

SPRING 2023

CONNECTIONS

CINCINNATI COUNTRY DAY SCHOOL

KNOWN. NURTURED. INSPIRED.

Alumni ASSOCIATION

HOMECOMING AND REUNION WEEKEND 2023

Alumni Reception

Friday, September 22
5:30 p.m.
Wright Family Tennis Complex

All alumni gather for a special evening featuring dinner by the bite and drinks.

Homecoming Football Game

Friday, September 22
7:00 p.m.

Alumni Breakfast

Saturday, September 23
10:30 a.m.
Carey Family Amphitheater

Alumni breakfast honoring the class of 1973 and 50+ year alumni. All alumni are welcome; includes presentation of the Virtue in Action and Distinguished Alumni awards.

Classes ending in ’3 and ’8 will celebrate their reunions this year.
Please contact Peter Fossett ’80, associate director of alumni and legacy giving, at 513.979.0283 or fossettp@countryday.net with any questions.

Dear Members of the Country Day Community,

As you will see from this edition of Connections, 2022-23 was a year of reflecting on our past and getting excited about our future.

In January, we lost a CCDS legend in John Raushenbush. Our 8th headmaster, John led Country Day through a pivotal period from the early days of coed Upper School classes to the doorstep of a technological revolution in the early 1990s. John left a profound legacy at CCDS that is still felt to this day. We are pleased to share some remembrances from colleagues and alumni in this magazine.

This year we also bade farewell to three other legends: Merle Black, Beth Langenbahn, and Ashley Ward, who retired in June. Their combined service of over 80 years has touched the lives of countless students, including mine. Among the articles celebrating these three educators is a personal tribute to Merle Black for changing my life.

But the best part of Country Day is that we are always creating new traditions and cultivating the next generation of life-changing educators. Within this magazine you will find much to celebrate about the present and future of CCDS:

- Addison Heimann ’24, a second-generation Country Day student, personally led an initiative to bring noted speaker Daryl Davis to campus. Addison’s leadership led to an impactful discussion on the power of dialogue, as exemplified by Mr. Davis’s work to convince dozens of Ku Klux Klan members to leave the group. Mr. Davis encouraged the students to “cancel our cancel culture” and “walk across the cafeteria” to start new dialogues, even when they are uncomfortable. I cannot remember the last time I heard such an enthusiastic response from our students and teachers.
- Our Middle School and Upper School spring choir concert, “New Traditions,” was a rousing success, generating unprecedented buzz around our vocal department under the exciting new leadership of choir teacher Greg Miller. We cannot wait to see what comes next!
- CCDX Week 4.0 was bigger and better than ever, including trips to Costa Rica, Spain, and Los Angeles, in addition to local programs like a Shark Tank entrepreneurship course hosted by a consulting firm in Over-the-Rhine, an affordable housing project visiting City Hall and major developers, and an outdoor camping and hiking expedition to Red River Gorge.
- Incredible momentum is building in the Pre-Primary program, where the play- and project-based learning approach has led to record enrollment and historically large waiting lists.

Many of these successes are just previews of coming attractions. As our strategic planning process reaches its conclusion, we are eager to deliver more hands-on experiential learning opportunities, innovate new ways of recruiting and rewarding life-changing teachers, and enhance our students’ authentic connections to the natural world and each other. We are excited to roll out this new plan to the community in the fall.

Thank you for all you do to make Country Day’s future as inspiring as its past.

Sincerely,



Rob Zimmerman ’98
Head of School



SOUND BITES



"If we are selected, I hope the InvenTeam students feel empowered as role models for our younger students and gain confidence that their ideas and their work can change the world. An opportunity like this highlights the fact that everyone can be an inventor, that we make better things when all of us are represented."

– **Jamie Back**, STEAM teacher and Makerspace coordinator, talking about the impact the Lemelson-MIT could have on Country Day students (pg. 9)

"I BELIEVE THE COLLEGE COUNSELING OFFICE TRULY INSPIRED ME TO GO FOR MY DREAM SCHOOL."

– **Jade Abu Bakr '22** talking about how she matriculated to Hampton University (pg. 13)

"I felt compelled, regardless of the outcome, to go down to the mat to watch in those vulnerable moments and cheer him on. It was a very special moment to see Justin [Faulhaber '28] succeed, knowing how much work it takes for wrestlers to compete."

- **Luc Bonomo '23** reflecting on importance of athletes supporting one another (pg. 25)



"Students here are learning how to be contributing and respectful community members. They learn to negotiate, take turns, plan, work together, be leaders, solve problems, and resolve conflicts. Children need to develop these skills before diving into deep academic learning in their later years."

– **Kathi Bagnoli**, director of pre-primary, discussing social-emotional learning that occurs in our Pre-Primary program (pg. 31)

"In a warm and ingenious manner, he [Merle Black] sets high standards and pushes you to be better. He expects you to be a lifelong learner and holds you to that expectation. And he sees a life filled with books as the epitome of a life well lived. That example was powerful – life-changing, even – for me and generations of Country Day students."

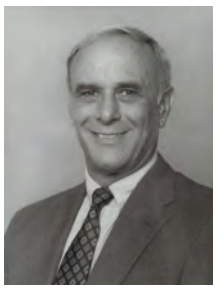
– Head of School **Rob Zimmerman '98** (pg. 36)

"In the most profound sense, my education at Country Day and thereafter created opportunities, partially through academics but mostly through experiential learning – by that I mean learning through unpredictable circumstances and relationships that open your eyes and shape your character and career."

– **Phil Geier '66**, one of our country's preeminent leaders in international education

"The biggest takeaway for me was the volunteering piece. Volunteering is something I really enjoy because it makes me feel good and I can help others; it's so good for the soul."

- **Levi Homan '24**, who was awarded three Congressional Awards (pg.38)



"JOHN ONCE SHARED THAT ALTHOUGH HE WAS CONFIDENT IN THE IMPACT HE HAD ON THE LIVES AND THOUGHT PROCESSES OF A GREAT MANY STUDENTS, THAT HE KEPT UP LONG-TERM WITH ONLY ABOUT A DOZEN OF THEM. JOHN WOULD BE HAPPY TO KNOW THAT PERHAPS THIS TRIBUTE IN HIS MEMORY INSPIRED SOMEONE TO REACH OUT TO A FORMER TEACHER TO SHARE HOW MUCH THAT TEACHER MEANT TO THEIR LIFE."

- **Reade Fahs '78** reflecting on the life and legacy of John Rauschenbush, former head of school, who died on January 21 (pg. 66)

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CINCINNATI COUNTRY DAY SCHOOL

ON THE COVER:
Arts performances abounded on our campus all year long! From the spectular Upper School production of *Pride and Prejudice* in the fall, to the Lower School recitals and shows in the spring, we joyfully danced, played, and sang our way through the school year. Pictured on the cover, 2nd and 3rd graders dazzled on stage with their colorful performances of "Cover Me In Sunshine" and "Rainbow."

Connections is published by Cincinnati Country Day School. Photos are contributed by alumni, students, parents, faculty, and staff. If you have questions or believe any information to be incorrect, please contact Josephine McKenrick at (513) 979-0215 or mckenricj@countryday.net.

Parents of graduates: If you have been receiving CCDS mail for your graduate at your home address and they have a permanent mailing address elsewhere, please let us know how to best reach them. Please send updated information, class notes, or **address changes** to addresschanges@CountryDay.net or complete the form on our website at www.CountryDay.net/alumni/alumni-news.

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Tricia [Knowles] Brown '98 is the gallery leader at RH Cincinnati, an interior design firm that places the client in the center of the design experience to bring their vision to life. Tricia is passionate about the role design plays in how you live your best life. Prior to joining RH, Tricia was the Burberry private client director and the luxury & design manager for Nordstrom in Cincinnati, Nashville, and Chicago.

Tricia has a bachelor's degree in psychology from the University of Denver. Her passion for design and understanding of human psychology proved to be an asset when she joined RH. At RH, the connection between environment and behavior is central to the success of a design. Tricia works on large-scale fully layered design projects from one-room to whole-home installations across the country and in Puerto Rico.

Tricia has been active in the Country Day community since graduating. She lives in Indian Hill with her husband Marc and two sons Jack '35, who is entering first grade, and Luke '41.



Sarah Habib '07 has worked with tens of thousands of students as CEO at The Calm Caterpillar and as founder of the non-profit organization Mission2Move. Sarah is passionate about social-emotional learning and has developed a set of tools and curriculum for Pre-K through fourth-grade students that is implemented in over 40 schools. Her program, which teaches mindfulness and emotional regulation, has positively impacted countless children and families. At Mission2Move, Sarah focuses on empowering students to combat chronic stress through movement and meditation. She has a bachelor's degree in American studies from Tufts University.

Sarah and her husband Eric live in Indian Hill with their daughter Elliott '39 and are grateful to be a part of the CCDS community.



Steve Lazarus '81 is a principal in the law firm of Lazarus & Lewis, LLC. His practice focuses on representing public employees and their unions. For over 30 years, Steve has advocated for public employee unions in hundreds of labor arbitrations through the negotiation impasse procedure, disciplinary appeals, and contract interpretation. He has a bachelor's degree from Trinity College and earned his J.D. at the University of Cincinnati College of Law.

Steve and his wife Julie live in Hyde Park with their daughter Gertrude '27. Their children, Allison '10, Margaret '13, and Sam '22, also attended Country Day.



Alexandra Ollinger is a senior wealth manager and shareholder at Truepoint Wealth Counsel. She joined the firm in 2004 and today specializes in multi-generational wealth planning, with an emphasis on philanthropy, human capital development, and family communication.

Alexandra grew up in Dayton, Ohio, where her family has lived for generations and operated Huffy Bicycles. She attended Oakwood High School and went on to earn a bachelor's degree in art history from the University of the South, Sewanee. After college, she worked in Atlanta, Georgia at AnswerThink, a global marketing and technology firm. Alexandra also holds an MBA from the Tuck School of Business at Dartmouth University.

Alexandra is actively engaged in the community, serving as a trustee of Cincinnati Ballet, as treasurer of the Cincinnati Town and Country Garden Club, and as a sustaining member of the Junior League of Cincinnati. Previously, she served as treasurer of Dayton History and as finance chair of Cincinnati Ballet.

In her free time, Alexandra enjoys practicing yoga, walking, and spending summers in Harbor Springs, Michigan. Alexandra lives in Hyde Park with her husband Cole and their two children, William '28 and Audrey '30. The Ollinger family has been a part of the CCDS community since 2021.

WELCOME
TO OUR NEW TRUSTEES

The school's board of trustees is a group committed to the success and long-term viability of the school. They bring a wealth of talent and experience and give freely of their time and resources. Welcome to our new board members!

CountryDate 2023



On March 4, the Country Day community gathered at the Little Miami Brewing Company Event Center for our annual gala, CountryDate. Daphne Jurgensen (wife of Jason Jurgensen '95, and parent of Chloe '29, Claire '29, and JR '30) chaired a casino-themed evening celebrating friendship and community. With the chatter and laughter of more than 250 guests, dancing, fun at the gaming tables, s'mores around the firepits, and more, it was an incredible party for us all to enjoy! In addition to those present, many more participated through sponsorships and an online auction of Country Day Classics. This year, event sponsorship was the most significant fundraising component of CountryDate with a great show of support from parents, alumni, grandparents, and local businesses. Combined with Jackpot donations, monies raised from games of chance, and CountryDay Classics, the event raised over $120,000 for the school's Country Day Fund, taking us a step closer to our target of $1.0 million in annual fundraising for the school year. On behalf of the students and faculty, our heartfelt appreciation to all who contributed to the evening's success.

ENGINEERING
THE BEST LEARNING EXPERIENCES

Lauren Corrigan, Upper School math and computer science teacher (as well as assistant varsity cross country and track coach), just wrapped up her fourth year of teaching at Cincinnati Country Day School. Read below to find out what she likes to do outside of work (spoiler alert: it's not math), what she likes about working at Country Day, and what her favorite thing to teach is (spoiler alert: it is math).

I was working as a civil engineer in Seattle, Washington...and was looking for a way to get back into teaching, having done it previously at the K12 and university levels, and move closer to home as I am originally from Columbus, Ohio. I stumbled across the Country Day job posting for an Upper School mathematics teacher and decided to apply. I had only ever taught computer science and engineering courses so I thought getting an interview would be unlikely. I feel incredibly fortunate that the faculty and administration here were willing to give me a chance!

My favorite thing about this community is... the constant support I see and receive every day. The math department is a close-knit group, and I feel like I can count





on any one of them to help me if needed, whether it's covering a class or brainstorming new ways to teach a specific concept. But that support extends even beyond a single department. All the faculty and staff here are interested in collaborating and are willing to jump in to help in a pinch. It is truly remarkable. And that spirit extends to our students. I am amazed by the student turnout I see at sporting events and theater performances. Everyone is genuinely invested in seeing each other succeed.

My alarm clock and a strong cup of coffee... get me out of bed every day but I enjoy coming to work because I find my job incredibly fulfilling. I loved what I did as an engineer, but it still always felt like a job. Teaching is something I am passionate about; it feels more like a calling. And while, like any job, there are good days and bad days, teaching is an incredibly rewarding experience. As a teacher, I feel like I have the opportunity to positively influence someone's life each and every day, and that makes the 6:00 a.m. alarm clock more than bearable.

Contrary to what some of my students may think...I don't solve math problems or code for fun during my free time. I'm an avid reader; I probably average a couple of books a month and will regularly finish a book in a single weekend, sacrificing sleep in order to do so. I also enjoy doing anything that will get me outside, especially when the weather is nice. I enjoy hiking, cycling, and running. I recently ended a running streak during which I ran at least one mile a day for 111 days. The streak helped me get out and run even in the winter when running conditions are less than ideal.

I love teaching...calculus. I enjoy the subject itself, but it is also the first time that students get to see all the math they have learned over the previous years really come together. Suddenly it is clear why they had to learn the unit circle or understand asymptotes. While it is satisfying for students to finally see how all the pieces of their math curriculum fit together, it is also what makes calculus so difficult. On top of learning new material, students are also expected to recall all the math they have learned over the years. But I think the challenge is part of what makes calculus so fun…and yes, I recognize only a math teacher would say calculus is "fun." I enjoy the intellectual challenge of calculus and I also like trying to figure out the best way to teach the material. I collaborate regularly with the other calculus teacher, Greg Faulhaber, to try and come up with new approaches that we can apply in the classroom to help students better understand the material. The level of difficulty surrounding the subject is part of what makes it so rewarding to teach.



A WEEK IN THE LIFE
OF MAX SUN '27

Country Day is known for having a challenging and wide-ranging curriculum to help students grow into well-rounded citizens who are empowered to succeed now and in the next phase of their lives. Students learn to thrive in the classroom as well as outside of it. A prime example of a student embracing and thriving in the rigors of being a Country Day student is 8th grader Max Sun. Max is as busy as a Country Day student can be.

To kick off the week on Monday morning, he took a quiz in English class (but not before sharpening his pencil). He then wandered over to the Scholastic Book Fair (but decided not to buy anything). In science class (his favorite subject), he participated in a lesson on electrolysis. He then attended his geometry class where he solved problems using the DeltaMath program.

After lunch and recess, when he enjoys playing table tennis against his classmates, he made his way to history class to begin a unit about the civil rights movement. Max's next stop was his world language class where he spent the class reading Mandarin. And his last stop of the school day was tech theater, his arts elective class, where he helped to build and construct the set for the eighth-grade musical. "It feels like we are a little behind schedule, but I'm pretty sure we can catch up."

And that was just one school day.

In the classroom throughout the rest of the week, Max learns how to properly source credible and reliable sources for his research project on the history of chess, analyzes quotes from Martin Luther King, Jr. and other civil rights movements leaders, participates in student-led discussions in his English class, and learns about covalent bonds. "I find math and science to be very interesting because they have so much to do with each other. The teachers teach the subjects in a very engaging and active style that makes it fun to learn."

Along with excelling in his academics, Max is also on the chess, tennis, and cross-country teams. He is a spelling bee champion, participates in Mathcounts (a competition that includes a series of challenging math problems that need to be solved in a certain amount of time), and was a member of the stock club team that just finished in 2nd place in Ohio in a 10-week competition to maximize returns on $100,000 of imaginary money invested in the stock market. He also won the Middle School table tennis tournament last fall. And in his spare time, Max enjoys playing tennis at a local club, competing in online chess tournaments, and being a regular kid.

One might begin to wonder where Max finds the time! But Max says that staying busy is something he enjoys. "There's a healthy amount of stress during the week with all the activities, but it doesn't make me feel like I'm in a tough situation or that I can't get it all done; it pushes me forward."



A ROUND OF DID YOU KNOW?

GREG MILLER



Greg Miller has just wrapped up his first year at Country Day (and first year teaching, period!) as the director of choirs. He leads choir classes for grades 5-12, provides vocal direction for the eighth-grade musical and Upper School musical, and serves as the fifth-grade advisor. Greg has been a welcome addition to the faculty and staff and has embraced the Country Day community (and vice versa!).

DID YOU KNOW...a current Country Day parent urged him to apply?
When I finished my master's degree in 2022, I immediately began looking for teaching jobs in the area. As you can imagine, there are not many in this line of work! Dr. Carlton Monroe [board of trustees member and Country Day parent], whom I met through my professional singing career, called me and recommended that I apply. During my interview, I saw how wonderful the community was and that the program had so much potential. I did not hesitate to accept the job offer.

DID YOU KNOW...his students might just love his classes as much as he does?
I'm already so proud of the strong foundation the students have set for the program this year. I am still on Cloud 9 because of how well they performed at the end-of-the-year concert. I hear Middle School students, who at the beginning of the year were more tentative about singing and nervous about performing, talk about how much they now enjoy singing. There were a few Upper School classes I had to miss and instead of choosing a study hall, the kids created their own lesson plan and practiced while I was gone! How awesome is that?

My biggest goal is to give kids the tools so they can sing for the rest of their lives. That means giving them the musical techniques to do that, such as reading music, knowing their voices, and teaching them how to analyze the text of the song and understand what it means. It is also important to give students the opportunity to forge meaningful connections through music. When I think back to my own choir experience, I remember the people I performed with more than I remember the music we sang.

DID YOU KNOW...it's his passion for singing that gets him out of bed in the morning?
I love the opportunity to share what I love with the kids – nerding out about how the voice works and sharing music with them that they normally might not have the chance to hear. I love having the opportunity to build a choir culture that focuses on excellence, vulnerability, fearless creativity, and joy.

DID YOU KNOW...he has many hobbies and passions outside of teaching music?
I like to say that my interests are an inch deep but a mile wide. I love playing video games; I grew up a Nintendo kid. I like to read and be outside. I enjoy sports a lot – I try to watch every Reds game that I can. I even had the opportunity to sing the national anthem at the Reds game in front of a bunch of my fellow teachers as we celebrated Beth Langenbahn's retirement. Talk about an unforgettable experience. I also love basketball; I started following the Cleveland Cavaliers after LeBron left so I consider myself a true fan. I also enjoy trying new restaurants and going to all types of events at Music Hall and the Aronoff [Center for the Arts].

DID YOU KNOW... that he can't wait for next year?
Some of my plans for next year include adding two new ensembles next year: youth choir in the Lower School for grades 2-4, and an advanced Middle School vocal ensemble. I'm also hoping to have the CCDS choirs perform off-campus in the community and collaborate with other ensembles. If you can't tell, I feel so lucky to be here and I'm already excited about next year. From the minute I walked in, I have felt so welcomed and supported. The administration and teachers have already helped me accomplish much to elevate the program. The veteran teachers have been amazing to lean on. Country Day really is a special place.

CINCINNATI COUNTRY DAY SCHOOL SELECTED AS FINALIST FOR LEMELSON-MIT GRANT, EDUCATORS RECOGNIZED WITH LEMELSON-MIT EXCITE AWARD



Cincinnati Country Day School has been selected as one of 28 finalist schools across the country for the highly competitive 2023-24 Lemelson-MIT (LMIT) InvenTeams grant initiative.

Jamie Back, STEAM teacher and Makerspace coordinator, and Angela Barber-Joiner, director of equity, diversity, inclusion and social emotional learning, applied for the LMIT InvenTeams grant in April. As finalists, they are also recipients of the Excite Award, which includes an invitation to LMIT's invention education summer professional development and the annual EurekaFest celebration at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) this June.

During July and August, Back and Barber-Joiner will work with a core team of Upper School students – an "InvenTeam" – to identify a problem in the community and write a full grant proposal to submit to LMIT. If awarded the grant, Country Day's InvenTeam would receive a $7,500 grant to research, design, and construct a working prototype of a technological invention. The team would then present their invention during the 2024 EurekaFest celebration at MIT next June.

LMIT's website explains that they are "a national leader in preparing the next generation of inventors and entrepreneurs. [Their] work focuses on the expansion of opportunities for young people to learn ways inventors find and solve problems that matter." For the InvenTeams grant initiative, LMIT is "seeking applications from educators who are equally committed to remedying historic inequities among those who invent. [They] strongly believe that invention education is for all and are committed to working with teachers and their schools to offer opportunities in invention education."

"The purpose of this program reflects Cincinnati Country Day's mission of creating leaders who strive to understand themselves and the world around them," says Barber-Joiner. "As students work on this project, they will discover their own abilities through the inventive, inquiry-based, hands-on experience. This project will cultivate self-advocacy, emotional resilience, and the essential personal skills necessary to explore new ideas and persevere through challenges. Students will kindle the potential of others while working on a diverse, inclusive team and learning from the diverse experiences and viewpoints of their peers. By being empathetic stewards of the community, together they will better a dynamic world with their invention."

The InvenTeam program has been changing the way educators teach and providing young people – especially young women and students from underrepresented backgrounds – with creative problem solving and 21st century skills to flourish in college and career since 2003.

"It is a priority for us to ensure that students of all ethnic, gender, and socio-economic backgrounds see themselves as inventors," says Back. "It takes people to solve real-life problems and with commitment, determination, and creativity, we can accomplish great things."

Up to 10 schools are selected annually to run an InvenTeam. This includes grant money, support from MIT resources, visits from MIT staff, and a final presentation in June at MIT. Student InvenTeams have received 15 patents for their inventions.

Grant applications are due in early September. A panel of judges composed of educators, researchers, staff, and alumni from MIT, as well as former Lemelson-MIT award winners, will assemble in the fall and select the final InvenTeam grantees.

Both Back and Barber-Joiner feel strongly that, if selected, this grant will create leaders in our student community.

"If we are selected, I hope the InvenTeam students feel empowered as role models for our younger students and gain confidence that their ideas and their work can change the world," says Back. "An opportunity like this highlights the fact that everyone can be an inventor, that we make better things when all of us are represented."

For more information about the grant, visit https://lemelson.mit.edu/2023-inventeams. To follow the Country Day InvenTeam throughout the summer, visit Country Day's social media platforms or search the hashtag #CCDSInvenTeam on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.



Giving Day

On Giving Day, current and alumni families, grandparents, friends, and our faculty and staff came together to raise more than $175,000 – bursting through our goal for the day. On behalf of our students, faculty, and staff, THANK YOU! We could not be more grateful for the generous show of support from our community.

HOW MANY BOOKS HAVE YOU READ THIS YEAR?



Two of Dawn Daugherty's sixth-grade English students have far surpassed the challenge of reading 40 books during the school year. Melanie Young '29 and Ece Karakus '29 have spent the school year traveling to different worlds and meeting new characters through literally hundreds of stories. At the time of this publication, Melanie had read 205 books, with Ece not too far behind at 196. In the photo, Ece (left) is holding her favorite book "A Very Large Expanse of Sea," and Melanie is holding a book from her favorite series called "Keeper of the Lost Cities."

PARTING WORDS

FROM STUDENT COUNCIL PRESIDENT NICK WATTS '23



FOR COLLEGE, I WILL ATTEND...
Xavier University, majoring in the Philosophy, Politics, and the Public honors program. It combines political science with abstract ideas. I shadowed the program for a day, and it reminded me of Mr. [Merle] Black's class in my sophomore year – Honors Modern Europe and the World. It was a very philosophical class in which we studied human nature and asked important questions on topics such as why we exist, why we form governments, and others on world order. That class connected a lot of dots for me.

