immediately apparent to me in this environment, especially after speaking with some of my Native American classmates, and I quickly stopped wearing any clothing with the Mariemont logo on it out of respect for my Native peers. The Miami tribe, on whose land MHS currently sits, has publicly stated that they oppose the use of Native Americans as school mascots, and the American Psychological Association has also made recommendations to cease the use of these mascots, as research has shown they can have negative mental health consequences for Native American youth. If Mariemont truly values diversity and wants to prepare students to be global citizens, then the administration should lead by example and change the warrior mascot.

