# Connections

Winter 2021-22

Cincinnati Country Day School



# Homecoming Weekend Fun

**During the first weekend in October, Cincinnati Country Day School celebrated Homecoming in person for the first time in two years! Over 100 alumni attended the reception Friday evening and watched the Nighthawks football team defeat New Miami 45-0.**

**On Friday, the Parents' Association hosted FallFest, the largest community event of the year and a fun-filled Country Day tradition! We had over 30 volunteers and sold over 500 shirts and 200 cheeseburgers, while raising $7,000 in family sponsorships. A good time was had by all!**

**On Saturday, Head of School Rob Zimmerman '98 honored Sarah Herrlinger '90 and Rodney Geier '71 with the Distinguished Alumna and Virtue in Action awards at the Alumni Breakfast.**




** To make a monetary gift to Country Day in honor of your reunion year, please visit: www.CountryDay.net/go/CCDS.*













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*ON THE COVER In the spirit of Thanksgiving, Middle School students participated in one of the school's favorite holiday traditions: The Turkey Train! This year, they collected frozen turkeys to share with the John P. Parker school community and created a turkey train to pass them from person to person to get them packed into the UDF freezer truck. All in all, 88 turkeys were donated, amounting to a whopping 1,318 pounds of turkey!.*


*Connections* is published by Cincinnati Country Day School. Photos by contributing 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.


Your classmates and the Country Day community would like to hear from you. Please submit **Class Notes** to Paula Brock at brockp@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 contact Alumni Director Paula Brock at brockp@countryday.net or 513-979-0282 with updated information or send **address changes** to addresschanges@CountryDay.net.


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Dear Members of the Country Day Community,

Time flies when you're having fun! And we must be having fun because we are already at the halfway mark of the 2021-22 school year.

We have had a successful first semester in so many ways, but maybe the most important success we have enjoyed is simply coming together again – coming together at a PA event to catch up with old friends and make new ones; coming together to watch our students walk in the Halloween parade; coming together to cheer on our Nighthawks to several league titles at our beautiful new Brian J. Bortz Family Stadium; coming together to fill the house for a hilarious performance of Clue; coming together to celebrate the long-awaited return of Homecoming Weekend festivities.



And of course, we have gathered again in the classroom. Although we were fortunate to be learning in person and on campus all last year, this fall we have been able to bring back more group work, cross-divisional projects, and school-wide assemblies. These interactive opportunities enhance our ability to put our students at the center of the learning process while showcasing our talented faculty.

As you will see from the stories of our alumni in this issue, these student-teacher relationships often have the biggest impact on our students. Turn the page and you will read about two alumni with Ph.D.'s in the sciences who are engaged in cutting-edge work:

- Tyler Garretson '01, who participated in one of the most important scientific projects of our generation: developing the Covid-19 vaccine for Pfizer. Tyler pursued a career in science thanks in part to the support he received years ago from Paula Butler at CCDS.
- Alex McInturf '11, who has traveled the world to study sharks – a passion she developed with middle school science teacher Dan Wood. In fact, Alex says that a class trip in 7th grade at Country Day was the moment she realized she wanted to study marine biology.

Or read about the two alumni we honored at Homecoming: Sarah Herrlinger '90, who leads Apple's groundbreaking accessibility work for people with disabilities – work that received a spark of inspiration in a computer science lab at CCDS and a class service project at Stepping Stones; and Rodney Geier '71, who has spent a lifetime serving Cincinnati after being influenced by his Country Day teachers and football teammates fifty years ago.

As I walk these halls today, I smile at the knowledge that stories like this are still being written in every classroom. Paula Butler and Dan Wood are still here teaching science. Technology and community service continue to be essential elements of our curriculum. Even some of Rodney's football records were matched this fall by Ashton Snell '22. So years from now, when a future Connections article highlights the incredible work an alum is doing to make the world a better place, it is highly likely we will find the origin story of that work in 2021 here at Country Day.

I hope that when you look through the pages of this publication, you see what I see every day: Country Day is an incredibly special place.

Sincerely,

Rob Zimmerman '98
Head of School

**Join us**
at the
**STATE OF THE SCHOOL**
Thursday, January 20, 2022

**Dinner: 5:30 p.m.**
**Program: 6:30 p.m.**

Enjoy student performances and hear from the head of school, students, and faculty.

Childcare will be provided and the Country Cottage will be open so you can purchase spirit wear as well.