BEING AT COUNTRY DAY IS...
something that I'm very glad to have had the opportunity to do. It's been tough, a lot of late nights, a lot of tests, but it's been worth it. I wouldn't be the person I am today without it and without the people here who have helped me. All of them pushed me out of my comfort zone to try things I didn't think I could do. It has not been an easy ride, but it has been fun; I am certainly better off for it.

I DEFINITELY STRESSED ABOUT...
exams, specifically AP exams. I know that sounds cliché. But what I found out is that in the long run, an exam doesn't define you. If you put forth your best effort, that's what really matters. Extracurriculars such as Student Council, the Scroll, and theater were all stressful but I'm very glad to have been involved with all of these things.

MY FAVORITE THING ABOUT SENIOR YEAR IS...
being given the opportunity to be a leader in the school. I've taken my leadership position very seriously this year and I love Country Day students. There is so much talent, there is so much good energy. And being able to harness those things and put them into action by having spirit-filled events and just by fostering a culture of connectedness among students of different grades in the Upper School has been something that I am so happy to have done this year.

MY FAVORITE MEMORY AT COUNTRY DAY IS...
the football game against Park Tudor on September 16, 2022. Our football team was defeated the year before after venturing to Indiana to play them. This year, not many expected us to win. During the game, like most other games, we stayed loud and were encouraging our players the entire time. When we won, all the students stormed the field. Everyone was hugging and high-fiving each other. Even though we weren't favored to win, everyone still showed up – in the camo theme – and was there for the team. Dozens of faculty members and parents were there as well. The fact that so many showed up to support our football team despite the disadvantage shows the dedication of Country Day students to each other outside of school hours. It demonstrates the commitment we have to supporting our peers through difficult challenges and the importance of being present when those challenges are overcome.

I'M EXCITED TO...
take what I've learned at Country Day and apply it to whatever comes next. Our oldest alum [Corny Hauck '43], who I interviewed in the fall, said a Country Day education helped him in college and in life. I'm excited to see how my experience here will have prepared me to tackle college and beyond.

MY FAVORITE THING ABOUT COUNTRY DAY IS...
the community. We are kind of an enclave here in Indian Hill. The small class sizes have allowed me to learn 95 percent of people's names. At a big school, you're one in a million and can easily get lost in the shuffle. At Country Day, the small size allows teachers and the school to keep students from falling behind emotionally, socially, and academically.

MY BEST PIECE OF ADVICE FOR NEXT YEAR'S SENIOR CLASS IS...
be a good role model and set a good example. I hope they keep up the traditions of fun events, positivity, and inclusivity. Overall, for any kid, just get involved. Don't be afraid to do anything that you want to do. I regret not getting involved with the academic team earlier; I absolutely loved it when I finally got involved in my senior year. If you fail at something, it's not the end of the world. You'll be better off for it.

IN 25 YEARS, I HOPE TO...
stay in policy and government until I retire, so hopefully I'll be in office. As long as I am making a difference and helping people, then I'll stay in whatever role I'm in.

Creating leaders who, through the discovery of their own abilities, kindle the potential of others and better a dynamic world.

MISSION in Action

CATCHING UP WITH RECENT GRADS

JADE ABU BAKR ’22 AND WYNTON JACKSON ’21



Wynton Jackson and Jade Abu Bakr at their induction ceremony into the William R. Harvey Leadership Institute.

We spent time this spring catching up with Jade Abu Bakr ’22, a strategic communications major, and Wynton Jackson ’21, a journalism major, and asked them about their experiences so far at Hampton University and at the William R. Harvey Leadership Institute.

How did you decide to select Hampton University and how did you go about joining the William R. Harvey Leadership Institute?

Jade: I chose Hampton University primarily because of intuition. I just felt at home when I visited the campus. My parents mentioned to me that I also looked comfortable on campus, and that was true from the first visit – I looked and felt like I already knew the campus. I learned about the William R. Harvey Leadership Institute during pre-college, an academic program offered in the summer. Because I had already committed to Hampton University (HU), I was already looking for ways to continue to grow my leadership skills. I was fortunate to talk to a student who was already a part of that program, and she gave me more information about what to look forward to and why she decided to join. Ultimately, it came down to my love of learning and my desire to expand my leadership skills and grow on Hampton’s campus.

Wynton: In the spring of 2021, I met Dr. Battinto Batts, who is the former dean of the Scripps Howard School of Journalism and Communications at Hampton [he now holds the same title at Arizona State University]. Including being a mentor, he also encouraged me to consider HU. My mom and I took a tour of the campus and the Scripps school. I was enticed by the idea of going to an HBCU (historically Black college and university). Coupled with the fact that the Scripps school is only one of three schools funded by the Scripps Foundation, I knew that Hampton was where I wanted to go.

After I committed to Hampton, Dr. Batts recommended that I join the William R. Harvey Leadership Institute. I didn’t know much about the program, but the allure of a scholarship, housing and course selection priority, and a minor in leadership drew me in.

Explain what the William R. Harvey Leadership Institute is and how your experience in the program is going so far.

Jade: The William R. Harvey Leadership Institute (WRHLI) was founded in 2000 under the school’s previous president, William R. Harvey. The purpose of the program is to prepare students at HU to become better leaders in their communities and on campus. It can also be declared as a minor once all necessary courses have been completed.

What I like most about the program is how much I have grown. I have been able to meet and connect with so many people from different grades. The program has also stretched me and helped me develop skills that I know I will use in my major and beyond. I am excited to see where the program will take me in the future, but it has been such a great experience thus far.

What does service leadership mean to you?

Wynton: The term "service leadership" to me is a little redundant. A good leader of any capacity consistently serves those around them. By definition, leadership is a process whereby an individual influences a group to accomplish a goal. The word "process" denotes a cyclical nature; ideally, the followers of a specific group develop into leaders of another group. A leader's job is to help those around them develop on all levels, not just in the task at hand. I think people get tripped up on the word "service" and immediately think of community service. While that is an aspect, service can also mean helping people in your immediate surroundings.

How did Country Day prepare you to be a leader?

Jade: Country Day allowed me to grow into myself. Being president of BCW [Black Cultural Workshop], for example, truly tested my determination and ability to delegate with a team. I was able to improve my time management skills and think more about how I carried myself in a room. Country Day not only taught me how to lead in academics but also to be more confident in the spaces I was in.

Wynton: To be good at anything, you need practice. No one starts as the best player on the team, the best musician in the band, or the smartest student in the class without going over the material repeatedly. Such is true for leadership. At Country Day, I had opportunities to lead in both sports and clubs, which prepared me for leadership roles in college.

How did the college counseling office here at Country Day help you make your college decision?

Jade: I believe the college counseling office truly inspired me to go for my dream school. I knew that I wanted to go to an HBCU and I knew that I did not want to be close to home. When it came to everywhere I applied and the vision I had for myself, I feel like I was encouraged throughout the entire process by the college counseling office. Their guidance also helped me to get to the right place when it came to my ACT scores and scholarship opportunities.

What is your favorite Country Day memory?

Jade: The first thing that comes to mind is the Cherokee trip in seventh grade. It was one of my favorite Middle School trips, with our trip to D.C. as a close second. Another memory in high school I enjoyed was hearing the bell ring the last time of my senior year. Although the sound was different, it was great to have that full-circle moment with my classmates.

Wynton: I don't have a singular favorite moment; it's more of a list:

- The very first CCDX Week, I had a racial & implicit bias class with Dr. Yven Destin that I wish was a full course but I'm happy I got to experience it for a week, at least.
- My sophomore year, the football team went 6-0 despite only having 15 players.
- All the basketball memories, including our trip to Pigeon Forge.
- Graduation!

What advice do you have for current Country Day students?

Jade: When it comes to college and high school, my advice is to lean on your support systems. You should never think that it is you against the world. Everyone on that campus, freshman to senior, is going through similar trials. Do not be afraid to ask or even find ways to support each other. Being a CCD student is a privilege, so do not take it for granted. Spend that time there to grow and soak in everything you can before you embark on the college portion of your journey. Build relationships with your teachers, utilize your resources, and build smart habits. I am grateful for the memories and the long-lasting friendships I was able to make over my eight years at Country Day. I come back to visit because I truly value the love that was poured into me, and I want to do the same for those who are about to go on this next part of their journey. I love my Home by the Sea [a Hampton slogan], and I would not trade it for the world.

Wynton: For both high school and college, get involved in a club, a sport, or some kind of extracurricular activity. As you can see, some of my best memories were from extracurriculars, and they're especially useful when trying to meet new people in college.

Creating leaders who, through the discovery of their own abilities, kindle the potential of others and better a dynamic world.

MISSION *in Action*



COUNTRY DAY STUDENTS HONORED FOR REMARKABLE COMMUNITY SERVICE EFFORTS

The American Jewish Committee of Cincinnati recently recognized three exceptional students from Cincinnati Country Day School for their remarkable community service efforts – Will Griffin ’23, Katie Wang ’24, and Marley Handler ’24.

The Simon Lazarus Jr. Human Relations Awards are prestigious accolades that acknowledge the valuable contributions of high school juniors and seniors who strive to promote human relations and reduce prejudice, hate, and intolerance. For 58 years, AJC has recognized with pride those deserving students from the Cincinnati area public, private, and parochial high schools whose daily lives, activities, and behavior exemplify a deep concern for others and the desire to foster a positive impact in their school or community.

Will and Marley were both named finalists in their respective classes, while Katie was named the award winner for the entire junior class.

At Cincinnati Country Day School, developing ethical and moral leaders among the student body is deeply ingrained in our philosophy. Laura Gunn, director of service learning, expressed her admiration and congratulations to Will, Marley, and Katie, saying, “It is fantastic to have 30 percent of the finalists for the AJC Simon Lazarus Jr. Human Relations Award hail from Cincinnati Country Day School. These three students have displayed remarkable leadership and creativity by identifying community needs and finding solutions. They are making a significant difference in the world around them with their compassion and dedication. I am excited to see what they will achieve next!”

The American Jewish Committee (AJC) recognizes students who have demonstrated leadership and outstanding commitment to tackling social issues that have tangible impacts on their communities. The selection process for the award is highly competitive, with five seniors and five juniors chosen as finalists. One winner is selected from each grade level.

Creating leaders who, through the discovery of their own abilities, kindle the potential of others and better a dynamic world.

MISSION *in Action*



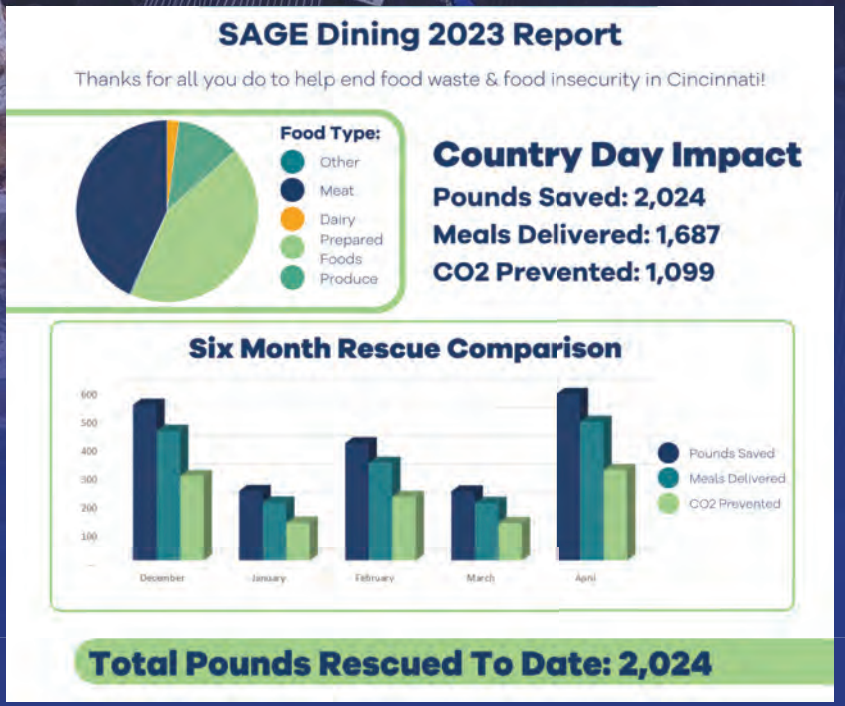
DONATING LEFTOVER FOOD TO THOSE IN NEED

This past school year, Country Day and SAGE Dining Services began teaming up with Last Mile Food Rescue, a local nonprofit whose mission is to "save good food and get it to those who need it most," to donate viable leftover food to help battle against food insecurity in the Cincinnati area.

Since December 2022, we have donated over 2,000 pounds of food and delivered almost 1,700 meals to those in need. Senior Food Service Director Casey Wolford and his team from SAGE do their best to limit waste from each meal, but, he says, "there are variables out of our control: students who are not at school that day, field trips, and things like that. To have this opportunity to feed others with food that would otherwise go to waste is awesome."

Casey and his team prepare the leftovers for food safety and The Last Mile picks up the donations on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Our food donations are going to Impacting Tomorrow in Milford, which provides a "wide variety of fresh and packaged food resources at no cost to the shopper in a market environment."

Along with the donating of leftover food, over 32,000 pounds of food scraps have been composted this year.





MULTICULTURAL CELEBRATIONS
BRING SCHOOL COMMUNITY TOGETHER

In alignment with one of the school's guiding principles to welcome the diverse experiences and viewpoints of all individuals, students learned about various cultures and traditions throughout Multicultural Week in January.

Examples of global exploration and learning took place across campus all week long.

In the Lower School, students read books, created art projects, and learned traditional dances.

In the Middle School, the week started with an assembly during which students presented about Chinese New Year, Black History Month, and Polynesian cultures. Middle School teacher Nico Rumboll demonstrated how to make mate, an Argentinian beverage from his home country.

In the Upper School, student-led affinity groups like the Black Cultural Workshop (BCW) and the Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) Council hosted events during Upper School assemblies, such as presentations on black history and LGBTQ+ history as well as a lip sync battle.

Upper School students also spent time with Lower School students to discuss different cultures and lead them through activities.

"By having Multicultural Week, we have the opportunity to take focused time to learn about, celebrate, and collaborate about the cultures and aspects of those who make up our community," says Ray Mitchell, '24, one of the student leaders behind Multicultural Week. "Multicultural Week is the acknowledgment, celebration, and coming together of our differences to highlight the beauty of diversity within the Country Day community and worldwide."

SAGE Dining Services also supported the week's mission by offering Indian, Latin American, Southern, Asian, and Italian-based menus for lunch throughout the week. Shiva Shyam '26 also held a Southeast Asian food tasting, and Vic Quintero '25 provided a Latin American drink tasting.

The school community then came together on Thursday, February 9, for Multicultural Night. Formerly known as International Night, Multicultural Night is a Parents' Association-sponsored event during which community members bring dishes and provide entertainment based on their cultures.

"As we continue to focus on the PA's mission of building community, Multicultural Week provides us with the opportunity to pause and share more about the experiences and cultures within our school community," says Johanna Brun, Parents' Association social co-chair.

More than 450 members of our school community came together for Multicultural Night to spend time with one another, enjoy 75 dishes provided by Country Day families, and enjoy the entertainment of 16 performances. In line with the school's mission to "better a dynamic world," all utensils, trays, and dishes used for Multicultural Night were compostable. Nearly 50 adult and student volunteers pitched in to make the event a success.

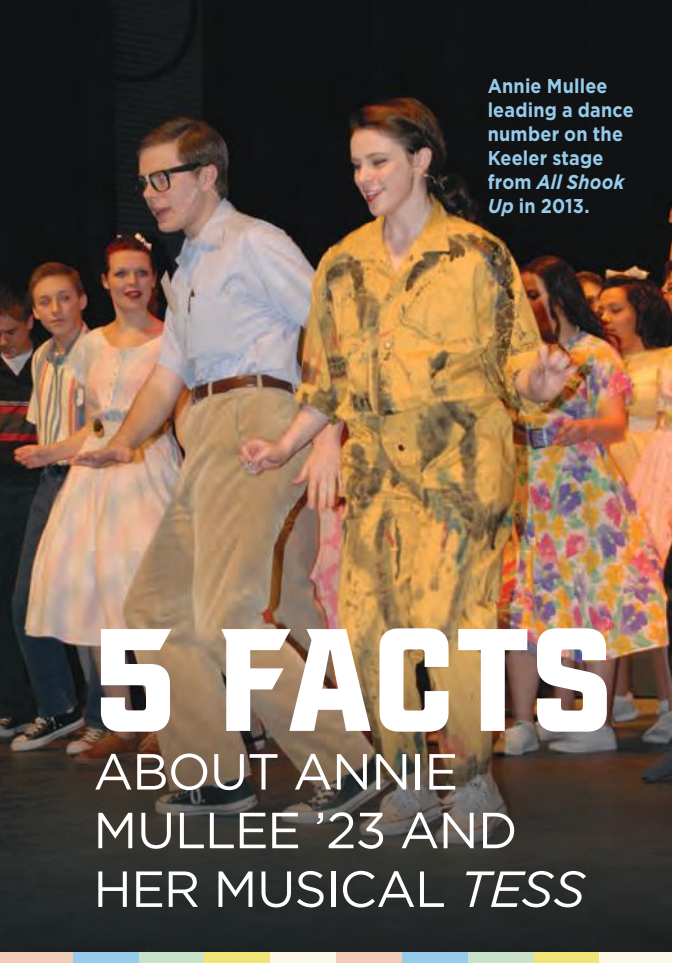
"Not only is this one of the most fun events of the school year, but it is also such an important night for our community – it gives us the opportunity to celebrate the many cultures that make this school so special," said Zofeen Khan, one of the lead organizers of Multicultural Night. "And to see a turnout like this only confirms how important it is for so many of us to have the time to celebrate and explore other cultures."











Annie Mullee leading a dance number on the Keeler stage from *All Shook Up* in 2013.

5 FACTS ABOUT ANNIE MULLEE '23 AND HER MUSICAL *TESS*

1. Annie wrote the musical while she was living at her parents' house during the Covid pandemi.

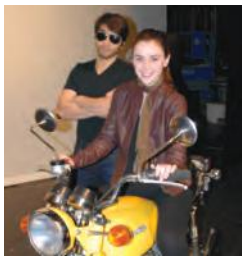
Like many of us in 2020, she was stuck at home with a lot of extra time on her hands. "Living with your parents as a 23-year-old wasn't ideal, so I started writing this project. I think I wrote the whole thing in three months because I had nothing else to do. I would spend eight hours a day writing in my parents' backyard. I sent it to one of my college friends who majored in theater as well and she was like, 'I love this so much!'"

2. Getting her musical up and running was not as difficult as she thought it would be.

Annie found it a lot easier than expected to get her project off the ground. "What surprised me the most was how accessible it was and how there were ways to make art and do well that don't necessarily involve the roadblock of asking for permission." She also credits New York's theater community for being so supportive of her project by lending her valuable advice and pointing her toward the proper resources she needed to bring the musical to life.

3. The musical is the biggest project she has worked on so far...but it is not the first.

Annie has been creating art projects from a young age. "I've been writing music since I was very young, so a lot of Annie Mullee originals have been performed on the Keeler stage. Some I'm proud of, some I'm not [chuckles]." Other projects include creating a concept album in 2021, ghostwriting fiction during the pandemic, playing gigs with her band around New York City, and writing a couple of short films in college. But because this project includes multiple phases, this is her most daunting challenge yet. "This is probably the biggest undertaking in the sense that it really combines all of those skills to develop a two-hour-long production."



Annie posing with her *All Shook Up* co-star Ishan Ghildyal '14.

4. The first performance took place on June 4 at the Kraine Theater in New York City.

Following a Zoom reading of the script in May 2022 and the production of the demo album, which Annie wrote and produced herself, Annie and her



Annie delivering her lines during the winter '12 musical *The Mystery of Edwin Drood*.

all-star cast performed the music from *Tess*, along with some narration from the musical's script to help guide the audience through the performance. Annie's plan to make *Tess* a fully-formed production includes doing a staged reading this fall, which will include performing all the songs and the script without any of the stage directions or set changes. And in the spring of 2024, she hopes to produce "the whole enchilada" of the musical, which would mean bringing *Tess* completely to life with the music, the script, stage directions, costumes, and set design.

5. Not surprisingly, Country Day played a big part in getting her to this stage of her career.

Annie's love of music not only started at Country Day, but her tenure at Country Day was also the first time she performed in front of an audience. She credits her teachers in the music department, like Lois Rust, Mark Femia, and Stephanie Wietmarschen, for encouraging her to participate in the productions. Annie also attributes her love of writing and literature (her college major) to Pat Dunn, who was her honors English teacher. "*Tess* is based on *Tess of the D'Urbervilles*, which is actually a story that I first read in my sophomore year English class with Mrs. Dunn. It all comes full circle.



ANNIE MULLEE

Diversity Conference

INCLUDES STUDENT, LOCAL, AND NATIONAL PRESENTERS

On March 3, Cincinnati Country Day School held its 6th annual Diversity Conference in the Upper School.

Upper School students participated in a full day of learning that included keynote speakers, conference sessions, and the award-winning documentary film Crip Camp. The conference breakout sessions covered a wide variety of topics that celebrate backgrounds, perspectives, and experiences of Country Day students and beyond.

"My hope is that through participation in the conference activities, every student has a greater understanding of what it takes to be a true leader. These are important moments that prepare our students for success in an increasingly global and diverse world," says Angela Joiner, director of equity, diversity, and inclusion & social-emotional learning. "The diversity conference directly reflects our school mission to *create leaders who, through the discovery of their own abilities, kindle the potential of others and better a dynamic world.*"

Student-led breakout sessions included Latin Music and Dance, Black Women and Black Hair, British Colonialism in India and Egypt, A Stateless Nation: History, Culture, and Resistance of the Kurds in Iran, First Generation Students, We're Here, We're Queer: LGBT+ History & Stigmas, Origins of Sappho, An Introduction to the European Migrant Situation, Modern Day Civil Rights Movements and Protests, Investigating Identity, and Race in Healthcare.



In addition to presenting as a keynote speaker on the topic "What Made You and What Will You Make?", award-winning writer, comic, and speaker Haroon Moghul also led a breakout session on the topic "Modern Islam: An Extended Conversation." Upper School faculty and staff led breakout sessions on the topics of Contested Landscapes: The Struggle over America's Historical Narrative, Mental Health and Wellness, and Music is Everything.

"The concept of diversity is not a new invention. And in this country, we are getting increasingly reflective and inclusive about who lives here. It's something my generation started and yours is continuing," says Moghul. "I would like you to consider your own stories and families and what makes you who you are. Think about the decisions the family members before you made and how they affected you and how your decisions will affect those who come after you.

Acknowledge that you will be someone else's history. What are you going to do with that knowledge?"

The morning began with an interactive panel discussion including Jourdan Jones '23, Vic Quintero '25, and Emma Valentin '23, who attended the NAIS 2022 People of Color Conference's Student Diversity Leadership Conference in San Antonio, Texas, this past fall.

"EDI is everyone's work if we are ever going to break through the boundary of ignorance," says Jones. "Every person has the need to feel valued and respected. It's important that everyone feels they have a space at Country Day because you don't realize how much you need it until you have it."



Jason Harris and Peter Niehoff '05, representatives from LADD, Inc. introduced the film Crip Camp and talked through the major themes of the movie.

"We live in a society that has certain ways of thinking of something as being 'right' and builds systems around those ways of thinking and doing," says Harris. "We have come a long way, but we still need to talk and think about those who have needs and how we can accommodate them because disability can happen to any of us."



Country Day trustee and parent Dereck Gray, vice president of human resources, global finance & accounting at Procter & Gamble, gave an interactive closing keynote address and talked through some of the biggest challenges facing the world today and how they affect the business world.

"Working across diverse teams is not an option anymore," explains Gray. "You need empathy to enable you to see the world through someone else's eyes. The goal should always be to try to find common ground that you can build on together. If you only look at the world through your vantage point you will never be able to work well with others."

The conference was started in 2018 by Chantal Thornberry, a former Country Day faculty member, who wanted to expand the school's equity, diversity, and inclusion (EDI) offerings and incorporate more student leadership.

"It is exciting to join forces with outside speakers, local alumni, and community partners to present a unique day of programming to our students and faculty, as well as guests from other local schools," said Jenn Weinheimer, head of Upper School. "People showed up with open minds and ears and they were engaged in the work – something no one [can] force them to do. I saw people being vulnerable, authentically listening, and respecting each other with open attitudes and positivity. It was an incredibly impactful and thought-provoking day, and I'm proud of everyone for leaning into the conversations and the experience."

Scan here for pictures from the conference.

CELEBRATING COUNTRY DAY'S 40TH CUM LAUDE BANQUET

On March 7, we held our 40th Cum Laude Society banquet. The banquet is an opportunity to celebrate students who have demonstrated a sustained record of academic excellence across their Country Day careers.

Congratulations to the Class of 2023 inductees:

Annalyse Deming '23 (Loveland)
Will Donovan '23 (Green Township)
Will Griffin '23 (Hyde Park)
Emil Hettich '23 (Indian Hill)
Weison Huang '23 (Loveland)
Miller Mann '23 (Sharonville)
Devon Michalski '23 (Norwood)
Yousef Mostafa '23 (Mason)
Mica Murdoch '23 (Hyde Park)
Miki Ozawa '23 (Loveland)
Ethan Rezer '23 (West Price Hill)
Lizzy Stacy '23 (Anderson Township)
Emma Valentin '23 (Indian Hill)
Josh Williamson '23 (Liberty Township)



"I am extremely proud of the work these young adults have put in over the last four years and excited to welcome them into this esteemed group," said Nat Tracey-Miller '05, who is chapter president and earned membership in the Cum Laude Society as a student at Country Day.

Cum Laude Society is dedicated to honoring scholastic achievement in secondary schools and is modeled after the collegiate Phi Beta Kappa Society. Membership in the Cum Laude Society is an academic honor based exclusively on grades earned in the sophomore through senior years. Country Day established its Cum Laude Society chapter in 1950 and is only one of six schools in the Cincinnati area to participate in the organization.

The first president of the Country Day chapter was Lee Pattison, who served the community for many years as a history teacher, head of the service club, student council advisor, and coach. The celebratory banquet was begun by long-time English teacher Sarah Hickman in 1983.



Danielle, as Noreen Lawson, acting in a scene with series-lead Matthew Rhys in the HBO original series *Perry Mason.*

BEHIND THE SCENES

WITH ACTOR DANIELLE GROSS '07

At one point or another, just about all of us dream about being a movie or television star. Country Day alumna Danielle Gross '07 has made that dream a reality. Danielle recently completed a small recurring role on HBO's *Perry Mason* and is a recurring guest star on the second season of *Heels*, an original series on STARZ. We recently caught up with Danielle to find out more about her Hollywood experience and how her time at Country Day led her down her career path.

TELL US ABOUT HOW YOU GOT YOUR START IN ACTING.

As a film and TV production major at New York University, they basically section you into small groups, hand you equipment, and send you off into the unknown. I remember one day I was in this professor's class, we were watching my classmate's project, which I had acted in, and he said, "Danielle, you are very good. You should keep doing this." His confidence in me reminded me of my days at Country Day, where I had such special relationships with teachers. All it takes is one teacher saying, "I see that you're good at this."

My first professional job was in a short film opposite this big New York comedian, Chris Gethard. The script was maybe nine pages long, but the film ended up being on the front page of the website Funny or Die, which was a big deal. So that became my first demo reel that I sent around to people and then a month after graduation I moved to Los Angeles and hustled. I had some success in commercials and then in the last five years, I finally broke through into the theatrical side.



WHAT IS IT LIKE TO WORK ON THESE BIG PRODUCTIONS LIKE *PERRY MASON* AND *HEELS*, WHICH HAVE SOME BIG STARS AS PART OF THEIR CAST?

When I first started getting into commercials, a few of them were opposite big actors and I remember feeling major impostor syndrome and thinking, "Do I belong here?". But now I really feel like I have worked my way up and paid my dues; the small victories over the years have led to a growing comfort in working with big stars. I finally feel like I am at a place where I feel like I belong and I'm comfortable improvising with anyone on the call sheet, but that has taken time.

WAS THERE A MOMENT WHERE YOU THOUGHT, "IS THIS WHAT I WANT TO DO WITH THE REST OF MY LIFE?"?

So, the theater director at Country Day when I was there was Thom McLaughlin and I like to say that he is the reason that I'm an actor. I had just started at a new school and had not really done a lot of theater before, but he saw something in me that I had not yet. Every time a new show came around, he would ask, "You're going to audition, right?". I think his encouragement over the years is what led me to believe that I could be a professional actor.

WHAT WAS YOUR FAVORITE MOVIE, TV SHOW, OR PLAY WHEN YOU WERE GROWING UP?

I just rewatched the movie *Twister* the other day. I was so obsessed with that movie growing up; I would watch it, rewind it, and watch it again. I loved Helen Hunt's character because she is one of the boys; she is out chasing tornadoes. I always felt inspired by her fearlessness...and it's also just an excellent movie.

WHAT'S THE MOST CHALLENGING PART ABOUT BEING AN ACTOR?

The downtime between jobs and the self-doubt that comes with that. Certainly, everybody loves to talk about the rejections, but generally, it is the feeling of "Am I enough? Am I talented enough? Am I smart enough?". But I have worked hard to have the experience to feel like I belong, and I am deserving.

WHAT IS THE MOST REWARDING PART OF YOUR CAREER?

Being an actor is very personal work. Being vulnerable in front of a lot of people did not come naturally to me and I feel like being an actor has made me a better, more well-rounded person. It has helped me get in touch with who I am and be more willing to connect with people.

WERE THERE ANY LESSONS YOU LEARNED AT COUNTRY DAY THAT HELPED YOU GET TO WHERE YOU ARE NOW?

The value of community and leaning on that community in tough times, because what is a film and TV set if not a community of like-minded people? Also, my work ethic. I try to be the most prepared person and have a great attitude. Those are all things that Country Day really drilled into me. One of my favorite things about Country Day was how much the teachers spoke to us kids as though we were adults, and I felt like the mutual respect that was shown to me there as a student made me want to act like an adult. I have certainly found myself doing that at work as well – you treat the executive producer the same way you treat the production assistant; you treat everybody with respect.

WHAT ADVICE DO YOU HAVE FOR ANY CURRENT COUNTRY DAY STUDENT WHO IS THINKING ABOUT PURSUING A CAREER IN ACTING?

I don't think you need to major in acting to pursue acting. Some of the best acting classes I took were stand-alone classes I took when I moved to Los Angeles. My advice is to explore all avenues in regard to acting. Being a good actor is being somebody who has an interesting life, who is well-rounded, who has experienced heartbreak, who has traveled the world. Allow yourself time to experience the highs and lows.

DO YOU HAVE ANY FINAL THOUGHTS ABOUT YOUR TIME AT COUNTRY DAY?

Not everybody gets the opportunity to talk about their high school experience in such a positive way, but I feel so lucky and grateful I got to go to Country Day. I feel like I'm part of the press team whenever I talk about it!



Danielle and castmate Stuart Townsend in the Lionsgate-produced western film *Apache Junction*.

Tune into Starz at 10 p.m. on Friday, July 28 for the much-anticipated season 2 premiere of *Heels*!

PART 2:

COUNTRY DAY STUDENTS BUILD BRIDGES ACROSS BORDERS ON A TRIP TO SPAIN

By: Shiva Shyam '26



Emil and his host partner Javi visiting the town of Torremolinos.

As part of the one-to-one Spanish exchange program, the school welcomed 15 students from Malaga, Spain to the Country Day campus in September. In March, the Country Day students who hosted them were able to get a taste of Spanish culture during the second part of the exchange: their trip to Malaga.

"Our group was able to bond very closely," remarks Emil Hettich '23 when recounting the highlights of the trip. "I think it was great for all of us to experience a new country, a new culture, and be able to have a chance to improve our Spanish."

The Country Day students stayed with their host families for about a week in the small town of Malaga, Spain. They also took an excursion to Madrid to experience even more Spanish culture, art, and history.

"Even though Spain is across the Atlantic Ocean it's not necessarily a completely foreign environment; there are definitely similarities to experience," says Hettich. "My favorite experience was being with my host family and being able to experience their day-to-day life."

While in Malaga, Emil was able to bond with his host partner, Javier, once more over their love for soccer, and even had the opportunity to attend a Malaga match. One of the highlights of the trip was being able to visit the famous Real Madrid soccer stadium in Madrid.



A group photo of the Country Day students and their host partners at Colegio El Pinar.



The students were able to experience the food culture of Spain through an authentic Spanish cooking class.

"We study the language in the United States and it is an academic language. Then you step off that plane and suddenly everything is written in Spanish and everyone is speaking Spanish," says Upper School teacher Dr. Jeanette Hecker.

The Country Day students were not only able to experience a new language and culture but also a new way of life and living. "Different mealtimes were one of the main things I noticed," says Hettich. "They typically occur around two hours later and last for a longer period of time. Also, they are more communal in the sense that families usually order around 10 different things and share them."



Emil and Anders Scheer '23 having lunch on their first day with their with their exchange partners: Javi, Javi's brother Julio, and Nano.

"One of my favorite experiences was staying with my host family," says Ambika Sharma '24. "I was able to meet her family, and I hadn't seen her [Lydia] in a long time, so I was able to bond with her again. I was also able to go see the Mediterranean Sea. I had learned about the sea in school, but I don't think my brain had processed that I was actually in the sea once we got there."

When Ambika was asked about how the trip differed from her knowledge of Spain, she explained how the experiences drastically improved her understanding of the culture. "I was immersed in the language and the culture during my short time there. I was actually able to keep a conversation going with my host family by the end of the trip."



Ambika and Elizabeth Zimmerman '24 during an excursion in Madrid.

Additionally, the small town of Malaga had its own charm, says Upper School teacher Angela Suarez. "It was so small that we could have bumped into each other all the time so that was nice. There were people out walking in the streets all the time and it felt more social. I feel there was more time dedicated to socializing and family."

Jeanette and Angela elaborated on the tremendous impact a student exchange program such as this has on students. "For the students, it is real life now. They won't be so anxious to study abroad when they get to college. Most of them have already talked about doing a semester abroad in college and reconnecting with their host partners," says Hecker. "An experience like this has a tremendous impact on their learning in the sense that they are not afraid of redoing the experience now that they have gone and lived someplace. That means the world to me because it means they are opening up their worlds and getting out of their Ohio comfort zone."



Ambika and her host partner Lydia in Malaga.

VAULTING TO NEW HEIGHTS

Luke Schnieber ’27 launched a 12-foot pole vault at the OHSAA Middle School State Track and Field Meet in Columbus, which earned him third place! He is now six inches from the school’s high school record, set by Blake Atkins ’18.

Pole vaulting seems to run in the Schnieber family. His dad, [MS teacher] Casey Schnieber vaulted in high school for two years and coaches Emma Kate ’24, Luke’s older sister, who is a three-time regional qualifier in pole vaulting.

“Luke works incredibly hard at his craft, is eager to learn all he can, and has the desire to see continued success in high school,” says Casey. “Being a bit fearless helps, too, as the sport isn’t for the faint of heart. Luke’s favorite part, he says, is landing on the pad after clearing the bar and reflecting on the vault during the fall (he’s WAY up there!).”

On the horizon is Mia Schnieber ’30. “She has enjoyed watching her older siblings’ hard work and success, and goes to Queen City Vaulting Academy to practice and learn. While she hasn’t competed yet, I have no doubt that she will take to the sport and find success like her older siblings!”



VIRTUE IN ACTION IN ATHLETICS



Congratulations to Kellan Raterman ’23, who is the recipient of the Dick Snyder Award from the Miami Valley Conference. The award is presented to a student-athlete who demonstrates high character and outstanding sportsmanship. “Kellan is a wonderful young man and a tremendous role model for our younger players,” says Greg Ross, head coach for varsity basketball and associate athletic director. “Kellan does things the right way and is incredibly supportive of his teammates. His positive attitude and demeanor rub off on everyone around him. Kellan always represents Country Day with class and integrity.”

2022-2023 WINTER SPORTS RECAP

GIRLS BASKETBALL: Record 21-6
Sectional championship, district championship,
2nd place in the Miami Valley Conference

Miami Valley Conference Awards
First Team: Gracie Barnes ’23, Megan Zimmerman ’24
Second Team: Elizabeth Zimmerman ’24
Honorable Mention: Piper Farris ’24, Sam Easter ’24

District 16 Awards
First Team: Gracie Barnes ’23, Megan Zimmerman ’24
Honorable Mention: Elizabeth Zimmerman ’24

Cincinnati Enquirer Awards
Player of the Year: Gracie Barnes ’24
First Team: Gracie Barnes ’23, Megan Zimmerman ’24
Honorable Mention: Elizabeth Zimmerman ’24

All State Awards
Second Team: *Gracie Barnes ’23
*Gracie Barnes was selected for the Cincinnati All-Star Game and as an alternate for North-South Game.

BOYS BASKETBALL: Record 11-12
2nd place in the Miami Valley Conference

Miami Valley Conference Awards
First Team: Andrew Zimmerman ’24
Second Team: Joe Gibson ’23, Bryce Snell ’25
Honorable Mention: Shepard Snell ’24, Davis Campbell ’24
Dick Snyder CIS Award (Character, Integrity, Sportsmanship): Kellan Raterman ’23

District 16 Awards
Second Team: Andrew Zimmerman ’24
Honorable Mention: Joe Gibson ’23, Shepard Snell ’24, Bryce Snell ’25

Cincinnati Enquirer Awards
Second Team: Andrew Zimmerman ’24
Honorable Mention: *Joe Gibson ’23, Shepard Snell ’24

*Joe Gibson, Bryce Snell, and Shepard Snell were selected for the Cincinnati All-Star Game.

SWIMMING

Miami Valley Conference Awards
First Team: Caroline Ramirez '24, Weichu Wang '26

Cincinnati Enquirer Awards
First Team: Caroline Ramirez '24, Weichu Wang '26

State Qualifiers
Caroline Ramirez '24 – 50 Freestyle (13th Place), 100 Backstroke (8th Place)

Weichu Wang '26– 200 IM (16th Place), 100 Breaststroke (9th Place)

Delaney Gorman '26 – 100 Butterfly (20th Place)

Caroline Ramirez '24, Delaney Gorman '26, Annie Gammon '24, Zsofia Varga '26 – 200 Free Relay (19th Place)

WRESTLING

Miami Valley Conference Awards
Co-Wrestler of the Year: Tristen Davis '23

Cincinnati Enquirer Awards
Second Team: Tristen Davis '23
Honorable Mention: Luc Bonomo '23

GYMNASTICS

Cincinnati Enquirer Awards
Honorable Mention: Hayden Zimmerman '26

CHEER

Miami Valley Conference Awards
Cheer Award: Caroline Van Landuyt '23

COUNTRY DAY COMMUNITY CONTRIBUTES TO STORYBOOK ENDING

At the MVC league tournament this year, Justin Faulhaber '28 was encouraged by varsity wrestlers Luc Bonomo '23 and Tristen Davis '23, and (as you will see), it made all the difference. "This is what the Country Day experience is all about – Upper School students supporting younger students…teachers as coaches [Dan Wood is the Middle School wrestling coach and a Middle School science teacher]…parents as teachers [Greg is an Upper School math teacher]… and we're all in the stands cheering each other on," says Greg Faulhaber. "This community wraps itself around one another in a way that is unlike anything else I have ever seen or experienced, and it makes all the difference in the lives of these children."

This was the first time Justin pinned an opponent – a special moment he will surely remember forever.

"When we wrestlers go out on the mat it's all about us versus us, even more than us versus our opponent," says Bonomo. "It's a mental obstacle course from the moment we step on the mat and even days before we ever step foot in the gym. I felt compelled, regardless of the outcome, to go down to the mat to watch in those vulnerable moments and cheer him on. It was a very special moment to see Justin succeed, knowing how much work it takes for wrestlers to compete. I was thrilled to see a member of our program have a breakthrough in his game."

Coach Dan Wood said wrestling is all about setting small progressive goals through a checklist so the student-athletes can build momentum and confidence. "Justin's season came to a storybook close because he worked his way through the checklist. As we analyzed and discussed his previous performances, coaches identified that a particular technique, a power half, could be effective for Justin. With that technique, he turns and pins his opponent for his first win of the season and look at that smile on his face! Wrestling is one-on-one so it can be scary to go out onto the mat. Having a checklist for aggressiveness and success helped Justin tap into his courage and build his skills."



SCAN HERE TO WATCH THE VIDEO OF JUSTIN'S MATCH

TWO SENIOR ATHLETES SIGN SPRING LETTERS OF INTENT



Surrounded by family, classmates, teachers, and coaches, two standout Nighthawks announced what colleges they will be taking their athletic talents to next year during spring signing day.

Colin Heekin declared his intention to play football at Denison University. Sydney Bortz signed a letter of intent to play soccer at the University of Richmond. About playing soccer at the college level, Bortz says, "I'm excited to have the opportunity to take the next step in furthering my skills in a sport I love at such a great school."

While Sydney and Colin were recognized at the signing ceremony on May 11 in the Carey Family Amphitheater, six more student-athletes were in attendance and were celebrated for signing their letters of intent earlier in the year.

Athletic Director Dennis Coyle thanked the student-athletes for their hard work, sacrifices, and the long hours of practice and training they dedicated to their sports and teammates. Addressing the seniors, Dennis reminded them that "as you move on from Country Day, please remember that your coaches, teachers, and classmates at Country Day will be cheering you on from afar. Transitioning to college isn't always easy; it's quite a commitment to balance academics and sports but I feel like your experience at Country Day has prepared you for the balance that will be required of you in this next phase of your journey."



Back row – Titan McMullin (Batavia), Colin Heekin (Cincinnati), Tristen Davis (Loveland), Michael Donahue (Loveland), Graham Sorg (Indian Hill); Front row – CJ DeBra (West Chester), Gracie Barnes (Batavia); Sydney Bortz (Terrace Park)

The complete list of the eight seniors who will be participating in college athletics can be found below:

Gracie Barnes: Basketball
University of South Carolina Upstate
Sydney Bortz: Soccer
Richmond University
Tristen Davis: Lacrosse
University of Massachusetts-Lowell
CJ DeBra: Soccer
Youngstown State University
Michael Donahue: Lacrosse
Florida Southern College
Colin Heekin: Football
Denison University
Titan McMullin: Football
McKendree University
Graham Sorg: Football
Case Western Reserve University



Nik Shah '25 and Christian Sprinkle '23 qualified for the state tournament in doubles tennis and competed at Ohio State University in late May.

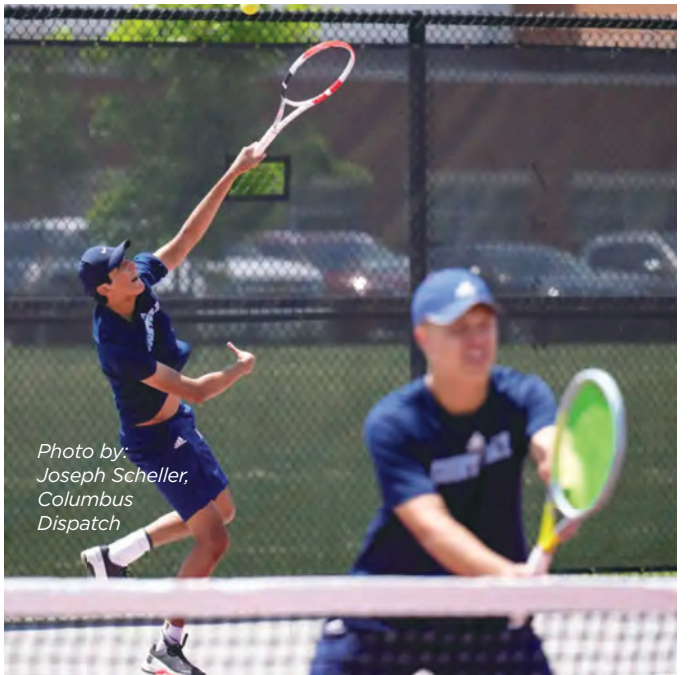


Photo by: Joseph Scheller, Columbus Dispatch

2022-2023 SPRING SPORTS RECAP

BASEBALL: Record: 20-12
District Champions

Miami Valley Conference Awards
First Team: Parker Corbin '24, Nate Paumier '25
Second Team: Zach Pavlisko '25, Andrew Zimmerman '24
Honorable Mention: Kyle Collett '23, Vlad Johns '23

SOFTBALL: Record: 10-4
2nd Place in the Miami Valley Conference

Miami Valley Conference Awards
First Team: Alexia Lander Vegas '23, Riley Williams '25, Piper Farris '24
Second Team: Caroline Ochterski '25
Honorable Mention: Kylee Hirschauer '25, Alessandra Garcia-Altuve '25

GIRLS LACROSSE

Miami Valley Conference Awards
First Team: Elizabth Zimmerman '24, Natalie Christine '23
Second Team: Megan Zimmerman '24, Isabel Ramirez '24, Sami Hess '23
Honorable Mention: Leah Coyle '26, Marin Lange '25

BOYS LACROSSE

Miami Valley Conference Awards
First Team: Carson Yackey '24
Second Team: Titan McMullen '23, Teagan Davis '25, Michael Donahue '23
Honorable Mention: Simon Smyth '25, Lee Thomas '25

BOYS TENNIS

Miami Valley Conference Awards
Second Team: Trevor Gregorsok '25, Christian Sprinkle '23, Nikhil Shah '25, Adam Arebi '25, Leo Joffe '24
Honorable Mention: Sanjay Cherukuri '26, Daniel Sgro Plaut '24

Sectional Champions
Christian Sprinkle '23 & Nik Shah '25

State Qualifiers
Christian Sprinkle '23 & Nik Shah '25

COED TRACK & FIELD

Miami Valley Conference Awards
First Team: Gracie Mitchell '24, Payton Hughes '23, Emma Kate Schnieber '24, Donovan Gray '25, Vanca Pandey '26, Val Benitez '24, Fleur Helmantel '24, Emma Faulhaber '25

Spring athletics all-city, all-district, and all-state elections are not announced until after publication deadline, as is the case with state tournament results. We will share this information with our community in the fall.

Way to go, Vlad!

The Nighthawks won the first baseball game of the sectional tournament playoffs, 9-0 against Finneytown High School, but the real headline is that senior Vlad Johns threw a perfect game! Seven innings, no hits, no runners on base, no problem. Way to go, Vlad!

If you can remember the last time a Country Day pitcher threw a perfect game, let us know – we'd love to hear about it!

Email mckenricj@countryday.net.





GIRLS SOCCER TEAM WINS IT ALL

The girls varsity soccer team earned the title of OHSAA Division III state champions this year. The team played in the state championship game on Friday, November 11, and won 1-0 against Ottawa-Glandorf at Lower.com Field in Columbus, Ohio.

"This team has continued a tradition of excellence on the field and in the classroom, and by creating a family atmosphere for all 33 players," said Theresa "Hirsch" Hirschauer, head coach. "I could not be prouder of who they are as a team."

What was the secret to their success? Hirsch believes it is leadership.

"The senior captains – CJ DeBra, Sydney Bortz, Sami Hess, and Alexia Lander-Vegas – have been tremendous," said Hirschauer. "The team improved every game throughout the 17-game regular season with different players stepping up at different moments."

At the beginning of the season, the team was ranked number two in the region, but by the time playoffs came around, they were the number one seed.

"To me, leadership is the culmination of many things. It's driving the younger girls to practices and games...including everyone in team traditions and superstitions...organizing events to ensure that we can have fun as a team," said CJ DeBra '23, team goalie. "I have learned that you must be patient and understanding to succeed. People make mistakes in life and in soccer; it's all part of the process."