More details available soon but mark your calendar today.

**WE HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!**

**14**
parent socials held in the first semester

**394**
athletic competitions on the new turf field

**1,318**
pounds of turkey passed by the Middle School students in the turkey train

**657**
tickets sold to the Upper School's production of *Clue*

**110**
tie-dyes made by Upper School students and their Montessori and Pre-K buddies for Mole Day




## Match Day Soared!

On Thursday, November 11, 2021 our Country Day community came together to raise over $420,000 in 24 hours. Parents, grandparents, alumni, parents of alumni, faculty, staff, students, and friends of the school supported our biggest day of annual fundraising EVER. Gifts ranged from a few dollars to many thousands and EVERY.SINGLE. ONE. made a difference!

We are deeply grateful to everyone who took the opportunity to support our school and help us continue to provide our students with the best educational experience possible.

For those who have yet to make their gift to the Country Day Fund – and there are several who have shared a desire to do so – please know our fundraising efforts are still in progress! Your support is deeply appreciated. To make your gift online, please visit our website or scan the QR code below:






## Arts Hall of Fame

Cincinnati Country Day School celebrates its strong and vibrant arts tradition by recognizing former students, faculty, staff, and community members for their contributions to the fine, musical, literary, and performing arts.

We are now accepting nominations for the 2022 CCDS Arts Hall of Fame. To nominate someone and to read about the inagural class, please visit https://www.countryday.net/resources/alumni/awards or scan the QR code on the right.

Please submit all nominations by January 7, 2022.



## Building Community & Creating Connections



Dean Johns is executive vice president and director of financial planning for an independent wealth management firm in Blue Ash, and this school year he began his two-year tenure as the Parents' Association president and one of the newest members of our Board of Trustees.

As Parents' Association (PA) president, Dean's goal is to achieve the mission of the PA: *Building Community and Creating Connections*.

"I want to ensure that any PA-sponsored event has a purpose aligned with this mission. For this school year, I outlined three key goals: bring parents back on campus and encourage them to get involved in school events, host a "traditional" FallFest, and bring back the grade-level parent socials."

Dean is married to Miki who is the chief financial officer for Cincinnati-based marketing firm Dean Houston. Their son, Vlad, is a junior and their daughter, Jossi, is a freshman. Dean said he stepped into the volunteer role of PA president because, in addition to finding a school that was a good fit for his children, he and his wife were also looking for a fun and social parent community.

"This is only our third year here, so it was not long ago that we were new to the Country Day community and were truly welcomed by all," said Johns. "The PA had a significant role in welcoming us by sponsoring various events that allowed us to create connections beyond the families we met through our children's athletic teams. I simply want to help new and existing families feel welcomed and have a lot of fun along the way."

Outside of work, Dean loves to watch his kids play sports and is an avid Reds and Twins fan.

# Increasing Mental Health Services on our Campus



To ensure our students have increased access to individual therapeutic intervention and social-emotional wellness and through the school's relationship with MindPeace, a Cincinnati leader in school-based mental health services, the school partnered with Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center beginning this school year.

In October 2021, we welcomed Melynda Bowers, who is available to provide private mental health treatment services for our students on our campus.

Melynda is a Licensed Independent Social Worker and received her master's degree in clinical social work from Portland State University-Portland, Oregon.

Our families now have the choice to access a private therapist from a nationally renowned research hospital right here at Country Day. Providing this service reduces the time students miss curricular activities to attend treatment sessions while eliminating the need for parents and students to travel to these appointments.

This optional and confidential service is in addition to the others already provided by our school psychologists, Dr. Nikki Bishop-Kallmeyer, Alexis Nordrum, and Dr. Kathy Scheidler

Our school psychologists are excellent on-campus resources who can provide short-term interventions, accessibility, and consistency, but they are not licensed to provide and dictate mental health treatment. They continue to provide social-emotional support, help students work through school-based issues, and assess if students need further treatment. They also provide individual and group counseling.

> We do everything we can to support our current students... but that help doesn't stop after graduation. As an alum, if you need support in identifying resources, please contact us any time. We're here for you. Always.

Parents and faculty can contact our school psychologists to make student referrals for services with Melynda. The cost of therapy visits can be supplemented through insurance, Medicaid, or private pay options.

Students and their families have direct access to Melynda's expertise to create another layer of support that strengthens the connections between home, school, and the community. Our hope is that by offering private therapy services on our campus, we are making it more convenient for students to access the services they need.