This was the soccer team's fifth appearance in the state final. The last time the team won the state championship title was in 2019, when the four seniors on this year's team were freshmen.

"As a senior and a captain, my most important role is leading the younger girls and preparing them for next year when we won't be there," continued DeBra. "If there is a sense of community throughout the entire team, the team works better on the field and gets along as a group of sisters. If the younger players are nervous about a big game, I have to act like I'm not nervous and provide a calm atmosphere for them."

Although the team took many shots on goal throughout the match, Elizabeth Zimmerman `24 scored the game-winning goal in the ninth minute of play.

"Leadership is very important when it comes to being on the field and in the classroom, too," said Sydney Bortz '23. "No matter where I am, I try to lead by example. When I am at practice, I make sure I am focused on the practice and show the younger teammates how to focus before a big game. I try to do the same thing in my classes by setting the example to do my work or listen to my teachers."

EIGHTH-GRADE CLASS SHINES WITH MEMORABLE PRODUCTION OF *Singing in The Rain Jr.*



A long-treasured Country Day tradition, the entire eighth-grade class treated the community to a spring musical, and this year's class performed *Singing in the Rain Jr.*

Led by the unflappable Lois Rust, the school's drama teacher and events coordinator, the students involved in the production worked tirelessly for months to pull together a show that was both entertaining and memorable.

They put in countless hours rehearsing dance moves, speaking lines, and singing voices, building sets, creating costumes, perfecting lighting and sound, and creating a spectacular show.

Matthew Wood, as Don Lockwood, and Leon Hall, as Cosmo Brown, were magnificent with their performances, nailing their dialogue and hitting every mark with their dance moves.

The Class of 2027 showed that they have what it takes on the big Keeler Theater stage. The students showed a level of talent and commitment to the production and to each other that was truly impressive. Their hard work paid off in a show that will be remembered for years to come.



CENTENNIAL SPOTLIGHT

LEARNING & GROWING THROUGH PLAY IN OUR PRE-PRIMARY PROGRAM

Our Pre-Primary program is having a moment. Just like the children enrolled in the program, we woke up one morning and realized the program had grown even bigger and better than the day before.

The Pre-Primary program, which includes early childhood (18 months) through Pre-Kindergarten II/Montessori II, had record enrollment in 2022-23 with 162 students. Waiting lists have been established for the Early Childhood classrooms since 2018-19, and applications for fewer than 45 open spots exceeded 100 this past year. Inquiries for the program will exceed 175 for the next school year, and applications are rolling in 14 months prior to the start of the new school year, which is the earliest that applications can be submitted.





"We have a lot to offer in the Pre-Primary that draw people to our program," says Kathi Bagnoli, director of the Pre-Primary program. "Country Day teachers go above and beyond, putting their whole heart into everything they do to support our students and community at large."

Undoubtedly, students receive a rigorous and amazing academic education here at Country Day. However, our teachers are also committed to so much more: developing the whole child from character virtues to social-emotional skills.

This is what Kathi says Pre-Primary is all about: social-emotional learning. "Students here are learning how to be contributing and respectful community members. They learn to negotiate, take turns, plan, work together, be leaders, solve problems, and resolve conflicts. Children need to develop these skills before diving into deep academic learning in their later years."

(Continued on next page)





FACULTY SPOTLIGHT:

KATHI BAGNOLI, DIRECTOR OF PRE-PRIMARY



What brought you to Country Day?

When my husband Sean and I moved to Indian Hill, the school's Montessori program brought me to Country Day. Both our children [Drew `22 and Wilson`24] started at 18 months at the ECC [Early Childhood Center], and the plan was for them to go to Indian Hill when they reached Kindergarten. After our experience in the Pre-Primary program, we couldn't imagine leaving a school so great! We fell in love with Country Day and wanted this to be the boy's home, so we committed to staying at the school long-term. Wilson, a rising senior, and Drew, a rising sophomore at Case Western Reserve University, are both proud lifers. I started teaching here as an assistant in the Montessori classroom [Kathi has a bachelor's degree from Denison University and her master's degree in education and Montessori teacher certification from Xavier University], then became a lead teacher in the Early Childhood Center. After that, I taught traditional Kindergarten and, most recently, in our Montessori classroom, and every step along the way, as a parent and teacher, it has become a second home for me and the boys.

What do you love about your job?

I love the kids, and in this new role, I love helping our teachers, families, and students. I know what a hard job it is to be a teacher and the challenges we face as parents of young children. I love helping others and get to do that for a school I love.

What makes you such a good fit for this position?

I took on the role of director of Pre-Primary this past school year and feel I'm a good fit because of my experience as a teacher and as a parent in the community. Helping our teachers and our parents every day makes this job all worth it.

What advice do you have for parents?

My best advice is to get involved in our amazing community! Come to our parent-child and all-school events or sign up to volunteer. You'll get to know the great people and families that make this community so special. In this new role, I strive to do my part to create opportunities for families to get to know one another – toddler tailgates to watch Friday football games, parent/child meet-ups, parent coffee talks, and CCDSaturday events like our family open swim or maple-sugaring event at our outdoor education center. Pre-Primary is where many families start their journey at Country Day, and my goal is for families to get connected right away. Ultimately, you will become a part of an amazing community, build lasting friendships, and meet wonderful families from all walks of life.












The Pre-Primary program is steeped in play- and project-based learning as a foundation of lifelong learning. Next school year, Pre-Primary students will participate in three specials as part of the core programming – swimming, music, and outdoor education. Students attending the full-day program will also have afternoon enrichment classes in world language, sign language, dramatic storytelling, movement, art, and social-emotional learning.

"Within the play- and project-based approach of our Pre-Primary program, children approach the world with their ideas, their language, their bodies, their teacher, and each other," says Mark Morawski, head of Lower School. "So much learning comes through play, which promotes creativity, wonder, curiosity, collaboration, critical thinking, problem-solving, well-being, and appropriate risk-taking – all skills essential for life."

Kathi Bagnoli leads Country Play on Friday mornings, our parent-child program for children beginning at 12 months old, to give parents and children the opportunity to experience some of the components of the Pre-Primary program, including the Country Day community.

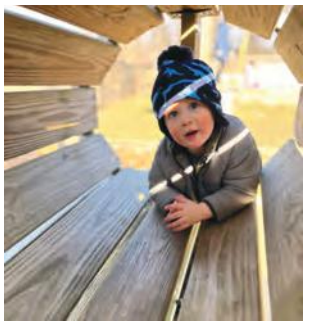
"We have a very diverse community," says Bagnoli. "All the time, I hear from people that they wanted a diverse school, so they chose Country Day. We have wonderful families from all over the city and beyond, from all different backgrounds and cultures. It's part of what makes Country Day special."

While Early Childhood can now accommodate 48-60 students each year, Pre-Kindergarten and Montessori I and II have formed waiting lists in the past three years as well. Given the demand in Early Childhood and that most of those students progress through Pre-K and Montessori, there are now very few spaces available for new students entering Pre-K and Montessori. Only 9 of the 94 students in Pre-K and Montessori in the 2023-24 school year are new students to Country Day. But new students or not, students are celebrated throughout their years at Country Day.

"While I know it sounds cliché, our teachers really do know and nurture their students and have connections with families – not just while they're in the pre-primary program but throughout the years."







POWER IN DIALOGUE

A VISIT WITH DARYL DAVIS



World-renowned blues musician and activist Daryl Davis, who has to date convinced over 200 people to leave the Ku Klux Klan, visited our school in April. Davis believes there are five basic tenets that help foster civil conversation and affect change.

"No matter how far I travel or how different someone might seem, I always conclude that everyone is a human being who wants to be loved, respected, heard, and treated fairly, and wants the best for their family," said Davis. "There is power in dialogue. You don't have to agree with someone, but you have to at least respect their right to express their views."

His work to foster respect and understanding through civil discourse inspired one of our Upper School students, Addison Heimann '24.

"One of the best aspects of this event is that it was all student-led," says Rob Zimmerman '98, head of school. "Addison did all the work to make the event happen. From an idea he had in a history class, he researched speakers, arranged for Mr. Davis's visit, and raised money to bring him to campus. We are proud of his leadership."

Davis goes into more detail about his work in his book, *Klan-destine Relationships: A Black Man's Odyssey in the Ku Klux Klan*.

Davis, who typically gives 70-80 speeches a year, also has a Ted Talk during which he talks through his experiences befriending Klansmen and attending KKK rallies on his journey to understanding perspectives so different from his own.

"I was simply the impetus for change; they made the change happen themselves. We cannot let our country tolerate hate - it doesn't belong in any century let alone the 21st," continued Davis during his presentation to Upper School students. "We need to cancel our cancel culture; we're living in Space Age times so why are we using Stone Age minds? We each have a choice about the direction our country takes – one in which we sit back and watch what it becomes or one in which we stand up and make it become. I can't answer that for you, but I want to stand up because life is great without hate."

Davis challenged the audience to "walk across the cafeteria," explaining that many people, regardless of age, tend to gravitate toward who and what is familiar in the cafeteria, often sitting with people who look or think alike. "Once or twice a week, I encourage you to walk across the cafeteria and sit with someone else and I guarantee you will learn a thing or two. Engaging with others is how we break down barriers."

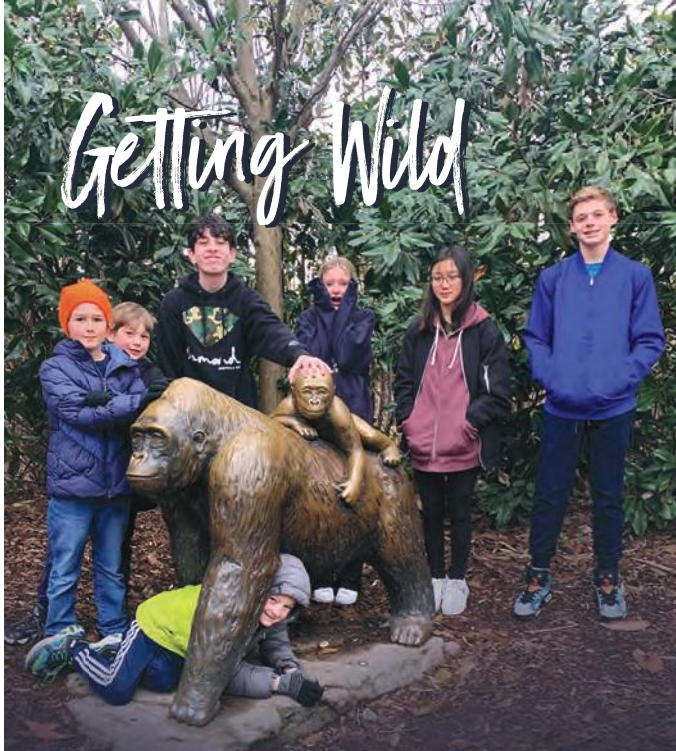
Scan here for more pictures from his visit, along with a video of his jaw-dropping piano performance, which makes it easy to see how he played with the likes of Chuck Berry and was friends with people like Elvis Presley.



LOWER SCHOOL SERVICE LEARNING DAY

During Project Virtues Day, Lower School students displayed virtue in action through the five character virtues – respect, responsibility, integrity, courage, and compassion. They spent the afternoon engaged in activities to serve those around us, including building love kits filled with personal care items and letters of encouragement for Cincinnati children, making bookmarks and book bags for graduating students at Amanda Elementary, cleaning up our beautiful campus, helping prep for summer programs, and crafting paper hearts with messages of support, kindness, and compassion for children who have experienced loss.





Getting Wild

Things get wild every year when the second graders and seventh graders take a field trip to the Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden together. In addition to making new friends, the second graders prepare for their animal research projects and the seventh graders have the chance to observe what they are learning in science class. Not only do cross-divisional learning opportunities abound on our campus, but our students also enjoy the opportunity to interact off campus. And because we cannot resist a good throwback, check out these pictures of this year's seventh graders (the Class of 2028) with this year's seniors (the Class of 2023) from their zoo trip together five years ago.





BEST OF CLASS 2023



WCPO and the Ohio Lottery Commission saluted (from left to right) Joshua Williamson '23, Will Donovan '23, and Emil Hettich '23 as high school top achievers with the Best of Class 2023 designation.

The highest academic achievers from more than 200 public, private, and parochial high schools in the WCPO coverage area were recognized as the tri-state's top graduating students for the 2022-23 school year.

On Saturday, May 6, these students attended a taping at the Cincinnati Museum Center to be featured in public service announcements throughout May and June to not only honor them but also encourage other students to strive for academic excellence.

"While working hard in our most advanced classes, you have also been exemplary community members and wonderful examples of leaders," said Jenn Weinheimer, head of Upper School, in a message to Donovan, Hettich, and Williamson. "Your connections with your classmates and your teachers make me proud to know you, too. I think about our theater productions, the band concerts, leadership of EDI [equity, diversity, inclusion], and so much more. The three of you are inclusive and kind and some of the best of Country Day. I hope the weekend's event was meaningful and special, but I also hope you know that you are more than numbers to those of us who know you. Thank you for being role models and scholars."



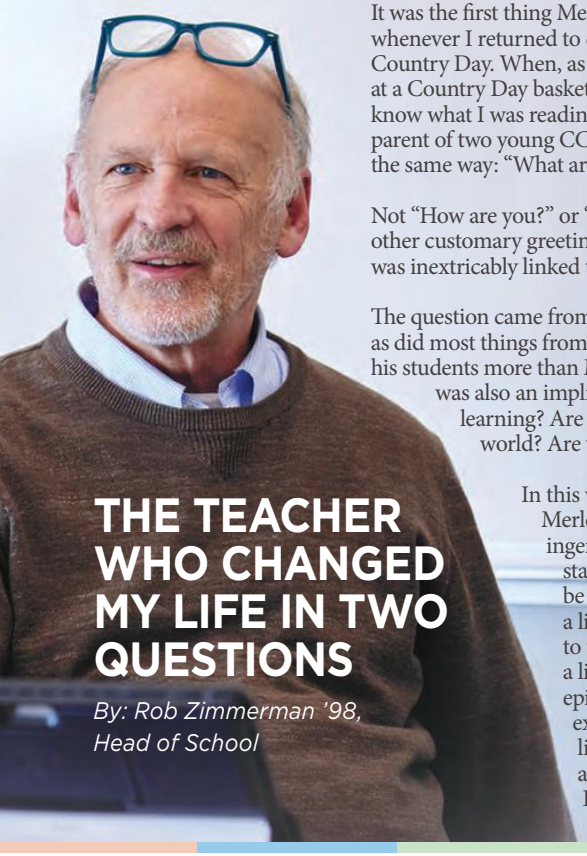
ARTS WEEK





In April we celebrated Arts Week with three evenings of activities. The Middle School and Upper School choir concert – themed "New Traditions" – kicked off the week and was simply marvelous. The student performances, the range of song selections, the arrangements, the depth of preparation, and the enthusiasm were all impressive. The Middle School and Upper School band concert was a fabulous evening of music, community, and talent. With the theme "Band Through the Years," the show gave the audience the chance to experience a progression of talent. The Nighthawk Band crushed it, and solos by the three honor band student-musicians were unforgettable. The spring arts show on Friday evening was the perfect feather in the cap of an already impressive week. Seniors Max Fink, Frances Kovach, and Camryn Miller provided insightful and inspiring artist talks, and the Messer Gallery and the Dining Terrace were adorned with gorgeous pieces of artistic expression from students of all ages.

The energy and excitement were palpable all week long – a wonderful celebration and display of our incredible arts program!



THE TEACHER WHO CHANGED MY LIFE IN TWO QUESTIONS

By: Rob Zimmerman '98, Head of School

"What are you reading?"

It was the first thing Merle Black would always ask me whenever I returned to campus after graduating from Country Day. When, as a college student, I saw him at a Country Day basketball game, Merle wanted to know what I was reading. Years later, when I was a parent of two young CCDS students, he greeted me the same way: "What are you reading?"

Not "How are you?" or "Is your family well?" or any other customary greeting. For Merle, how I was doing was inextricably linked to what I was reading.

The question came from a place of curiosity and care, as did most things from Merle – no one has ever loved his students more than Merle Black. But the question was also an implicit challenge: Are you still learning? Are you still curious about the world? Are you still growing as a thinker?

In this way, it perfectly encapsulates Merle Black. In a warm and ingenuous manner, he sets high standards and pushes you to be better. He expects you to be a lifelong learner and holds you to that expectation. And he sees a life filled with books as the epitome of a life well lived. That example was powerful – life-changing, even – for me and for generations of Country Day students.

It goes without saying that Merle was a superb classroom teacher. Indeed, when our school's centennial history is written in three years, Merle Black will thoroughly deserve his exalted place alongside names like Pattison, Strauss, and Dunn in the school's teaching hall of fame.

But for me and many others, his enduring legacy is his insatiable and infectious intellectual curiosity. And it's this sense of curiosity that led to another question Merle often asked: Do you want to fight?" Now, if you heard this on a street corner or in a bar, you might flee in fear. But if you heard it in Merle Black's classroom, you would lean in. From Merle, it wasn't a threat; it was a generous invitation to intellectual inquiry.

Because what Merle really meant by "Do you want to fight" was "Are you ready for a battle of ideas?" It's not so much that he sought a debate where points would be scored or victory declared; rather, he wanted you to join in the joyful quest for knowledge and truth. And he wanted you to join in because he valued lifelong learning for its own sake, not for the credential it might bestow someday.

Who could ever turn down that fight? Not I. Not when Merle beckoned me to a life of intellectual engagement, buoyed by a sense of wonder and gratitude. Not when Merle's passionate spirit was on display every day, his voice quickening while reading a Churchill speech, his eyes welling with tears while describing the beauty of Michaelangelo's art, and his arms straining under the weight of another pile of books destined for his garage library.

In retrospect, it seems obvious that Merle would have this effect. But at the time, it was far less certain. I was a typical 16-year-old boy whose primary interests were sports and girls (in the case of the latter, the interest was typically not mutual). To watch his authentic enthusiasm in class, though, was to be jealous of the tears streaming down his face and awed at his passion for learning. I vividly recall watching him in my sophomore year history class and thinking: "This is what serious grownups do. This is how a real man behaves."

For that reason, it is no exaggeration to say that Merle Black has been the most important adult in my life outside of my family. His example was that powerful for me, from the way I viewed my professional trajectory to the way I viewed the world itself. In fact, I feel his influence every day I walk into work, because I would not have returned to lead Country Day without Merle's impact. And it has been one of the great honors of my life to work alongside him these past two years.

After 35 years of exemplary teaching at Country Day, Merle retired this June. I'll certainly miss his daily presence on campus, but I'm sure I'll see him again soon at a sporting event or a senior seminar. And when I do, I'll be sure to ask him "What are you reading?"

UPPER SCHOOL RECOGNIZES STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT DURING AWARD CEREMONY, JOURDAN JONES '23 RECEIVES COUNTRY DAY AWARD

Upper School faculty, staff, family members, and student body celebrated 38 student recognitions during the Upper School award ceremony. Head of School Rob Zimmerman '98 presented the Country Day Award, which is the highest honor the school can bestow upon a student. This year, Jourdan Jones '23 received this recognition. "No matter the setting, she is always in command of her voice... Jourdan is more than ready to be of service to the world; she is ready to lead it."

SCAN HERE TO SEE THE COMPLETE LIST OF AWARD RECIPIENTS AND READ THE FULL STORY.



PORTRAIT OF A COUNTRY DAY GRADUATE

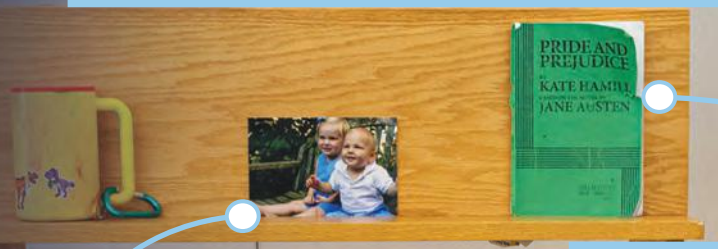
Featuring Sigourney Smyth '23

Senior Sigourney Smyth has spent almost her entire academic career at Country Day. In the fall, she plans to attend James Madison University to major in biology. Sigourney hopes to use her degree to pursue a career in the environmental sciences and help fight climate change. Before she heads off on her journey to higher education, she will first spend the summer as a camp counselor at Keystone Camp in North Carolina.

Sigourney has been a leader throughout her time as a Country Day student. As a senior, she was a peer mentor, took on the role of social media director for the school's theater department, played on the golf team, and even co-led a CCDX Week course. She and Will Griffin '23 helped their peers learn basic survival skills and advanced camping preparation, and then led them on a backpacking trip to the Red River Gorge to apply their skills, knowledge, and adventurous spirits.

HER STUFFED ANIMAL, COCONUT

"My grandpa gave him to me in kindergarten. Coconut is also a reminder of my childhood. He would go with me everywhere, he has seen everything I have been through, and he knows all my secrets. I still sleep with him at night and take him everywhere."



THE HORSESHOE FROM HER HORSE CLAYTON

Sigourney learned a lot of lessons by riding horses, which is something she has been doing since she was eight years old. "I am definitely the horse girl of my friend group. It has taught me a lot of responsibility. The community and my experiences at Green Acres, where I ride, has taught me not to give up after a fall or when a horse isn't working out. It has taught me that it is okay to not be great at something right away."

PICTURE OF SIG AND HER BROTHER

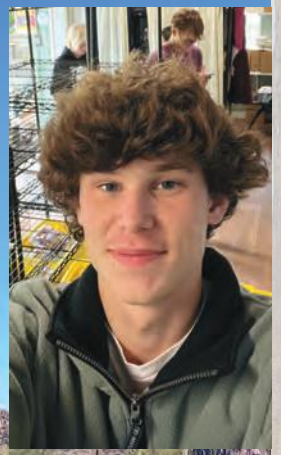
While most siblings might not see eye-to-eye as younger kids, that has never been the case with Sigourney and her younger brother, Simon '25. "We were born close in age to each other, and he has always been there for me. He is my built-in best friend and is always there for my adventures." Sigourney also enjoys the presence of another family member on campus. Her mom Suzy Smyth is a support specialist at the Lower School.

POLAROID CAMERA

Despite her love of photography and videography, she never took a photography class, but she wants to make sure her friends have something to look back on. "This camera is mostly symbolic considering the fact that I document everything. I also make videos for my YouTube channel, which I learned how to do by being introduced to video editing in Mr. Rose's drama II class. I want to be able to remember high school; it reminds me of my friends." She was also the production photographer for the winter musical *Tick, Tick... BOOM!*

PRIDE AND PREJUDICE SCRIPT

When Sigourney found out that the fall play would be *Pride and Prejudice*, she knew she just had to be Lizzie Bennett. "I read the book my junior year in English class, and I have watched the movie countless times since then. Acting was something I had never done before but I tried out and got the part! I found a really amazing group of people in the theater community this past year that I wish I would have found earlier in my high school career."



LEVI HOMAN ’24

AWARDED THREE CONGRESSIONAL AWARDS

Although the Upper School requires 90 hours of service to graduate, back when Levi Homan ’24 was a freshman he already knew that fulfilling that requirement would be no problem for him.

“I was talking with someone about my volunteer hours and how I already had 40 hours,” explains Homan. “That person brought up the Congressional Award program and it seemed achievable considering the track I was on and the fact that I enjoy doing community service.”

This past fall, Levi was awarded not one but three Congressional Awards – bronze, silver, and gold. Only 550 people in the United States receive the gold medal each year.

“I was shooting for gold because…why not?”

The Congressional Award recognizes initiative, service, and achievement in America’s youth. According to the Congressional Award website, this award program is the United States Congress’s highest honor for youth civilians. It is open to all youth in the United States between the ages of 14 and 24 regardless of ability, circumstance, or socioeconomic status. The program focuses on voluntary public service (400 hours), personal development (200 hours), physical fitness (200 hours), and expedition & exploration (5-day/4-night trip).

Activities Homan participated in to fulfill these requirements include volunteering at Tikkun Farm and Camp Friedlander, enrolling in a financial literacy course, participating in soccer and tennis, and planning (and taking) a trip to Arizona and Mexico to explore cultural sites and experiences.

“The biggest takeaway for me was the volunteering piece,” says Homan. “Volunteering is something I really enjoy because it makes me feel good and I can help others; it’s so good for the soul. I never thought it would be something I would enjoy doing as much as I do.”



Levi encourages others to strive for the Congressional Award as well.

“If you have the time, go after it. Sports are a big part of school life here so that piece is easy enough to obtain and there are always places looking for volunteers – just ask Mrs. Gunn [director of service learning] to help you make a connection to something you are interested in. The hardest part is planning the trip, but you don’t have to do anything big and you don’t have to go far. For me, it was all worth it.”

Levi was invited to the Congressional Summit in Washington, D.C. this June, where he was nationally recognized for his accomplishments.

In addition to receiving the medals, Levi also received his Eagle Scout Award in 2020. Eagle is the seventh and highest rank of Boy Scouts. Fewer than seven out of every 100 Boy Scouts ever achieve this rank. At 12 years old, he was one of the youngest recipients of the award in the tristate’s history.



51 PEOPLE TAKE OATH OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE UNITED STATES ON COUNTRY DAY'S CAMPUS

On April 27, Cincinnati Country Day School hosted a naturalization ceremony on our campus during which 51 - including two Country Day parents! - were sworn in as U.S. citizens.

"Here today, everyone wins," said U.S. District Court Judge Susan Dlott. "You can become whatever you want to be in this great country of opportunity. You have shown your commitment and eagerness to take on the responsibilities of being an American citizen. It's our high honor and privilege to welcome you."

The Carey Family Amphitheater was designated a United States courthouse for the day as America's 51 newest citizens from 31 countries took the Oath of Allegiance to the United States of America.

"We are a four-nation family and to finally all be united as Americans is very special," said Martin Hettich, Country Day parent, who, along with his wife Nina, became U.S. citizens that day. "And the fact that the ceremony happened here at this school where we've dedicated so much makes it incredibly significant to us."

For the ceremony, Greg Miller, choir director, sang the national anthem, and members of the Class of 2029 led the Pledge of Allegiance. Students from all divisions sat in attendance. Head of School Rob Zimmerman '98 provided a welcome to all in attendance, with a special message to the new citizens.

"Today, you are as American as anyone else in this country…You have worked hard, sacrificed much, and committed yourselves to our American experiment in self-government. Congratulations to you all; we welcome you with open arms," said Zimmerman. "This is also a momentous occasion for those of us who have been American citizens for much longer because today serves as an act of renewal, rebirth, and revival for us all…Your purposeful commitment today challenges all of us to be worthy of the country you have sacrificed so much to join."

Also in attendance were representatives from the League of Women Voters, Sons of the American Revolution, and the Freestore Foodbank.

Scan here for photos more from the ceremony.







CELEBRATING THE CLASS OF 2022 ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME

On May 13, 2023, the Cincinnati Country Day School community celebrated the Class of 2022 Athletic Hall of Fame inductees – Marc Comisar '71, Meredith "Meridy" Vollmer McLane '01, Erika Armstead '12, and Kyle Kistinger '12.

"The stories of how Country Day changed the lives of our student-athletes never fail to inspire me, and they reaffirm my faith in the power of athletics as an essential element of a Country Day education," said Head of School Rob Zimmerman '98 to open the ceremony. "At Country Day, we firmly believe that athletics are not an 'extra-curricular' activity; rather, they are central to the mission of our school. These inductees remind us of the standard of excellence to which we aspire, perpetuate our culture of success, and connect us to our history and our future."

Meridy Vollmer McLane '01, who Coach Steve Conner called one of the most naturally-gifted athletes he has ever seen, was a three-sport athlete, playing soccer and basketball and running track during her years at Country Day. She was a state runner-up in the high jump, was a member of the state-qualifying 4x800m relay team, and participated in multiple league, district, and regional championships.

"This is a great honor. As a current parent of three Country Day students, I can see so much more clearly the love and dedication of this faculty and staff," said McLane. "My coaches pushed me to try everything, which helped me be more versatile in so many areas of my life. The fact that Coach [Steve] Conner and Coach [Theresa Hirschauer] Hirsch are still here is a testament to their dedication and passion. Country Day played such an important role in my life and continues to be a great source of friendship and memories."

Erika Armstead '12, who was a three-sport athlete, essential to the volleyball, basketball, and track teams, and a state champion in the long jump, with the third farthest jump in Division III championship history, agreed with Meridy's sentiment about the dedication of the school's faculty, staff, and coaches.



Head of School Rob Zimmerman '98 (left) with the Class of 2022 Athletic Hall of Fame inductees (from left to right): Kyle Kistinger '12, Erika Armstead '12, Meredith "Meridy" Vollmer McLane '01, and Marc Comisar '71.

"Country Day has such an incredible community. Someone was always cheering for me, picking me up when I was down, or congratulating me, whether it was at a game or in the classroom," said Armstead. "I want to thank everyone – my coaches, friends, teammates, and opponents – for making me the woman I am today and for giving me the opportunities, faith, and push that I never knew I needed."

Gratitude was a common theme throughout the afternoon, and Marc Comisar '71, who was an essential member of the back-to-back undefeated football teams of 1969-70 and 1970-71, touched on how that extended beyond the field, courts, and tracks.

"What I have been able to accomplish in my life is directly related to my education during the six years I spent at Cincinnati Country Day School. I am grateful to my parents for giving me the opportunity to go to Country Day. I came to Country Day in 7th grade to play sports. I saw the students playing out in the fields one day when we drove by, which made me want to go here but I didn't realize at the time what kind of education I would get; it should be the model for all schools. I can't tell you what it means to me to receive the great teaching I did here [at Country Day] – it changed my life."

All the inductees spoke about their life-changing experiences at Country Day, including Kyle Kistinger '12, who still holds the school record in three events: 800m (1:58), 1600m (4:18), and 3200m (9:43).

"I'm fairly certain there is not another school in the state or country that has this level of faculty interest in their students, and it speaks volumes. It is a tremendous testament to their dedication to creating an environment for kids to learn and feel comfortable. The fact that some of my closest friends to this day are in this room with us shows how much this school fosters relationships that will hopefully last a lifetime. It's been a pleasure to be involved in the Country Day community; my family and I will certainly continue to be involved moving forward."

The purpose of the school's Athletic Hall of Fame is to honor former Country Day athletes, coaches, and members of our community who have contributed to the strong tradition of Country Day athletics. For more information or to submit a nomination, please visit https://www.countryday.net/alumni/awards.



Fast facts about Marc Comisar ’71
Marc’s studies at Colorado College focused on ancient religion, philosophy, and archaeology, fueling his lifelong pursuit of knowledge in these areas. He produced two impactful films, “Thrive: What on Earth Does it Take” and “Thrive 2: This is What it Takes,” with a strong emphasis on uncovering discrepancies and finding solutions for a harmonious world. With diverse experiences in the fine dining industry, he has contributed to renowned establishments like the Maisonette, La Normandie, Chester’s Roadhouse, and The Golden Lamb Inn. Marc’s commitment to nonviolent martial arts of Aikido, Tai Chi Chuan, and Chi Gong led him to establish Aikido of Cincinnati, a nonprofit educational foundation and training center.



Fast facts about Meridy Vollmer McLane ’01
In high school, Meridy participated in soccer and track for Country Day and squash nationally achieving impressive results in all three. After graduating from Country Day, Meridy continued her athletic career at Trinity College, winning two NCAA national championships as a member of the squash team.

SEEKING NOMINATIONS FOR THE 2024 Alumni AWARDS

Country Day alumni are some of the most accomplished citizens in the world. Each year we recognize a small group for their accomplishments in the greater community and at Country Day.

Distinguished Alumni

The CCDS Alumni Council elects one or more Distinguished Alumni in recognition of their contribution to the school, their contribution to the community, or their professional achievement.

Virtue in Action Award

The CCDS Virtue in Action Award recognizes a member of the Virtue in Action Society – those alumni celebrating their fiftieth reunion year or more – for their dedication, attitude, and motivation expressed through volunteer service to the community.

Arts Hall of Fame

To celebrate Cincinnati Country Day School’s strong and vibrant tradition in the arts, former students and community members are recognized for their contributions in the fine, musical, performing, and literary arts at CCDS and beyond.

Athletic Hall of Fame

The Athletic Hall of Fame honors former CCDS athletes, coaches, and members of our community who have contributed to the rich tradition of CCDS athletics.

If you wish to nominate an alum, teacher, or coach, visit www.countryday.net/alumni/awards to read more about eligibility and fill out the nomination form.



Fast facts about Erika Armstead ’12
Erika said she arrived in eighth grade and “was timid to play sports due to being a new student.” She decided to join the basketball and track teams, and quickly excelled in both sports. She attended and placed at district and regional meets all four years in different events. She holds the Country Day records in the 4x100m relay, long jump, and triple jump. She received her bachelor’s degree in human biology from Ohio University and her master’s degree in forensic and investigative studies from Indiana University–Purdue University Indianapolis.



Fast facts about Kyle Kistinger ’12
Kyle Kistinger resides in New York City and is an associate at Faegre Drinker, a full-service international law firm, and represents companies seeking to significantly alter their capital structures or operations to maximize shareholder value, realign strategic goals, or address financial challenges. He graduated from the University of Connecticut School of Law and received his bachelor’s degree in history and political science from Williams College.

ORIENTING OURSELVES

WITH FIRST-YEAR CCDS TEACHER SARAH WAGONER





What brought you to Country Day?
I wanted to be closer to my parents; I grew up only five minutes away from CCDS. So, when I decided I wanted to move back to the area from Nashville [where she taught seventh-grade world history and coached multiple sports], I reached out to Hirsch [Theresa Hirschauer, head of Middle School] about a part-time position that I had applied to. Instead, she mentioned there was a full-time opportunity at the Middle School and here I am! I teach sixth-grade health, eighth-grade outdoor wellness, and sixth-grade GIPS (Group Initiative Problem Solving).

Tell us more about the activities your students have done in your classes this year.
One of the most unique things about our campus is the orienteering course. In the outdoor wellness class, the kids use navigation skills to race against each other to see who can complete the course the fastest and in the correct order. The kids really love it because of the competitive nature of the game, and because they get to explore our campus. Depending on the season, we have also partnered with the Lower School to play games and do activities with them, such as maple tapping with Jana Westhoven [Lower School outdoor education teacher].

In GIPS, we do a lot of team-building activities. During the first quarter of the year, the kids loved building bridges using only cardboard and glue...and some of them withstood almost 200 pounds! Other activities focus on building their communication skills, such as the minefield activity where each student must rely on another student to navigate a minefield.

What do you consider the highlights of your first year?
My favorite memories are just seeing kids succeed in my classroom and in athletics. One of the coolest observations is the growth of my sixth-grade students. From the beginning of the year until the end, I can tell how much they have grown up and improved their communication skills. I have also loved coaching [cross country, FAST, and track]. I feel a lot of pride seeing the athletes work so hard and achieve their goals.



What is your favorite thing about the Country Day community?
I love how close the teachers and kids are. I can't speak more highly of how welcoming the Country Day environment is. Hirsch, along with the rest of the Middle School team, is wonderful at making you feel included, like you have been here for a while. I have also been able to work with such great kids who want to do well and are curious about learning. So, I guess I would have to say that the people are my favorite thing about the Country Day community.

One last question, as the outdoor wellness teacher, what is your favorite hiking experience?
My husband and I recently traveled to Washington and hiked Mount Olympus, and that was spectacular. But my favorite hiking experience was in Italy where I did the Walk of the Gods. We started in Bomerano and ended in Positano. We took the upper level of trails, which meant going up a lot of stairs and hiking the cliffs along the Amalfi Coast. I could not feel my legs afterward!



Phil Geier '66 is one of our country's preeminent leaders in international education, and his vision for the 21st century led to the creation of what has since become the largest privately funded international scholarship program in the world—the Davis United World College Scholars Program.

BUILDING CROSS-CULTURAL SKILLS & ATTITUDES THROUGHOUT THE U.S. AND AROUND THE WORLD

Phil teamed with philanthropist Shelby M. C. Davis to support over 13,500 students (and growing!) from over 165 countries to pursue their undergraduate degrees at nearly 100 colleges and universities across the United States.

"I am committed to fostering citizen diplomacy and international understanding through education because I believe we all need to build cross-cultural skills and attitudes of mutual respect—here in the U.S. and around the world," says Geier. "In the most profound sense, my education at Country Day and thereafter created opportunities, partially through academics but mostly through experiential learning — by that I mean learning through unpredictable circumstances and relationships that open your eyes and shape your character and career."

Phil also created "Projects for Peace" – an initiative also funded by Davis's philanthropy – to incentivize college students to design and implement projects anywhere in the world, as building blocks for improving the world. Since 2007, Projects for Peace has awarded $10,000 in grants to more than 1,950 student projects in 154 countries. Both the Davis United World College Scholars Program and Projects for Peace are ongoing with no end in sight.

Phil's passion for a career in international work grew out of a year he spent in France in 1977-1978 teaching at the Sorbonne in Paris as a Fulbright lecturer and giving talks on American culture throughout France on behalf of the American embassy. He earned his bachelor's degree from Williams College and both a master's degree and Ph.D. from the Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs at Syracuse University.

"My educational highlight at Country Day was Mr. [Lee] Pattison's history class and in particular his two-year research paper. I had no clue then (about anything really!) but that project unconsciously lit my fire for both teaching and 20th century diplomatic history," says Geier. "It inspired me to get a Ph.D. and start my career teaching at a small liberal arts college, which surprisingly led to being awarded a Fulbright lectureship to teach for a year at the Sorbonne in Paris. That Fulbright pivoted my career aspirations toward how best to foster better mutual understanding between people who are different from one another."

In recognition of his dedication and achievements, Phil has been awarded 12 honorary degrees. His career spans university teaching and leadership positions at foundations, non-profits, and educational institutions.

"My migration from leadership positions in non-profit education to giving shape to transformative philanthropy was a realization that the greatest impact comes from fostering synergies between meritorious causes and creative philanthropy," continues Geier. "As a consequence, I've had the privilege of creating the world's largest international scholarship program for undergraduates from all over the world while helping make American college and university campuses into more global communities."

When asked if he had any advice for today's students, his response was to "be adventuresome, explore. It's far more important to listen than to talk. Once you latch onto some appealing pursuit, be persistent and stay focused. The best thing about your education is not what you are learning but that you are learning to learn. With that foundation, you can be a lifelong learner. I would be remiss if I also didn't say that each of you should try to make a positive difference in the world, each in your own way."



Phil, pictured in the center behind the desk, was editor-in-chief of the school yearbook, the Archive.

CCDX

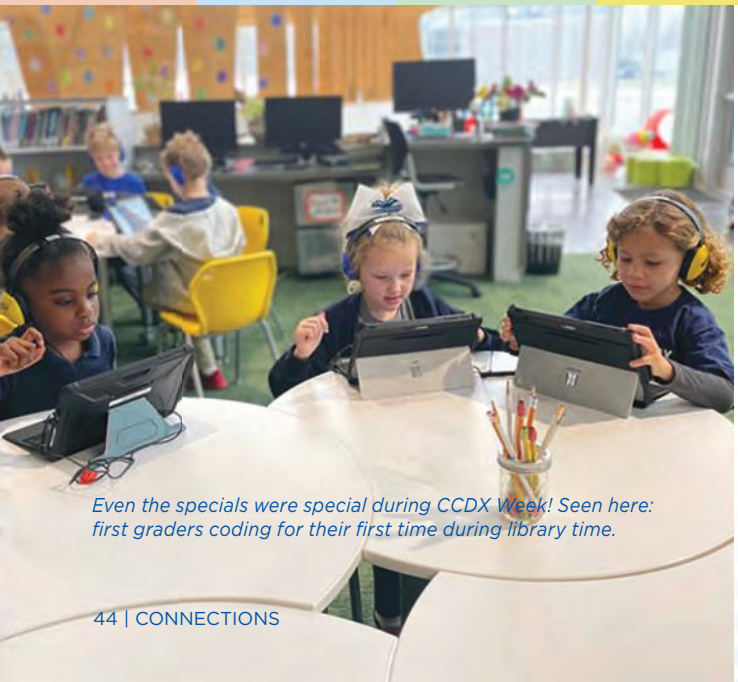
CINCINNATI COUNTRY DAY SCHOOL

CCDX is an experiential learning week that takes place every March. Offering developmentally appropriate courses for all students, CCDX Week promotes learning through exploration. From playing and designing games and puzzles, to imagining cities, to grappling with technology's ethical challenges, and to diving into canoe building, the arts, or global cultures, students from the ECC through Upper School explored their interests and engaged in meaningful learning.



Students on the Costa Rica service trip were immersed in bettering our dynamic world, planting trees, fixing up a local school, and building shelves at a national park.

A WEEK OF HANDS-ON LEARNING? YES, PLEASE!



Even the specials were special during CCDX Week! Seen here: first graders coding for their first time during library time.

Upper School students in CCDX Urban Development and Affordable Housing visited City Hall to meet with Cincinnati City Council Member Reggie Harris. First graders immersed themselves in coding for the first time during CCDX Specials. Kindergarten students learned about tools and safety, made wire sculptures, and took electronics apart – engineers in the making! Middle School students worked together to build canoes. From assembling the frame to coating the paddles, students were hands on every step of the way. Middle School students learned different techniques for baking and running a small business in CCDX Cupcake Wars. Fourth graders spent CCDX Week preparing for their production of Petra's Problem. CCDX Week at the ECC was all about mud; our littlest learners planted seeds, made fossils, and experienced the pure joy of squishing around in a muddy puddle. On the CCDX service trip to Costa Rica, Upper School students worked with local villagers on a variety of projects, including building shelves at the volcano national park and clearing an area for tree planting. Some fruit trees will help families become more self-sufficient; others are native plants needed to attract bees and other insect species. And so much more!



Mud Play at Country Day was super fun for our ECC students - the Country Day campus presents endless opportunities for playing in the mud! Students enjoyed a week of hands-on, sensory activities while engaging in all things mud, from making mud pies to creating mud prints.



Middle School students interested in baking learned how to create the perfect cupcake. Working in teams, students started a bakery business and competed in various baking challenges, culminating in Cupcake Wars.





Middle School students worked together to build a handmade canoe with their bare hands under the guidance of expert boat builder, Mr. Jason Gill from BenchMade, and their teachers.

Middle School students learned various life skills not typically taught in school, including cooking techniques, car and bike maintenance, and fire-building skills.



High school students in the Camping and Survival Skills course spent the first part of the week prepping for their overnight trip to the Red River Gorge.

Scan here to view pictures and videos from CCDX Week



Have you ever wondered how something is put together or ever wanted to take something apart? That's exactly what the kindergarten students (aka "tinkergartners") got to do during CCDX Week.



Middle and high school students engaged in a week-long workshop to train in the audition process, acting, staging, singing, and character development. The week culminated with a final performance.



Third graders explored non-computer games, including card games, outdoor games, traditional games, and games of strategy. The "oldies but goodies" helped them learn the historical and cultural context around global games, while newer games introduced them to unfamiliar but fun activities. And they had extra opponents with the Middle School helpers, who hung out in the Lower School all week.

Throughout CCDX Week, students and faculty engaged in innovative learning and teaching – the hallmark of a Country Day education. The week culminated with CCDXFest at the Lower School and Middle School – a chance for the students to showcase the efforts of the week – as well as performances.



One day during CCDX Week, high school students in the Urban Development & Affordability course sat in on meetings at City Hall to talk about urban development and housing.



Students spent the week doing final preparations for the annual fourth grade play - Petra's Problem. From set design to acting, directing, and more, each student selected a unique role to bring the play to life.



Middle School students in the Law & Order course, started the week uncovering a crime scene and getting a crash course in crime investigations and ended the week with a mock trial, with visits to the Hamilton County Crime Lab and Common Pleas Court.

Scan here to visit a webpage created by Middle School students in the Country Day Enquirer CCDX course.

TEAM EXCELS AT STATE SCIENCE OLYMPIAD TOURNAMENT

Contributions from Josh Williamson '23



The Science Olympiad team participated in the state competition at the Ohio State University for the 15th consecutive year! The team placed 24th out of 40 teams, an improvement from last year's result.

Placing in the top 10 in their categories were Jordan Lowe '25 and Marley Handler '24 who placed 4th in the remote sensing category, an event that focuses on using satellite data and spectroscopic information to study meteorology, climate change, and our planet, and Jason Starodub '26 and Yihe Zhang '26 placed 9th in the chemistry lab category.

We had 10 teams that placed in the top 20 in their categories, including:

4th Place in Remote Sensing – Jordan Lowe '25 & Marley Handler '24
9th Place in Chemistry Lab – Jason Starodub '26 & Yihe Zhang '26
12th Place in Astronomy – Ayaan Arif '25 & Jessica Chen '26
12th Place in Detector Building – Weison Huang '23 & Jessica Chen '26
12th Place in Green Generation – Lizzy Stacy '23 & Miki Ozawa '23
13th Place in Forensics – Marley Handler '24 & Rana Arebi '24
15th Place in It's About Time – Jessica Chen '26 & Alex Riemann '24
18th Place in Experimental Design – Jordan Lowe '25, Lizzy Stacy '23, Rana Arebi '24
19th Place in Anatomy & Physiology – Jessica Chen '26 & Ayaan Arif '25
19th Place in Fermi Questions – Joshua Williamson '23 & Jason Starodub '26

Of the teams from southwest Ohio, Country Day's team scored the second highest, edging out St Xavier, Indian Hill, and Loveland high schools.

38 STUDENTS EARN SCHOLASTIC ARTS AND WRITING AWARDS



Upper School fine arts and photography students took a field trip to the Art Academy of Cincinnati to check out the Scholastics regional art exhibit. Nothing cooler than seeing your artwork and the artwork of your peers displayed for all to see.

We are proud to announce that 38 Cincinnati Country Day School students were presented with Scholastic Arts and Writing Awards. The Scholastic Arts and Writing Awards are the nation's longest running and most prestigious recognition program for creative teens. Last year, we had 19 students win awards.

Additionally, Miki Ozawa '23 and Jourdan Jones '23 were named American Voices nominees. Only five of these nominations are bestowed in each region and one winner will be named in the spring. This means that out of all Gold Keys in our region, these two students' writing pieces were selected as the best representations of our region. Each region selects five writing (voices) pieces, and five art (vision) pieces and submits them to the national level. They will announce one regional winner – the best of the best in the region – in each category at nationals in New York.

All 10 American Vision & Voices pieces will be displayed at the exhibition locally. The national award recipient will receive cash and scholarship money in addition to the award and honor.

"I am extremely honored to be nominated for the American Voices award, and thankful to my teacher, Dr. Bridge, who helped me through the whole process," says Miki Ozawa. "I chose to write the essay about the movie "Parasite" because it is one of my favorite movies of all time, and I'm fascinated by its powerful impact and reflection on society as a whole."

Miki's piece titled "Marxist Criticism in Parasite" explores the 2019 film's exploration of Marxist ideologies.

"The concepts of voice and agency are more precious than ever as our culture competes for audience share," says Head of Upper School Jenn Weinheimer. "Jourdan and Miki have been leaders at Country Day for a long time. They are both strong students and artists, and

WRITING AWARD WINNERS

- Ayaan Arif '25 - Gold Key - Critical Essay
- Emily Connolly '27 - Honorable Mention - Short Story
- Leah Coyle '26 - Honorable Mention - Critical Essay
- Will Donovan '23 - Gold Key & Honorable Mention - Critical Essay
- Noor Elkasaby '26 - Honorable Mention - Critical Essay
- Nicholas Freitas '27 - Silver Key - Poetry
- Cece Hensley '26 - Silver Key - Critical Essay
- Jourdan Jones '23 - Gold Key - Poetry
- Kate Kranias '26 - Honorable Mention - Short Story
- Ava Lewis '26 - Gold Key - Critical Essay
- Jordan Lowe '25 - Honorable Mention - Poetry
- Kat Miner '27 - Silver Key - Poetry
- Evelyn Ni '28 - Honorable Mention - Poetry
- Ria Patel '27 - Honorable Mention - Short Story and Poetry
- Briggs Peters '27 - Silver Key - Poetry
- Nik Shah '25 - Honorable Mention - Critical Essay
- Shiva Shyam '26 - Honorable Mention - Critical Essay
- Jason Starodumb '26 - Gold Key - Critical Essays
- Max Sun '27 - Silver Key - Critical Essay
- Ryan Tennyson '27 - Honorable Mention - Poetry
- Minna Vens '27 - Honorable Mention – Poetry

ARTS AWARD WINNERS

- Ellie Barlow '24 - Honorable Mention - Mixed-Media
- Jessica Zhuo Chen '26 - Honorable Mention - Drawing & Illustration
- Shayon Choudhury '25 - Honorable Mention - Pinhole Photo
- Max Fink '23 - Honorable Mention - Drawing & Illustration
- Marc Hayden '25 - Honorable Mention - Pinhole Photo
- Maddy Heaton '24 - Silver Key Award
- Gigi Macias Jaime '24 - Honorable Mention- Photo
- Riley McClearen '23 - Honorable Mention - Design
- Grace Noack '23 - Silver Key Award - Mixed Media
- Evelyn Ni '27 - 2 Gold Keys in Drawing & Illustration - 1 Gold and 1 Silver in Painting
- Will Schiff '24 - Silver Key Award
- Simon Smyth '24 - Gold Key Award
- Alex Reimann '24 - Gold Key Award - Film & Animation; 2 Honorable Mention Awards, 1 Silver Key Award
- Caroline Van Landuyt '23 - Silver Key Award - Portfolio
- Andrew Zimmerman '23 - Honorable Mention - Photo
- Elizabeth Zimmerman '23 - Honorable Mention - Photo

their ideas and the products of their ideas have always been valued in our community. I'm so proud to see them acknowledged by others for their talents and hard work."

Twenty-eight Country Day students earned writing awards. Upper School students earned 17 awards, and eligible Middle School students earned 11. Among those awards are seven Gold Key awards; these awards indicate that these pieces will be entered into a more significant national competition for additional opportunities for recognition, including publication opportunities.

"The recognition for Country Day's writers is wonderful to see," says Sarah Beyreis, director of college counseling and external opportunities. "Our students really learn how to work with ideas—you can see that in the number of critical essays that won awards. To write well means to think clearly, and our students can do it!"

In the arts, Country Day has three gold key award winners, five silver key awards, and 11 honorable mentions.

"I am so excited for many of my past students and Art Club members who won awards in photography this year! I'm particularly excited that Caroline Van Landuyt submitted her photography portfolio and won a Silver Key," says Amy Brand, Upper School art teacher. "Also, I'm so excited for Jessica Zhuo Chen, who won an award for a drawing she did in Art I! We have so many young, up-and-coming, talented underclassmen at CCDS."

"Max Fink, Grace Noack, and Riley McClearen have come a long way over the years I have known them," continues Brand. "They have grown in maturity and focus, and their artwork shows that. It is wonderful to see them rewarded for their hard work and growth. This is Ellie's second year winning a Scholastic Arts award. Her voice has emerged over the past two years as she has deepened her study of visual art."



Thea Vaughan '28 (left) and Emily Connolly '28 were two of 500 students across Ohio to compete in the state Power of the Pen tournament at Ashland University. At the district competition, Thea won a Platinum Pen Award for her story "The Nerf War." This honor qualified her for the state tournament, and she will also be published in the 2023 "Book of Winners." Emily won the Director's Choice Award at the district competition for her story "The Heart of Dionysus." She qualified for state by getting a top 20% score at the regional tournament. Both showcased their creative talent and powerhouse writing skills at the state tournament – we're proud of you, Emily and Thea!



The Class of 2023 enjoyed one last adventure together on their senior class trip to the Ace Adventure Resort in West Virginia. They tamed rapids, hiked, rock climbed, ziplined, and created memories to last a lifetime.










CLASS OF 2031

"'How did they make it this far?' one might ask. Put simply, through collaboration and partnership, in small and large ways. It truly a partnership between all of us….These children are anything but typical. Each is extraordinarily unique and individually talented, and they collectively helped make this year uniquely wonderful."

-Head of Lower School Mark Morawski



CLASS OF 2027

"The students on stage are ready and excited for the next step in their educational journey, which will certainly be filled with many opportunities and challenges. The sky is the limit for the members of this class, as individuals and as a group."

-Head of Middle School Theresa "Hirsch" Hirschauer








CLASS OF 2023

"Sitting here today, ready to step off the stage to officially become an alumnus of Cincinnati Country Day School is no small achievement. Through setbacks, challenges, and hardships…we have made it through and preserved. Now is a time of celebration. Of course, it is a somber moment as well; many of us have known each other for years….But in getting to know each of you, I have no reservations about anyone failing to fully spread their wings and fly into careers and passions that will bring lifelong fulfillment."

-Student Council President Nick Watts '23

















AN EXPLOSION OF AGENCY HITS THE KEELER THEATER STAGE

By Nick Rose, Upper School theater director and speech teacher



One might argue that I give our theater students too much agency – we have a student production deputy position to provide me with real-time and honest feedback...the students regularly pepper me with programming suggestions...they call out my idiosyncratic phrases ("Okay, Cool! So!" is a big one, but I am working on it)... they feel confident to argue interpretation with me (sometimes vehemently).

On one hand, it is tough when the final call must be made, and I must remind them that I have that call. On the other, you get *Tick, Tick...BOOM!*

For our winter musical, we presented perhaps one of the strongest shows here at CCDS. More importantly, we had one of the smoothest processes I can remember since I was performing in theater. It was one of those experiences where you had to keep pinching yourself to make sure it was real, it was that smooth. And while we had a solid team of adult support this year (looking at you Greg Miller!) and we have become pretty good at planning out the process, it was the students who made it the success it truly was.

Let's start with junior Ray Mitchell, our student choreographer. Ray choreographed, taught, and coached our full cast throughout the process. There were two large numbers and at least six smaller numbers for which Ray was responsible. It was a remarkable feat, yet Ray took that agency and made it look easy. And the cast responded in kind.

Then, let's head over to the front-of-house operations. Emma Valentin '23 and Nick Watts '23 ran ticket and concession sales as if it were their own business. They procured the credit card machines, handled the receipts, coordinated with student and parent volunteers, and made sure every





patron was greeted and treated with care. There was never a moment where I had to worry; those two made it a master class in how to run a business.

Now, let's talk cast and crew.

This year, we offered walk-on cameo spots to faculty and staff, and we were blessed to have a few perform as walk-on cameos in our Sunday Brunch number. I received one of the best compliments from one of them after the experience; they told me they were so extremely impressed by how professionally the students ran the show backstage. They were also impressed by the positivity of the cast and crew. I beamed with pride.

When the show opens, the students have the agency to make it happen. So, for Annalyse Deming '23, August Dickerhoof '26, Ashley Odom '25, and John Mullins '26 in the booth, the lights and sound are fully at their control. For Gracie Dickerhoof '26, Alex Hardesty '23, Anderson Brandenburg '25, and Vic Quintero '25, the operations backstage are fully theirs to manage. For Josh Williamson '23 and Yvannia Buten '26, the quick changes, the character changes, the prop changes, the lines, the





choreography, and the challenge of bringing a wide array of different characters to life each night are in their capable and brilliant hands. For Ethan Rezer ’23, Nicole McNeal ’25, and Louisa Joy ’25, their dedication to their character, to support the story and serve as antagonist, protagonist, and everything in between, is on them each night. And for Will Donovan ’23, to take thousands of words to speak and communicate them effortlessly to an audience is completely in his power.

They, along with so many others, worked together to make it all look easy and impressive at the same time. It would not have happened unless they had the agency to do it. So, I will be happy to field student feedback for as long as I am here. Because when they feel the ownership, CCDS Nighthawk Theater presents stellar productions!



EXPLORING THE INTERNET OF THINGS



As part of their deep dive into the world of computer science, Jamie Back’s computer science 2 class explored Adafruit’s PyPortal Internet of Things touchscreen display to play with Python code. If you had to read that sentence twice and still believe it’s made up, you are certainly not alone.

According to Wikipedia, the Internet of Things “describes physical objects (or groups of such objects) with sensors, processing ability, software, and other technologies that connect and exchange data with other devices and systems over the Internet or other communications networks.”

If that still does not help, let us explain.

“I think holding things is a great way to learn and we talked about the Internet of Things in class, so through random web searches I found inexpensive devices and easy ways to connect them to the Internet,” explains Back. “The kids enjoy rolling up their sleeves too so we purchased some so they could play. Devices like these are everywhere so it is a good connection to the real world.”

The goal of the project was for the students to create an interactive display to show the data from their Internet of Things sensors, which are installed in 14 classrooms throughout the Lower School and Middle School.

The students had to figure out how the device worked and then alter the device to create their own interactive display that showed the classroom data collected from temperature and humidity sensors.

“The excitement in the room was real – the students were so excited to explore, learn, and share what they learned with each other,” says Back. “This project brought us a reason to discuss stuff that I had not planned on, such as correct data sampling and collection and intellectual property rights, as well as concepts directly related to the curriculum, such as analogue verses digital data and data compression, in a hands-on way.”



Gracie Barnes ’23 said the assignment also gave her a new appreciation for all devices, new and old. “I realized the complexity behind every device. There are 538 lines of code behind this little device that all help it go. I can’t begin to imagine the coding for something like my cell phone. I also have a new appreciation for older technology, like the Edison phonograph and disposable cameras. We think our iPhones are so simple, but seeing old technology helps me appreciate the new technology and where we started.”

Gracie also says the class helped her understand other parts of technology, such as social media, and how important her exposure to classes like this has been.

“As a teenager, I know that social media addiction is real. The struggle for me is real. This class not only helped me gain an appreciation for the work that goes into creating things but also how I need to be a responsible user of technology. Learning more about computer science is really important with the way the world is going; I’m sure knowing this stuff will help me in any future job, especially with society growing toward AI [artificial intelligence]. This is the third class I’ve taken with Mrs. Back. I’m not great with technology but she makes it simple. Country Day has provided me with a lot of experienced teachers like Mrs. Back and Mrs. [Lauren] Corrigan, and I’m grateful for those opportunities.”



COUNTRY DAY SELECTS
DIRECTOR OF ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

We are pleased to announce that Alpacino "Al" Beauchamp was named the school's director of academic affairs.

Beauchamp will work directly with Head of School Rob Zimmerman `98 to lead the school's academic program. As director of academic affairs, Beauchamp is charged with advancing a culture of innovative teaching and learning, providing faculty with meaningful professional growth opportunities, and further differentiating the school's program to promote the highest standards of academic excellence.

"While this was an international search, we were delighted to find Al's unique blend of experiences right here in Cincinnati," says Zimmerman. "Al is well-positioned to have an immediate impact at Country Day; he has led a community of more than 800 students and 70 faculty as a principal, taught at the middle school, high school, and university levels, led a new small private school as head of school, and worked in the corporate world domestically and internationally. And as a former student at Summit Country Day and St. Xavier High School, Al knows the Cincinnati private school market. We could not be more excited to bring such an accomplished leader to join our team of educators as we head toward the school's second century of excellence."

The school conducted a search that attracted nearly 70 candidates from around the globe and across the United States and the tri-state area. Angela Barber-Joiner, director of equity, diversity, and inclusion & social-emotional learning, and Dr. Jeanette Hecker, Upper School faculty member, led the search along with a committee composed of 10 faculty and staff members. The selection process also involved parents, trustees, alumni, faculty, and staff.

"Al is a student-centered educator whose experiences with instructional coaching, educational strategies, and local and global outreach will be assets to our school," says Hecker. "He has a growth mindset and a clear focus on student well-being and engagement. His preference to walk alongside his teachers coupled with his commitment to authentic experiences for students will ensure that the development and delivery of curriculum at Country Day remains exceptional."

Beauchamp holds a bachelor's degree in education and a master's degree in education from the University of Cincinnati and a master's degree in business administration from Miami University-Oxford. He is currently completing his doctorate in educational leadership at Miami University-Oxford.

Beauchamp began his career in education 20 years ago. In his current role as principal of Roberts Academy in Cincinnati, he has led the rigorous accreditation process with the International Baccalaureate (IB) program. Under his leadership, the school is positioned to become the first IB elementary school in southern Ohio.

"Having dedicated more than 19 years of my life to developing lifelong learners through intentional and purposeful educational practices, I am honored to accept this position with such an incredible institution and community and to serve alongside educators at Country Day," says Beauchamp. "My diverse and comprehensive experience in education has prepared me to take on this role; I have dedicated my career to educational leadership and student achievement. As educators, it is our purpose to build systems, structures, and environments that perpetually cultivate relevance, rigor, and inspiration. Cincinnati Country Day School has long exemplified these core values in its practices, and I look forward to serving this school community and fostering continued growth and excellence for our students."

Beauchamp was born in Berkeley, California, and resides in the Cincinnati suburb of North College Hill. He enjoys hiking, cycling, and spending time with his daughter Automne (11).

Beauchamp assumes the role of the school's director of academic affairs on July 1, 2023.

CLAPPING OUT OUR SENIORS

May 24 was a beautiful day to honor and applaud our extraordinary seniors as they embark on a new chapter of their lives, and we gathered as a community to give them the grand send-off they deserve! This remarkable class has worked tirelessly, overcome challenges, and grown into the outstanding young adults we see today. Their dedication, resilience, and achievements have left an indelible mark on our hearts and school. We are confident the Class of 2023 will tackle their next adventures with the same passion and commitment they displayed while students at Country Day!

Scan here for more pictures and videos from the Clap-Out.

















HONORING

THREE COUNTRY DAY LEGENDS

At the close of this school year, we bade farewell to three Country Day legends: Merle Black, Beth Langenbahn, and Ashley Ward. After a collective 83 years of service, these incredible educators retired.

Merle, Beth, and Ashley have transformed the lives of countless Country Day graduates, colleagues, and families, and their daily presence on campus will be deeply missed. The accolades and titles listed below simply scratch the surface of the unparalleled contributions these three have made to the Country Day community.

Merle Black joined Country Day as a history teacher in 1988. For 35 years, his passion for learning, his commitment to academic rigor, and his love of students has set the standard for great teaching at CCDS. In addition to teaching history, he has coached track and cross country (and been a consistent presence at student athletic events), served as history department chair and a member of Academic Council, helped design the Bob Patterson Memorial Fund, been selected as a recognized teacher for Ohio Magazine's 2010 Excellence in Education-Private High Schools, and received the school's Pattison Award for teaching excellence in 1994.



The community celebrated this year's three retirees during a reception on May 30. Pictured from left to right: Pat Dunn (former faculty member), Ashley Ward (retiree), Merle Black (retiree), Tim Dunn (former faculty member), Beth Langenbahn (retiree), Brady Brandt.

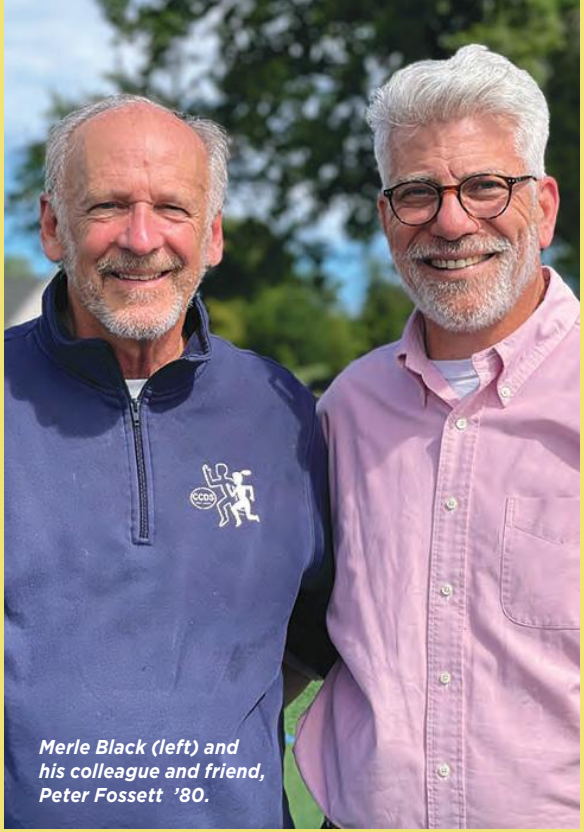
Parting Words

What are you looking forward to once you retire?

Merle Black: My wife Susan and I are going to travel. Our itinerary includes trips to Europe. Florence is my favorite place. "The David" needs a third look, and, while I am still able, I want to climb the stairs to the top of Brunelleschi's Dome again! We have two daughters with whom we'll spend as much time as they want to spend with us. I'm also going to write when I retire. I have a 300-page syllabus – affectionately named by my students "The Black Book" – used in my sophomore honors class, Modern Europe and the World. The bulk of the book/text is written by me and lists and introduces the titles of more than 200 assigned readings; I plan to continue working on it when I retire. My wife teases me to this day that her interest in me was in small part due to a pending doctorate from the University of Chicago (I'm ABD – all but dissertation)... and it's something I could still complete; there's no time limit.

Beth Langenbahn: I plan on traveling more; my husband has to travel some for work so when he has to go, I'm there. In September (I will actually get to travel in September!) we're going to five national parks in Utah. I also plan to take each kid on a trip wherever they want to go, starting with taking Christopher '22 to Italy next May.

Ashley Ward: I'm excited about the flexibility to travel (in non-summer months!), spending more time with my family in Louisiana, and learning to play golf. I might even sleep in on Mondays.



Merle Black (left) and his colleague and friend, Peter Fossett '80.

How did your career at Country Day begin?

MB: I came here because I wanted to work for an outstanding educational institution. As I entered adult life, I looked to put down deep roots and make a difference. Before coming to Cincinnati, I was at a boarding school for six years, and, when I came to Cincinnati, I found a school committed to excellence and every good reason to stay.

BL: My mom worked here doing payroll; she was hired while I was away at college. Then I worked summer camp at Country Day for two years. The rest is history. Even from the beginning, it was such a fun place to work; everyone was so welcoming; we went out after work together to play trivia and stuff like that. It has always been such a friendly place to be.

AW: I ran into Lynn [Macrae, wife of Rob Macrae, former head of school], and she told me Rob was swimming in work and needed support because his then assistant was on medical leave. At that time, I had volunteered in different capacities at the school, so I offered to help Rob one morning. After the first day, he asked if I would come again the next day, and then again the next day. By the end of the week, he asked if I would take the job permanently because he learned his assistant was not returning. I initially declined but had a change of heart, and I'm glad I did. I never thought I'd stay for 17 years but working with students, their families, and teachers has been fun, fascinating, and rewarding.

What will you miss the most?

MB: It's all about the kids. That's what I'll miss the most. At Country Day, students express their gratitude toward the teachers and the staff in open and genuine ways. I appreciate the autonomy teachers are afforded in designing curriculum. What is best about Country Day is the premium placed on cultivating critical thinking in our students and promoting an appreciation for the complexities and diversities of the human experience. Why I'm retiring? I'm 70. My wife retired earlier this year. I love my wife, and I love being with her. When August rolls around, I might think "Why did I retire?" but I'm at peace with this decision. Rob [Zimmerman `98, head of school] has said he would welcome team-teaching a quarter or semester elective. We will see!



Hugs welcome! Kindergartners stop by to visit with Ashley Ward after lunch.



Beth Langenbahn and other Country Day legends supported Hirsch during her fight against cancer.

BL: My favorite thing about working at Country Day is the people. My coworkers have been my second family for 31 years. The Middle School is a very special place – we all get along and support each other, it's my second home. I have loved teaching and sharing what I know. It's a joyful job; I'm incredibly grateful to the school for raising my three kids [Nicholas `15, Gretchen `18, Christopher `22] – the way they think and the amazing teachers that influence their lives. The greatest thing you can give you child is a great education and I've been blessed that Country Day was my children's school.

AW: The students have kept me at Country Day. They're energizing! I can't imagine that other workplaces have the depth of wonderful emotions that come with life at a school. You develop tight bonds and become personally invested. I value everyone's shared belief in educating the next generation to lead productive and purposeful lives. You feel part of a bigger calling than a normal day-to-day job. There can be challenging moments for sure. The stakes are high but so are the rewards.

Any parting words?

MB: The classroom is a place of give and take, of discussion and thoughtful debate. History doesn't give you 2+2 answers; it's all about generating questions, researching, writing, and bringing to light important matters – too often hidden or ignored. I am happiest when students take opposite sides or challenge what I'm saying. Grades take care of themselves; let us explore our collective past and the heroes and villains of history.

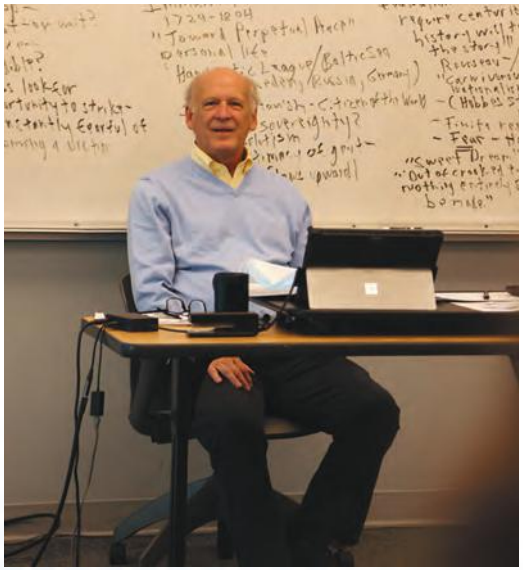
BL: You have to find the balance; find some time for yourself in it all. There is always work to be done, papers to grade, projects to be created; whether you run, exercise, or keep your computer turned off on Saturdays – find time for yourself to keep the balance.

AW: I am profoundly grateful for my time at Country Day. I've made lifelong friends and worked with wonderful students and their families. Every day is filled with opportunities to observe magical moments in a child's life. I never know who is going to pop in and share something wonderful, wise, insightful, or funny. What a blessing to play a small part in their lives. I'm constantly in awe of our teachers and all they give of themselves throughout the school year to make Country Day the best school in Cincinnati. I am also fortunate to have worked for talented heads of school, board presidents, and trustees; the caliber of character and talent of the school's leadership is inspiring. I wish I had kept a diary detailing all the memorable moments!

Beth Langenbahn began her career at Country Day in 1992 as the administrative assistant to the former Head of Middle School Dick Schwab '67. In 1995 she joined the sixth-grade teaching team and now teaches fifth-grade social studies and math. Beth is credited with – among many things – creating the sixth-grade social studies program that is taught today. Beth also served on multiple ISACS accreditation committees and received the school's Pattison Award for teaching excellence in 2002.

Ashley Ward began her Country Day career as the assistant to the head of school in 2006 and has been the unseen catalyst for most of the work on campus ever since. By turns a planner, advisor, scheduler, nurse, editor, therapist, and friendly aunt, Ashley has been indispensable to three heads of school and numerous community members. She has also co-chaired the Covid Rapid Response Team, chaired campus beautification events, and served on myriad committees, including the long-range plan committees in 2007 and 2014, ISACS accreditation committees, the Blue & White Triumphant Capital Campaign committee, and the head of school transition committee.

To celebrate these three legends, the community gathered in late May in the Carey Family Amphitheater.



WHAT OTHERS HAVE TO SAY...

Ashley, I will miss having another LSU fan around to share in the big wins and losses. I'll keep it alive in your stead; Geaux Tigers! – Jonathan Franzosa, current faculty member

I have been at CCDS almost as long as Beth Langenbahn, but I got to know her as a colleague, wisdom figure, and friend when the fifth grade moved from the Lower School to the Middle School. ***I loved my years in the Lower School, and I was filled with a bit of trepidation moving into a new division of the CCDS community. The person who made this transition smooth and welcoming for the incoming fifth graders and me was my colleague and friend, Beth Langenbahn.*** *Beth makes me laugh and think. She asks me to take a short walk to get out of the building and breathe some fresh air while having pleasant conversation. She does this not just for me, but for us all. We need to bottle her laugh, so we can listen to it whenever we are missing her presence – her spirit – her manifest gifts. She is our Athena. Of course, we are ever grateful for all she has done for us, and we are happy for her next chapter filled with travel with her husband, Andrew, and her children, Nicholas, Gretchen, and Christopher, the Ohio State Buckeyes football team, the Cincinnati Reds, kickboxing, walking, reading, and solving puzzles. She will be missed more than words can say. Beth Langenbahn will never be forgotten, and she will always be welcome at CCDS as she has made us all feel at home here for the last three decades.* – Molly Petre, current faculty member

Beth, It has been a privilege to work with someone who's so passionate. I've only worked with you for a short year, but ***it's undeniable that your passion has positively influenced our school.*** *Cherish every moment of this time and revel in this new stage of your life. Happy retirement!*
– Rhoda Weston, current faculty member

Dear Mr. Black, You are by far one of my favorite teachers I've ever had. You are in the top three of all time. Your love for learning is contagious, and ***you've inspired me to be the kind of person who engages deeply with people and community.*** *Thank you for your 35 years of service.*
– Aadhya Ramineni '19

Congratulations to three incredible people who made CCDS a very special place! Mrs. Ward's kindness and warm smile were always a highlight of any day. Mrs. Langenbahn passed on a great excitement for learning about the world that I still remember from 6th grade. Mr. Black was one of the most incredible teachers I have ever had. There is no one more passionate about modern European history and about teaching students the importance of curiosity and lifelong learning. I still have a box full of all the readings we went through during class but the love for learning he taught me will be forever. ***Thank you all for your immense contribution to CCDS and for caring so deeply about each of us!*** *You will be greatly missed! I wish you great happiness in your retirement!* – Sonia Bhati '14

Dear Ashley, Thank you for your incomparable years of service to our school community! ***You have brought incredible professionalism, kindness, compassion, competence, and insight to our leadership team and the institution as a whole that will be irreplaceable.*** *Personally, thank you for your support of me in my first three years at Country Day. The knowledge and historical perspective of the traditions and innovations at Country Day you have shared with me have been so helpful in supporting me in being the best I can be for our faculty, staff, students, parents, and greater community. Simply put, thank YOU for being YOU! All the best to you in this next chapter of your life. Enjoy it!* – Mark Morawski, head of Lower School

Ashley reminds me of the character Radar in M*A*S*H* – she was always able to anticipate what I needed before I knew I needed it. *She had great vision to quietly provide what was needed; it's what made my job easier and more successful…She was always incredibly calm and had a great way of calming people down just by being herself….Three things were her magic ingredients: She loves Country Day (and always will), she is selfless, and she knows the community really well. No one understands and knows the community better than Ashley…. She was always looking out for me and the whole school.* – Rob Macrae, former head of school (2004-2015)

Congratulations, Ashley…though it's like losing the heart of CCDS. Glad I'm going at the same time! – Larry Kellar, retiring trustee

Hello Mr. Black, I just wanted to reach out and wish you the best on your retirement, I'm sure you've earned it many times over! I wish I could say farewell in person, unfortunately, our family will still be in California until June. It was such a great pleasure to see you again, after all these years, when my wife and I did the school tour in the fall. I am thrilled to be reuniting with the Country Day family this coming school year and to see my kids walking in the same steps. I would love to catch up sometime once we've relocated to Cincinnati, feel free to reach out to me any time. And once again, ***congratulations on such an amazing career, you've touched so many lives and have so much to be proud of!***
– Jason Douglas `00, future CCDS parent

Mr. Black, You are such a caring and loving teacher. My kids loved you so much and I hope you enjoy retirement. ***They told me how much they loved your class and told me how you teach – I wish I was in your class!*** *We need more teachers like you at CCD; I was blessed to have you. Thank you for being a wonderful teacher. You have touched many lives.* – Cheryl Reed, former CCDS parent

Beth began her time at Country Day as the administrative assistant to the Middle School head, Richard Schwab. She succeeded brilliantly in the most demanding job in the Middle School – managing the office. She interacted well with kids, parents, teachers, and the constantly ringing phones. ***She always found time for everyone.*** *After two years, she had a supervised teaching trial, and it was abundantly clear that she could handle any teaching assignment. She was a master teacher and a good friend to all. It was my good fortune to team teach with Beth for several years in the sixth grade.* – Jane Terrill, former faculty member

Beth is the ULTIMATE teammate! We always laugh because we are so similar – organized…checklist people...plan books for appointments…LOVE the REDS...LOVE for Country Day…LOVE for family. Co-teaching with her for fifth-grade math has been a true pleasure the last two years; it was something that could be hard but it was made EASY because of her! I could talk about Beth all day. ***Her impact on Country Day and the Middle School is priceless!***
– Theresa "Hirsch" Hirschauer, head of Middle School

Ashley is probably the reason we came to Country Day. *When we were looking to move from China, we wanted to find a good community and school to fit with our family and me as a leader. Ashley was the first person my wife and I met – first me and then Lucia. We were both struck by the warmth and care she showed us and thought that if everyone at Country Day was like Ashley then this is a no-brainer. She is a consummate professional and does her work with such grace and efficiency. She's so effective that you don't realize how much she's doing – she's just smiling and doing her work all along.* ***She is smart and has a razor-sharp wit but her true superpower is her kindness and empathy toward others.*** *She's a really special person; not too many people like her come along in our lives.* – Tony Jacacci, former head of school (2015-2021)

Mr. Black was one of my favorite teachers during my high school experience at CCDS. ***I looked forward to his classes. He made learning history fun with his relatable and animated, high-energy stories.*** *He told history with so much passion that everyone became engaged. I learned so much about history from him and also how those lessons related to modern-day life. It prepared me well for college and life in general. I wish Mr. Black all the best in his retirement. May it be filled with health, love, and happiness. He is too young to be retiring, at least in my opinion, so I know he'll be continuing to do good things in whatever he decides to do next. Thank you for all you have done for CCDS! Congratulations!* – Jason Herman '94

Mr. Black was the best teacher I've ever had, not to mention coach and mentor. I'll never forget the time he stopped me after class to ask if I was okay when I hadn't been acting like myself lately. ***His love for his students taught me to never settle in a career and life I didn't love, and his heartfelt stories about his wife taught me to never settle in a relationship either.*** *Without him, I wouldn't be the student, runner, athlete, friend, or person that I am today. Country Day will never be the same without him.*
– Much love, Abby Smith '20

My favorite class in Middle School was when Mrs. Langenbahn turned on the Mesopotamia Euphrates River song. I know every teacher in the lower hallway heard us because ***we were having so much fun.*** – Matthew Wood '27

Mr. Black, we will miss you! You have been a great teacher to the students, ***you certainly have made an impact in many ways.*** – Hao Cong, current CCDS parent, and Katie Wang '24

To Merle, Beth, and Ashley, You have created the amazing culture that is Cincinnati Country Day. This school community was so lucky to have your brilliance and passion for so many years. ***Thank you for inspiring, guiding, and challenging our kids in so many creative, engaging ways.*** *You are leaving big shoes to fill, and we hope you find your next chapter to be full of joy and fun as you embark on new passions and endeavors. We will miss you dearly and thank you for the amazing gift of YOU.* – Katie Waterson, board of trustee member and current parent

I feel like I've always known Beth, but it wasn't until senior spring break when we spent a whole week together that I really found out what an incredible person she is. She has the best smile and calmness and positive attitude – whether you're talking to her about work or family that positive spirit of hers is really contagious. I know she loves Country Day so much and she will be missed. If you asked kids who the teachers are that made the biggest impact on them, I have no doubt her name would come up. – Kathi Bagnoli, current staff member



Beth is a mentor, colleague, and friend. Whether she is officially assigned to a teacher new to CCDS, she takes everyone under her wing by sharing her experience and offering guidance. This includes me. I still remember being invited to Beth's house soon after I was hired. I can close my eyes and recall seeing Nicholas's Batman bedroom and Gretchen sitting in a highchair. ***Almost every interaction I have with Beth involves smiling and laughing. She creates a safe space to open up and share whatever is going on in the moment with levity.*** *As a colleague, Beth is a list maker and a planner. Her beautiful mind sees schedules and logistics as puzzles waiting to be solved. Not all minds solve these types of puzzles as easily or with as much optimism as Beth's. Beth also creates community with her colleagues. She will pop in and ask if you want to go for a quick walk around campus to get some sunshine during break; she hosts faculty gatherings at her house, complete with board games and campfires; she organizes faculty events like escape rooms. Beth always boosts morale and builds team culture. Beth's competitiveness is legendary. Who is the fastest at Wordle, picks outcomes of professional sports the best, or can solve a sudoku? Beth is ready for any challenger. It is all part of the fun. And Beth is gracious, win or lose. When Florida beat Ohio State for the national championship in NCAA football, Beth bought me a Florida championship sweatshirt as a concession for all the grief she gave before the game. That is one of my favorite sweatshirts!* – Dan Wood, current faculty member

If the measure of a leader is her effect on others, then Ashley Ward is one of the great leaders in Country Day's recent history. She makes everyone at Country Day better with her efficient professionalism, keen strategic insights, and razor-sharp wit. More importantly, she offers these gifts with a warmth and kindness that leaves everyone feeling like the most important person at the school. – Rob Zimmerman '98, head of school

ATTENTION!

Have great news to share?

Have you moved?

Do you have a new email address?

Still receiving mail addressed to your alumni children, who no longer live with you?

Please help us stay connected by going to www.countryday.net/alumni/alumni-news or scanning the QR code below.

CLASS NOTES

1967



Tom Block '67 (left) and Jim Pool '67 (right).

While preparing for the Class of 1967's 50th reunion a few years ago, **Tom Block '67** agreed to try and find classmate **Jim Pool '67** to invite him to the celebration. The two had been very good friends during their CCDS days but had lost contact in the years since graduation. Tom found him fairly quickly, discovering that they lived only 20 minutes away from each other in South Florida. Now they get together for lunch about once a month. It's a small CCDS world indeed!

1976

Jeff Harrison '76 recently published a fascinating essay in the magazine *The Common* telling the story of the Harrison family's connection to Marcel Duchamp, the 20th century avant-garde artist – Jeff's great-aunt (his grandmother's sister) was married to Duchamp – and recounting the journey of one of Duchamp's works from its gifting to Jeff's grandparents through its restoration and donation to the Cincinnati Art Museum. "The Story of a Box" is available online at thecommononline.org and contains hyperlinks to works by Duchamp and other artists and a very old film clip of Henri Matisse at work, taken by Jeff's great-grandmother.



Jeff, a member of the CCDS Arts Hall of Fame (Class of 2022), is the author of six books of poetry, most recently *Between Lakes*. His poems have appeared in *Best American Poetry*, the *Pushcart Prize* volumes, and many magazines, including *The Common*.

Parial view of restored Harrison Boîte. Marcel Duchamp (American 1887-1968), Box in a Valise (Boîte-en-Valise) from or by Marcel Duchamp or Rose Sêlavy, 1963 (Series E). Cincinnati Art Museum.

1977

James Taylor '77 has retired from teaching but is kept quite busy with his artistic endeavors and travel. Jim is working on his art full-time and just completed an exhibition of his work in Palm Springs, California. Three of Jim's sculptures and one of his paintings from that exhibition are pictured here. Jim is also playing guitar with local jazz ensembles in Palm Springs. Last summer, Jim and his wife Brooke were in Portugal, Spain, and Italy. While in Italy, Jim was part of an artists' residency in Corciano. Next up are Greece, Croatia, and the Czech Republic.





1982

Jessica Taylor Neary '82 and **Betsy Stix '82** got together recently in Ojai, California, where Betsy is serving her second two-year term as the town's mayor. Stix defeated Anson Williams – best known for his role as Potsie Weber in the 1970s sit-com *Happy Days* – to retain her office.

Andy Magenheim '82 shares that he has recently taken on the role of board president of the Hamilton County Board of Developmental Disabilities.

1994

After 20 years of service around the world in the Air Force, **Charles Edwards '94** has come back to Ohio. In October 2022, Charles took over as the chief enlisted manager and Major Command enlisted intelligence functional manager at Air Force Material Command Headquarters at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in Dayton, Ohio. In this position, Charles oversees enlisted intelligence manning and utilization for 13 bases while also shaping the future of the entire enlisted intelligence force (representing thousands of Airmen). This new position caps a career serving in Illinois, Alabama, Texas, Germany, Arizona, Hawaii, and California, and including years of combat operations in the Middle East and African theaters. Here, Charles is shown in his current Air Force picture and receiving an award on deployment in 2012.





1998

Tricia Knowles Brown '98 and Marc Brown welcomed their son Luke Knowles Brown on March 28, 2023. **Jack '35** is thrilled to be an older brother.



2009

Jesse Deane '09 and Marshall Deane welcomed Edward "Irby" Deane on February 1, 2023.



2011

Greg Dick '11 and Sarah Ross were married early in 2022, and they welcomed their son, David, on March 18, 2023. Greg, Sarah, and David live in the Columbus, Ohio area, where Greg practices law with Carpenter Lipps and Sarah teaches English at Westerville Central High School.

2012

Nathan Adams '12 and Caileen Tallant-Adams welcomed their son, Forrest on September 9, 2022. Nate and Caileen met at Trinity University (San Antonio), where Nate earned a bachelor's degree in geoscience with a minor in urban studies and Caileen majored in music composition and chemistry. Nate earned a master's degree in landscape architecture from UC (DAAP) in 2019 and is currently a landscape designer at Viox & Viox. Nate and Caileen own a music school in Ft. Thomas, Kentucky: Tallant Music School. Caileen runs the school's daily operations, overseeing a faculty of 10 teaching more than 200 students.



2012



Katie Slovacek (Leonard) '12 and Steven Slovacek welcomed Maximus Theodore on March 7, 2023. Pictured with big sister **Hailey '32**.

2013

Shashank Jejurikar '13 and Alyssa Marino were engaged just before Christmas 2022 after a four-year courtship. Shortly thereafter, Shashank received his master's degree in international affairs from Columbia University, with a concentration in international economic policy. Shashank is a fellow at The Cohen Group, a strategic advisory firm based in Washington, D.C., where he advises multinational clients in global business development, market-entry, and regulatory affairs.

2016

Siddarth Jejurikar '16 has just finished his first year at Harvard Law School and will be interning this summer in the Washington, D.C. office of the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law, a non-profit litigation group focusing on racial justice issues and civil rights. Sidd expects his work will focus on the group's housing and community development project, where he will write legal research memoranda, help with litigation, and work on regulatory advocacy.

2020

Eashwar Kantemneni '20 just finished his third year at the University of Pennsylvania where he is majoring in neuroscience and preparing to apply to medical school. At Penn, Eashwar has been conducting research into traumatic brain injury; he will continue that work this summer.

CRAIG AND GORDON'S EXCELLENT ADVENTURE

A SURPRISE COUNTRY DAY REUNION AT SEA

Craig Maier '67 and **Gordon Deane '67** first met when they entered kindergarten at Cincinnati Country Day School in 1954. Both were lifers and remained at school together throughout their CCDS careers. After their graduation in 1967, the two lost touch...that is, until this past winter, when Craig and his wife Anne and Gordon and his wife Motoko happened to sail on the same cruise to Antarctica. Craig spotted Gordon in the observation lounge on the first night, and the rest is history! The two reconnected on the trip, over 8,000 miles away from home, 69 years since they first met, and 56 years since they last saw each other. The Country Day connection is forever!



Motoko Deane, Gordon Deane '67, Craig Maier '67, and Anne Maier reconnected while on a cruise to Antarctica in February 2023.

IN MEMORIAM

Submitted by the loved ones of those we will never forget.

Edward F. Alf

Edward F. Alf died peacefully with family by his side on January 3, 2023, in Cincinnati, Ohio. Ed was married 66 years to his beloved wife, Mary Jean "Madge" Alf (nee Greiwe). He is survived by his children: Karen Rolfes (Michael), Edward F. Alf, III (Debbie Horton), Marianne Castrucci (Matt), Kathi Bagnoli (Sean Bagnoli `89), and Michael J. Alf (Jackie Jurgensen `98), all of Cincinnati, Ohio. In addition, he leaves behind his sister Mary Ansley (Woody) of Fernandina Beach, FL. Ed has 13 grandchildren: Brandon Rolfes, Chelsea Rolfes, Amanda Rolfes Grote (Drew), Chad Rolfes, Holyn Alf, Edward "Duke" F. Alf, IV, Marjorie Alf, Rowan Castrucci `21, Matthew Castrucci `23, Drew Bagnoli `22, Wilson Bagnoli `24, John Alf, and Jennifer Alf.

Ed was born on February 18, 1935, in Cincinnati, Ohio. He graduated from Summit Country Day, St. Xavier High School (1953), and Xavier University (1957). Ed married Madge in 1958. They had been best friends since grade school and had a special devotion to each other ever since. They maintained a busy life raising five children, traveling, and spending time with family and friends. Some of his favorite places to visit included: Harbor Springs, Ocean Reef, and Amelia Island. In addition to his family, Ed was committed to his business career. After working at Mead Paper, Ed acquired Korb Check Printers, a supplier of checks to local financial institutions. Ed also invested in real estate, a boat dealership, and other business ventures. Ed seemed to have the golden touch and credited his success to hard work and creating win-win business relationships. Ed was a great mentor to many and always wanted to give back to help others. Ed was a man of faith, a devout Catholic, and attended mass regularly at St. Gertrude Church. He loved all sports, especially golf, tennis, and fishing. He had a great sense of humor that made people smile and created a lasting impression on everyone he met. Memorial donations may be considered for St. Xavier High School in honor of the Edward and Mary Jean Alf Scholarship Fund, Hospice of Cincinnati, or Alzheimer's Association.

Templeton Briggs, Jr. '50

Templeton (Tony) Briggs, Jr. of Fullerton, California passed away on May 3, 2023, at the age of 90.

Dr. George Melancthon Callard

Dr. George Melancthon Callard was born December 20, 1933, to Henry and Clarissa J. Callard in Hartford, Connecticut. He died on November 19, 2022, at 88 years of age in Cincinnati, Ohio. He is survived by his loving wife of 61 years, Linda, and five children and their families. Henry Paul Callard, Karen Bidlingmeyer Callard and their daughters, Lucy and Dottie; George Damron Callard '81, Laura Tatham Callard and their daughters, Lydia and Mary Claire; David Melancthon Callard '82 and his son, George; William Samuel Callard '90, Margaret Schultz Callard and their daughters, Courtney and Christina; Susan Callard Conner '91, Steven Oren Conner and their children, Clarissa '18, Oren '21 and Elizabeth '24. He is preceded in death by his precious son, Thomas Cooley. George spent his early years in the Northeast as his father followed a career in education before settling in Baltimore where he attended the Gilman School before attending Princeton University, graduating in 1956. Following a long-held desire, he pursued his passion for medicine at Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine from which he graduated an Alpha Omega Alpha honoree in 1960. It was at Hopkins that he met a young nurse from Ohio, to whom he was married in 1961. He remained at Johns Hopkins, training to be a surgeon. His training was briefly interrupted for two years as he served his country as a surgeon in the U.S. Public Health Service. Following his service, he returned to Johns Hopkins for an additional year before joining a cardiovascular and thoracic surgery residency program at the University of Virginia, completing his training in 1968. George and Linda took their young family to Miami, Florida where George practiced cardiovascular and thoracic surgery at Jackson Memorial Hospital. Despite the pleasure of warm weather, George and Linda wanted to raise their family closer to loved ones and familiar territory. In 1972, George and his family moved to Cincinnati, Ohio to join Dr. John Flege at The Christ Hospital, where they – along with their colleagues – developed a world class heart surgery program. He practiced until 1993 and served as the chairman of the Department of Cardiac Surgery for six years until fully retiring in 1997. Noted for his technically proficient and efficient surgical skill, as well as his gentle and unflappable manner, he deeply enjoyed his work, but – reflecting his profound modesty – he never spoke of the life-saving care he provided to so many. During his career he helped to establish a cardiac surgery program at St. Elizabeth Hospital and the cardiac transplant program at the University of Cincinnati Medical Center, including participating as a member of the team that in 1985 performed the first adult heart transplant in the Cincinnati area. He served as a professor of clinical surgery at the UC Medical Center where he helped to train many young surgeons. But George's life was filled with much more than his medical practice. He gave his talent and time to Christ Church Cathedral in Cincinnati, serving many years on the vestry as senior warden; he was a member of the board of trustees of The Seven Hills School in Cincinnati and Cincinnati Country Day School. He was an avid pilot having started flying in 1982 and would sometimes wander off to a nearby airfield to spend a couple of hours flying alone in his plane. During retirement, his always inquisitive mind became even more evident as he enrolled in classes at the University of Cincinnati, studying various subjects such as astrology and cosmology; he studied celestial navigation obtaining certification in that ancient means of travel; he read biographies and history voraciously; and he and his wife traveled extensively (although not by reference to the stars). While Cincinnati was his one true home, he enjoyed winters in Florida and summers in Maine and Grand Manan Island in New Brunswick, Canada. However, his greatest joy was his family. He derived immense pleasure – even in his last days – from the experiences and accomplishments of his children and grandchildren, attending countless sporting events over many decades, celebrating numerous graduations, birthdays, hosting large family Thanksgiving gatherings, and most notably relishing the young lives of his grandchildren. Memorials may be sent to the George M. Callard, M.D. Scholarship at Christ College of Nursing and Health Services in care of The Christ Hospital Foundation. Online condolences may be made at www.springgrove.org.

Randy Jay Cantor

Randy Jay Cantor, father of Carly `08 and Jules `11, passed away on June 1, 2023. We send our deepest sympathies to Carly, her husband Andrew Schiff, and their children Harper and Rayna Schiff; to Jules; to Carly and Jules's mother, Sandy Kraft Cantor; and to Randy's sister, Debra,

and her husband Ira Harbatkin. The family has asked that any gifts in Randy's memory be made to the Judge Robert and Madeline Kraft Education Fund at Adath Israel Congregation, 3201 E. Galbraith Road, Cincinnati, OH 45236.

Roscoe "Rocky" Carter, III '64

Mr. Roscoe O. Carter, III died on October 22, 2022. He lived in Stafford, VA, married Margaret Anne Barnes in 1973 and was father to Matthew, Paul, and Janet. He graduated from Whittenburg College, with a master's degree in science from Miami University and PhD from the University of South Carolina.

Charles R. Deupree '69

Charlie Deupree passed away peacefully on Wednesday, January 25, 2023, after a brief and brave battle with cancer and with his immediate family by his side. Charlie was born and raised in Cincinnati, Ohio where he attended Cincinnati Country Day School, developed a deep-rooted loyalty for the Reds and Bengals, preferred his four-way Skyline Chili order with onions, and his Graeter's black raspberry chip. He attended his last two years of high school at Wooster School in Danbury, CT where he played football and hockey, managed to sneak his car on campus, and participated in and was on the receiving end of legendary classmate pranks. He always bragged he graduated in the top 25 of his class (in a class of 25 students). Upon graduation he made his way to the University of Denver where he pledged and served as social chair of the Sigma Chi fraternity, skied every chance he got, and earned a bachelor's degree in education in 1973. He went on to earn his master's degree in psychology from Western Michigan University the following year. He then settled with his first wife, Barb, in Ionia, Michigan where they raised their two daughters. For 30 years he worked as a school psychologist for Ionia Public Schools (IPS) where he dedicated countless hours to students, ensuring their educational needs were met. He was an advocate for public schools and services that would provide students with opportunities for success, equity in the classroom, and a support system at home and at school. He served on countless committees with the Michigan and National Associations of School Psychologists (MASP and NASP). He took a brief sabbatical from IPS in 2001-2002 as president of NASP, a role he truly loved and in which he took great pride. Upon his retirement in 2005 he continued to consult with various organizations and his new local school district as he relocated to North Muskegon, MI. Throughout his life, Charlie was an avid sportsman, enjoying hockey, tennis, fishing, skiing, and never passed up an opportunity to play a round of golf. He was on the board and vice president of the White Lake Golf Club (WLGC) and most recently was appointed the governor of the Golf Association of Michigan (GAM). It was at the WLGC where he helped start the White Lake Junior Golf Foundation to help serve, give access to, and introduce the game of golf to young people of all backgrounds throughout the White Lake area. He loved art and photography, trips to Siesta Key, FL in the winter, trivia nights at the local pub, card games with friends, and his investment club. He was the most loyal and devoted friend and family member. He made an effort to show up for everything – from his daughters' sporting events and recitals to friends' and family members' celebrations. He loved a good bargain, only recently giving up his coupon clipping habit with actual scissors and still scoured Consumer Reports for the best deal. He could tell the most groan-worthy dad jokes and could dump anyone off a tube behind his boat in less than 10 seconds. He carried on his social chair status from his fraternity days to his family and friends, organizing reunions, gathering people together, and making the most of every day. He was a devoted partner and father, a loving grandfather, and best friend to many from every chapter of his life. From his first summer to his last you could find Charlie at his favorite place on earth: the Deupree family cottage at the Sylvan Beach Association on Lake Michigan near Whitehall, MI. He never missed a summer, and he could be found every day on the beach swimming in the big lake and every evening watching the sunset from the front porch until the very last second with the hopes of catching the elusive "green flash." As was seen throughout his life, he believed in giving back and making his community a better place, and he served as the cottage association president for several years in the early 2000s and could tell anyone the history of every cottage and its lineage from the beginning of time. It was his constant in life, the place that provided peace and tradition that were so important to him. Charlie is preceded in death by his mother, Mary "Polly" Harwood Deupree, father, James "Jim" Deupree, sister Janet "Pepper" Deupree Miller, and nieces Shelley Miller Moore and Kristy Miller. He is survived by his long-time love, Sal Adama, his daughters Sally Deupree and Kate (Scott) Evans, his four grandchildren, Beatrice, George, Drew, and Graham, sister Margot Deupree Taylor, brother Steve (Cynthia) Deupree, six nieces and nephews, 13 great-nieces and nephews, and his sweet pets, Sebastian and Nigel. The family would like to thank the nurses at both Trinity Hospital in Muskegon, MI and Harbor Hospice for treating him with such kindness and dignity. A celebration of life will be held this summer, and more details will be provided as they develop. In the meantime, in lieu of flowers, the family welcomes donations in Charlie's name to the White Lake Junior Golf Foundation (501c3) or your local public school district foundation. If you'd like to donate to the Golf Foundation, please make checks out to the foundation and mail to the White Lake Golf Club. To share a memory of Charlie with the Deupree Family, visit Charlie's page at www.sytsemafh.com.

Lisa Carol Klingler Looke '83

Lisa Carol Klingler Looke, 57, of Camden, Maine, died at the Sussman House in Rockport, Maine, on April 12, 2023. Lisa was born on April 17, 1965, in LaGrange, Illinois to Donn and Elizabeth (Learner) Klingler. She spent her early years in Colorado Springs, Colorado and her middle and high school years in Cincinnati, Ohio, where she graduated from Cincinnati Country Day School. She went on to earn a degree at Bates College in Lewiston, Maine, where she met her future husband, Loriman C. Looke.

Lisa was adept at any and all endeavors and never shied away from a project, whether that meant working with exotic animals as a veterinary technician, helping to develop a school store as a marketing and revenue source for the Bay School in Blue Hill, Maine, or tackling a home-renovation project.

An amazing photographer, Lisa worked as a photo librarian for the Wild Seed Project, and her photos illustrated *Winterland*, a book about the beauty of gardens in winter. She enjoyed singing as a member of the Bagaduce Chorale and loved her time in her gardens, always wanting to improve the habitat for bees, butterflies and other pollinators. Her greatest joy, however, was her children.

Lisa is survived by her husband, Loriman; sons Loriman B. and Garrison and daughter, Caroline; as well as her father, Donn; brother, Richard (Jane Slatter); sister, Jean (Michael Lyman) `81; brother-in law, Randy Looke (Shelly); nieces and nephews. She is predeceased by her mother, Lizzie. A celebration of life will be held at a later date. Memories and condolences may be shared with the family at www.DirectcremationofMaine.com

Louis Todhunter Mellinger ’57

Louis Todhunter Mellinger, 83, of Somerset, Pennsylvania, died February 10, 2023, at home. Born November 20, 1939, in Pittsburgh, he is the son of the late Frank Millin and Helen (Todhunter) Mellinger. He is survived by his wife, the former Barbara Eileen Maurer, to whom he was married 30 years; his children, Rebecca Kathryn Mellinger and husband Nikos Tzetos of Portland, OR, and Andrew O’Neill Mellinger and his wife Susan of Pittsburgh, PA; his grandchildren Thalia, Clio, Virginia, and Natalie his sister Christine “Chrissy” LaVielle and husband Craig of Portland, OR; and his foster brother Ronald Goens and wife Donna of Cincinnati, OH. Louis was a 1957 graduate of Cincinnati Country Day School and the University of Cincinnati. He worked until his retirement as a geologist for Commonwealth Contracting. He was a member of Lodge 358 F&AM, GSA, American Institute of Geologists, Yankanuck Club, and Somerset Alliance Church. Interment Beam Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to Somerset Alliance Church, 708 Stoystown Road, Somerset, PA 15501. To leave a condolence, please visit www.haugerzeigler.com.

John H. More, Ph.D. ’60

John Herron More, of Washington, DC, and Cushing’s Island, Maine, died on September 29, 2022, warmly embraced by family and friends. Born on March 3, 1942, in Cincinnati, Ohio, to John H. More, Sr. and Margaret Rapp More, John attended Taft School and Yale University. In 1969, he received a PhD in Classics from Harvard University and, in 1979, a JD from Harvard Law School.

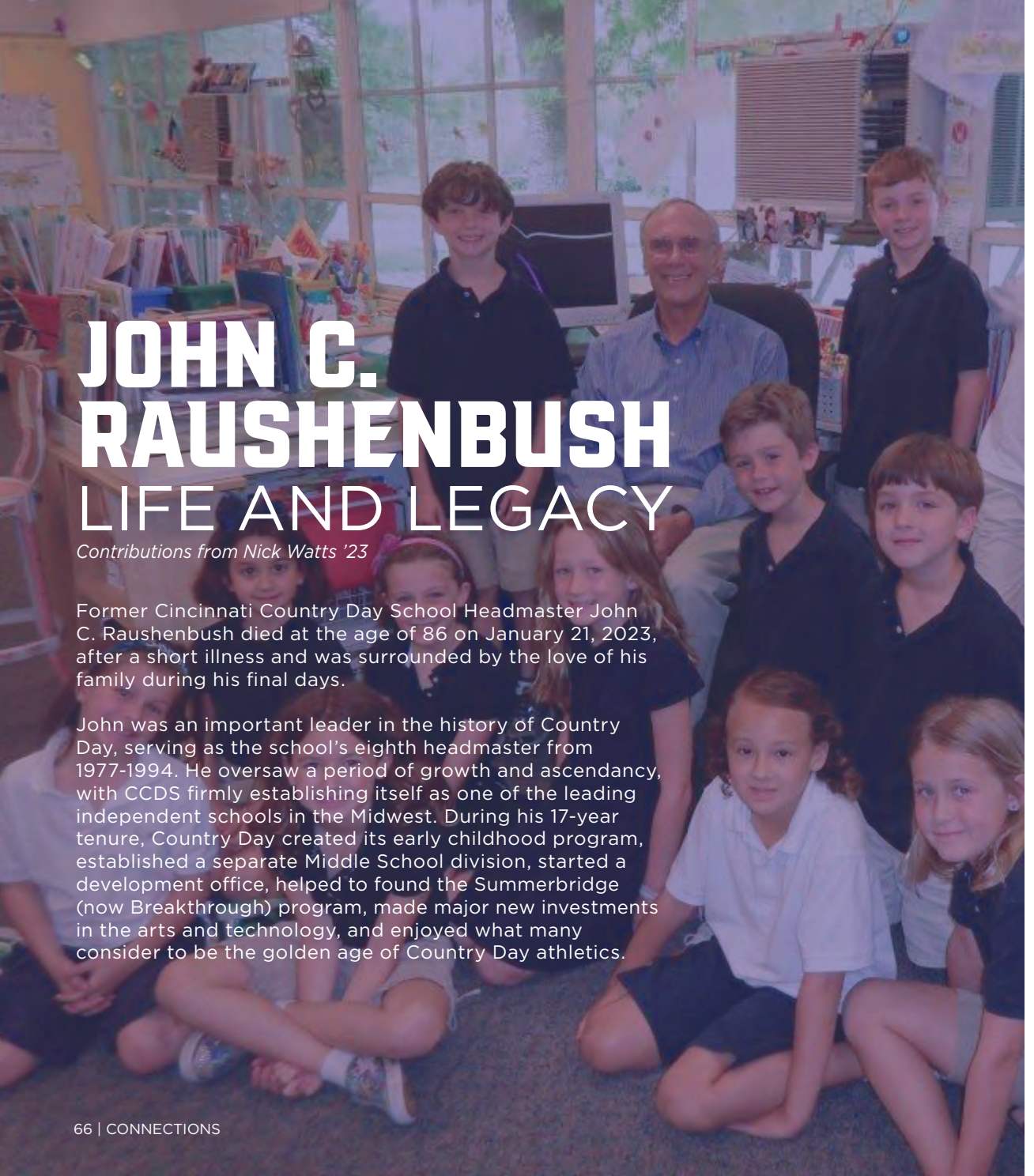
From 1969 to 1975, John was a professor of classics at Brown University, where his research focused on slavery and guilds in ancient Rome. He spent the 1974-75 academic year at the Intercollegiate Center for Classical Studies in Rome and led his young family on excursions to ruins in Italy, Greece, and Tunisia. After receiving his law degree, he worked for several firms in Washington D.C., specializing in corporate, international, banking, and environmental law. He later started his own firm. Since retiring from the full-time practice of law, John was able to devote his time and energy to organizations that shared his passions for social justice, human rights, and the environment, including the D.C. chapter of the Sierra Club, The Internet Society, Vesta, the Rachel Carson Council, the EDOW Creation Care Task Force, and Communities in Schools. John was a co-founder of the Washington Interfaith Network, a multi-racial, multi-faith, District-wide citizens’ power organization, rooted in local congregations. John was a devoted member of St. Johns Church, Lafayette Square. He felt fortunate to spend his summers on Cushings Island in Maine where he sailed his wooden vessel, the Scrimshander, up and down the coast, helped to care for the island’s conservation land, and spent time with his island family. John traveled extensively throughout the world, enjoying restaurants, museums, and archeological sites. He loved every kind of music, from bluegrass to opera, and for years held season tickets to the Shakespeare Theater. John became passionate about soccer after coaching his children’s youth teams, and later refereed youth games and served as treasurer for the Capital Area Soccer Referees Association. He was generous with his time, devoted to his many friends, eager to read and learn, and happy to join in any discussion. He is survived by his wife of 57 years, Livezey More, his children and their spouses, Paul More and Marta Kochanska, and Anna More and Benedito Rodrigues dos Santos, four grandchildren, and a brother, Timothy T. More of Providence, Rhode Island. John’s family was his greatest joy. He used every opportunity to spend time with his four grandchildren in Brazil and San Francisco, in Washington, D.C., and on Cushings Island.

Daniel Berkey Stauft ’53

Daniel Berkey Stauft, 87, of Cincinnati, Ohio, passed away comfortably at his residence on Saturday, December 31, 2022. Dan is survived by his daughter, Gay (Stauft) Long, his son, Daniel B Stauft III, and his four grandchildren, Hannah Long, Andrew Stauft, Grant Long, and Roland Long. After spending over half of his professional career in various sales positions, Dan realized his passion for theater arts. Initially, Dan was a founding member of the Milford Theatre Guild, a local volunteer organization. But, given his love of theater arts, he found a true calling in being able to apply his skill set and interests at the University of Cincinnati Conservatory of Music (CCM). The work he did there, designing sets and teaching CCM students about the intricacies of set and technical design, was fundamentally meaningful to him and his community. Dan’s time at CCM brought him great personal satisfaction and enabled him to forge important friendships. After Dan retired from CCM, Dan was involved in green space programs in Clermont County, OH and later joined the Baha’i faith, where he was a cherished member. Dan is preceded in death by his parents, Abraham Lincoln Stauft and Stella Weddell Stauft, and his grandson, Harrison Berkey Stauft. A closed family service will be held at a time yet to be determined in Scottdale, PA. Dan’s passion was CCM, so in lieu of flowers we would appreciate donations to the University of Cincinnati Theatre Design and Production Fund.

Andrew Baldwin Wilson ’79

Andrew Baldwin Wilson, age 61, of Grosse Pointe Park, MI, formerly of Cincinnati, Ohio, and Atlanta, GA, passed away peacefully surrounded by family in his home on March 2, 2023. He was born on May 29, 1961, in Cincinnati to Anne Nieman Wilson and the late Samuel Smith Wilson. Andrew graduated from Cincinnati Country Day School and Southern Methodist University (Class of 1986). He enjoyed his work in the automotive industry for over 25 years. Andrew was a decorated member of the Civilian Marksmanship Program. In his spare time, he enjoyed boating, shooting, and hunting. He liked to listen to music and had a curiosity for knowledge. Most of all, he loved to spend time with his family. Andrew is the loving husband of Susan Strybel Wilson. He is the dear father of Simon Baldwin Wilson, Madeline O’Connell Wilson, and Henry Perkins Wilson. Beloved brother of Clare Wilson Richart, Eliza Wilson Kirkpatrick, and Russell Wilson `75. Memorial contributions can be made to the American Cancer Society, 2000 Town Center, Southfield, MI 48076.



JOHN C. RAUSHENBUSH
LIFE AND LEGACY

Contributions from Nick Watts '23

Former Cincinnati Country Day School Headmaster John C. Raushenbush died at the age of 86 on January 21, 2023, after a short illness and was surrounded by the love of his family during his final days.

John was an important leader in the history of Country Day, serving as the school's eighth headmaster from 1977-1994. He oversaw a period of growth and ascendancy, with CCDS firmly establishing itself as one of the leading independent schools in the Midwest. During his 17-year tenure, Country Day created its early childhood program, established a separate Middle School division, started a development office, helped to found the Summerbridge (now Breakthrough) program, made major new investments in the arts and technology, and enjoyed what many consider to be the golden age of Country Day athletics.

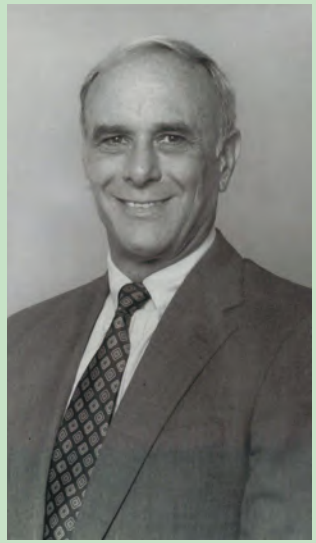
But above all, John presided over an era of unmatched academic excellence. This reputation was due in no small part to John's hiring of numerous legendary teachers who would go on to inspire generations of CCDS students.

All four of John's children graduated from Country Day – Christine Raushenbush Saudek '80, Robin Raushenbush Koval '82, Lisa Raushenbush Pettengill '85, and Tom Raushenbush '88 – as did three of his grandchildren – Grace Pettengill '17, John Pettengill '18, and Sam Pettengill '21. My condolences go out to them as well as John's wife, Marcia, who served the school as a kindergarten teacher and as a constant strength that guided John throughout his life.

John's manifold contributions to CCDS extended well beyond his tenure as headmaster. Never the retiring type, John continued to shape the independent school landscape after his headship at Country Day. John became the executive director at the Ohio Association of Independent Schools (OAIS), where he helped preserve private schools' independence to operate according to each school's mission. And even into retirement to his beloved Colorado, John remained a presence in the Country Day community, providing counsel to a succession of subsequent heads of school, attending events, serving as chair of the annual fund grandparent committee, and offering generous support to fundraising endeavors.

Cincinnati Country Day School will always be indebted to John Raushenbush. His legacy remains visible to this day.

Remembering a dear friend, mentor, and leader



He arrived, like fresh air, my senior year at Country Day. The prior spring, my academic counselor had "informed" me that "the new headmaster would be teaching a course and I have registered you for it." Thus, through no decision of mine, I ended up on the first day of my senior year in John Raushenbush's classroom on his first day at Country Day. I was 17. He was 41. Little did I know at the time that we would become lifelong friends. Little did I know how many meaningful lifelong thoughts and memories John would engender… John taught me so much. He was an intellectual and an educator. He had a contagious puckish interest in and curiosity about people, about life, and about poetry and literature. He had the most beautiful and loving relationships with his wife, his children, and their spouses (sadly, I only got to read about the relationships with his grandchildren via the annual holiday cards). I loved the warm inflection in his voice. John was an easy person for a student and an adult to come to admire. ***John once shared that although he was confident in the impact he had had on the lives and thought processes of a great many students, that he kept up long-term with only about a dozen of them. John would be happy to know that perhaps this tribute in his memory inspired someone to reach out to a former teacher to share how much that teacher meant to their life.*** – Reade Fahs '78

We are extremely sad about learning of the passing of our dear friend, John. My family joins me in sharing our deepest condolences with you, and we take solace from the tides of life that have brought us together to know and work with John. I let him convince me to leave Boston to come to CCDS; a decision that helped shape my career and for which I am ever grateful. ***May you all find some solace in knowing that his spirit lives on among the many people lucky enough to have been brought by the tides of life on his shores and to appreciate this exceptional human being.*** *Marcia, Christine, Robin, Tom, Lisa, and the rest of the family, you have our love and prayers.*
– Jn. Abner Genece, former CCDS parent and faculty member

He was so smart, articulate, and he gave wonderful speeches. We were just mesmerized when he talked. He was always so interesting. ***His legacy would most definitely be instilling a love of learning when the kids and teachers are both learning together.*** – Lois Rust, current faculty member and former CCDS parent

I was privileged to know John as both a student and head of school, and ***I will not soon forget John's kindness and mentorship.*** – Robert M. Zimmerman '98, head of school.

When he left, they were moving out their furniture, and he loved to play pool, but couldn't take the pool table where they were going, so my parents bought this pool table, and he would always play with my dad. ***He was just such a great leader for the school and calming force who loved Country Day.***
– Beth Langenbahn, former faculty member and CCDS parent

John hired me in 1985 to teach mathematics in the Middle School. It was a part-time position and there were 35 applicants! I was interviewed by four people for four hours. John had faith in me, and I was hired! ***CCDS was the best place to be a teacher because of the leadership. John made changes to make equity and diversity, a priority.*** *John supported the faculty while he was there. John appointed me to be the school's teacher representative to the OAIS (Ohio Association of Independent Schools Teachers) professional committee. OAIS was the organization that he became executive director of when he retired. John believed in the organization's mission to preserve the independence of Ohio's independent schools. The teacher's committee executed professional development conferences for the 85 independent schools in Ohio. John was an advocate of professional development of both teachers and administrators. In a few years, I became the chair of the committee and went on to represent Ohio at ISACS on the professional services committee (PSC) that represented 15 states. I ended up chairing the PSC and was elected to ISACS board; all because of John's support.* ***John knew and understood his faculty, always giving them opportunities to lead and be creative. He was a master educator, but more than that, a wonderful, kind, and thoughtful man, moving our school to greatness.*** *He was a proud parent and grandparent and came to his grandchildren's sporting events and concerts. He always came back for theater productions, musicals, and art shows. He remembered all his faculty and those he hired. He always told me, "Best hire I ever made." – his way of saying how proud he was of the work we were doing at CCDS. When someone believes in you, it is a real gift. I will miss his warm smile and greeting. A true gentleman and scholar.*
– Susie Lewis, former CCDS parent and faculty member

John was truly a headmaster's headmaster. His support and encouragement covered all his constituencies. *From my personal experience, John did not hesitate in granting me a five-week leave of absence at the end of the 1986 school year. I became part of a group of coaches and educators that first introduced American competitive swimming to China. Spending most our time in Beijing and Shanghai lecturing and teaching 90% of all the coaches in China at the time, we also gave lectures and demonstrations in Japan, British Hong Kong, and South Korea. It was by far the most enriching educational experience of my professional life. I don't know if any other head of school would encourage that type of experience for a physical educator. I will forever be grateful to John for granting me this experience.* – Marshall Adams, former CCDS parent and faculty member

It was an honor to be hired by Mr. Raushenbush in 1984. I had come from Columbia and had gotten two master's degrees – one from Xavier and one from UC – and I was working at UC and Xavier teaching Spanish when I found out about the position at Country Day and the opportunity to develop my own program. Because of his trust and support I was able to develop an exchange program with a school in Atlacomulco, Mexico, which I did for over 15 years. I was also able to take MS and US students during the summer to different Spanish-speaking countries to experience the language and culture firsthand. He fully supported and encouraged both programs. ***When my nephew, Miguel, a 12-year-old at that time, came to stay with me for a year, Mr. Raushenbush offered to have his own father, who was retired, tutor Miguel in English. He arranged for Miguel to meet with his father for an hour a week to read or listen to his stories. This was the highlight of that entire year for both my nephew and me.*** *After I retired in 2019, John and Marcia took me out to dinner. I still remember we were talking about future trips I was going to take. and he told me about his plans to take a trip to celebrate an important anniversary he and Marcia were celebrating. What a wonderful man who made such a difference in my life.* – Elvira Carrillo, former faculty member

John interviewed me almost 30 years ago. ***He was such a pleasant man to talk to and he was really smart. He knew so much, particularly about literature.*** *The thing that surprised me was that during the interview, even though I'm interviewing for a physics position, he asked me what I've been reading, and I had been reading a Canadian novelist named Robertson Davies. Doesn't really matter, except that it turned out to be one of his favorite authors, and we talked about Robertson Davies for five minutes or so, and then he offered me the job. And I've always thought – and remember, I was brand new to teaching, I had done a little subbing and I had student-taught, but this was not a school that typically hired rookie teachers – that my connection to this school was because I'd been reading what John Rauschenbusch liked. He was a very kind, good listener. He had a very distinctive voice. He was a wise man. I have very warm feelings about him.* – Brock Miller, current faculty member and current CCDS grandparent

John was a fabulous person and administrator and was wonderful for the school. I think his period of leadership benefited the school greatly. And after I moved into teaching at Country Day, John was a strong cheerleader and supporter for me. ***I could always count on him being in my corner.*** – Peter Fossett '80, former faculty member and current staff member

My dad was a great listener. His entire family would call him for advice. When we needed to have someone listen, he was the one. *He was an avid fly fisherman and loved to be in the streams of Colorado and anywhere else my mom and he traveled where they could drop a line in the water. My parents were married for 63 years. They were lucky enough to spend the last 30 of those traveling the world together. He and my uncle built our family's home in Colorado in 1969 that we still enjoy today. He was a certified "Life Master" player of Bridge and made a mean pot of chili. Books and classical music were his things. He loved both reading and collecting books and listening to Mozart. Finally, my dad loved his family and especially being with everyone in Colorado.*
– Lisa Pettengill '85, daughter of John Raushenbush

Each of these perspectives on the life and legacy of John Raushenbush helps to paint a picture of a man who, despite beginning his tenure 46 years ago, never stopped giving to our community. He left an indelible mark of kindness, commitment, and achievement on the school that will echo through generations. He provided effective and visionary leadership, determined to send Country Day students into the world not just as good students, but as good human beings. Similarly, he also ensured that a culture of connectedness and compassion was fostered among the faculty and staff.

Perhaps, however, John is best remembered in his own words. On October 28, 1982, he said at an assembly of Upper School students that "if there is one thing that I hope will happen before you leave Country Day, it is to experience the magic that will enable each of you to look back, 10 or 15 years from now and say, 'I not only got a good education there, I learned about acts of kindness and understanding; I learned how to be responsive to the needs of others; and I was touched by their responsiveness to me.'"



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