MindPeace



# Country Day Enrollment Soars

The opening of the 2021-22 school year began with the "newer" tradition of Opening Convocation. In his opening remarks, Head of School Rob Zimmerman '98 welcomed a record number of new students to the community coming from more than 50 zip codes locally, throughout the USA, and internationally.

The 167 new students came to Country Day from California, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Massachusetts, Michigan, New York, Ohio, and Virginia as well as internationally from China, The Netherlands, The Philippines, Spain, and Turkey. This is the largest group of new students at Country Day in over two decades and the second largest class in school history behind the new student group in 2000-01, which coincided with opening of the new upper school. The new students are more than 40% ethnically and racially diverse, with 112 new students representing Lower School, 30 in Middle School, and 25 in Upper School. The school expects to enroll additional new students throughout the year.

Aaron Kellenberger, director of enrollment management, attributes the positive enrollment to both the school's ability to adapt to the changing educational and enrollment landscape brought on by the pandemic as well as effectively marketing the Country Day student experience. "The school's faculty and staff have always been centered on delivery a quality educational experience that focuses on the whole-child – their academic and personal development. Nothing highlighted this focus more than the positive word-of-mouth from our parents and students during the spring of 2020 and the entire 2020-21 school year."



The school's Covid-19 operations during the world-wide pandemic and the flexibility of being able to deliver both in-person and remote learning, when necessary, have been the catalyst for this enrollment momentum.

"Nearly every parent inquiry – and subsequent new student enrollment in the past year and a half – shared that Country Day seemed to be doing everything right when other schools were scrambling with what to try next," stated Kellenberger. "A great indicator of the school's success in enrollment is also the new student acceptance rate, with over 78% of the students who are admitted actually enrolled in one of our 17 different grade levels or programs."

The school also experienced very little attrition over the past two years, which is also attributed to the school's healthy enrollment. Today, over 850 students are enrolled in the Early Childhood to grade 12 programs, making this one of the top five largest enrollments in school history dating back to 1926.

# DEVIATING from the Path

*Alex took time during her gap year to go into the field to study sharks. Among other species, she swam with great hammerheads during her internship at the Bimini Shark Lab in the Bahamas (please note: these activities were conducted under research permits and are not encouraged for those without proper experience or permitting).*

If you asked people who knew Alex McInturf '11 when she was a Country Day student, they would all say she is exactly where they thought she would be.

"Studying sharks is something I've wanted to do forever," said McInturf. "When I was accepted into grad school, my friends told me I was the only person they knew who was actually doing what she said she wanted to do back in middle school."

"I didn't have constant access to the ocean living in Ohio; it was huge mystery and a little scary to me," explained Alex. "As a child, we visited Florida a lot and I remember thinking there was a lot in it that I couldn't see, so I wondered if I could study the ocean to find out what was in there."

Alex has traveled the world to study sharks and their relatives, visiting South Africa, the Bahamas, Ireland, Scotland, and Northern Ireland, not to mention every U.S. coast.

She has worked under marine biologist Dr. Peter Klimley ("the grandfather of tagging sharks"), who selected her to be the UC Davis liaison for the Sea Monitor Project, a multi-million Euro partnership and project to monitor threatened species in the Northeast Atlantic region, everything from seals to salmon to basking sharks.

She is also involved in the Irish Basking Shark Group, an outreach and education collective. Due to the basking shark's shy nature, planktivorous diet, and slow rate of reproduction and maturity, basking sharks are difficult to find and study.



*Alex stopped in to share her shark expertise with first graders. Her curiosity and passion for sharks started at Country Day.*

> "There is a tremendous amount of diversity in our oceans so you're constantly learning. There is something about getting into the water with the sharks and studying them that makes you want to do more. Once you get into the shark world it's hard to leave."

In addition to finding inspiration through visits to Florida, Shark Week, and her employment at the Newport Aquarium, Alex credits a dive trip to Honduras with Mr. Wood's class in 7th grade as a critical turning point in her life. "To travel like that and become dive certified at such an early age made a huge impact on me. It was a big moment for me…it was actually THE moment when I knew I wanted to get into marine biology."




*In October 2021, Alex returned to Country Day for Homecoming weekend but not before spending time with first graders to talk with them about her experiences with sharks.*



*During her PhD, Alex studied basking sharks in Ireland. In addition to attempting to collect data on animal movement, she also focused on understanding what environmental factors were driving shark movement patterns.*

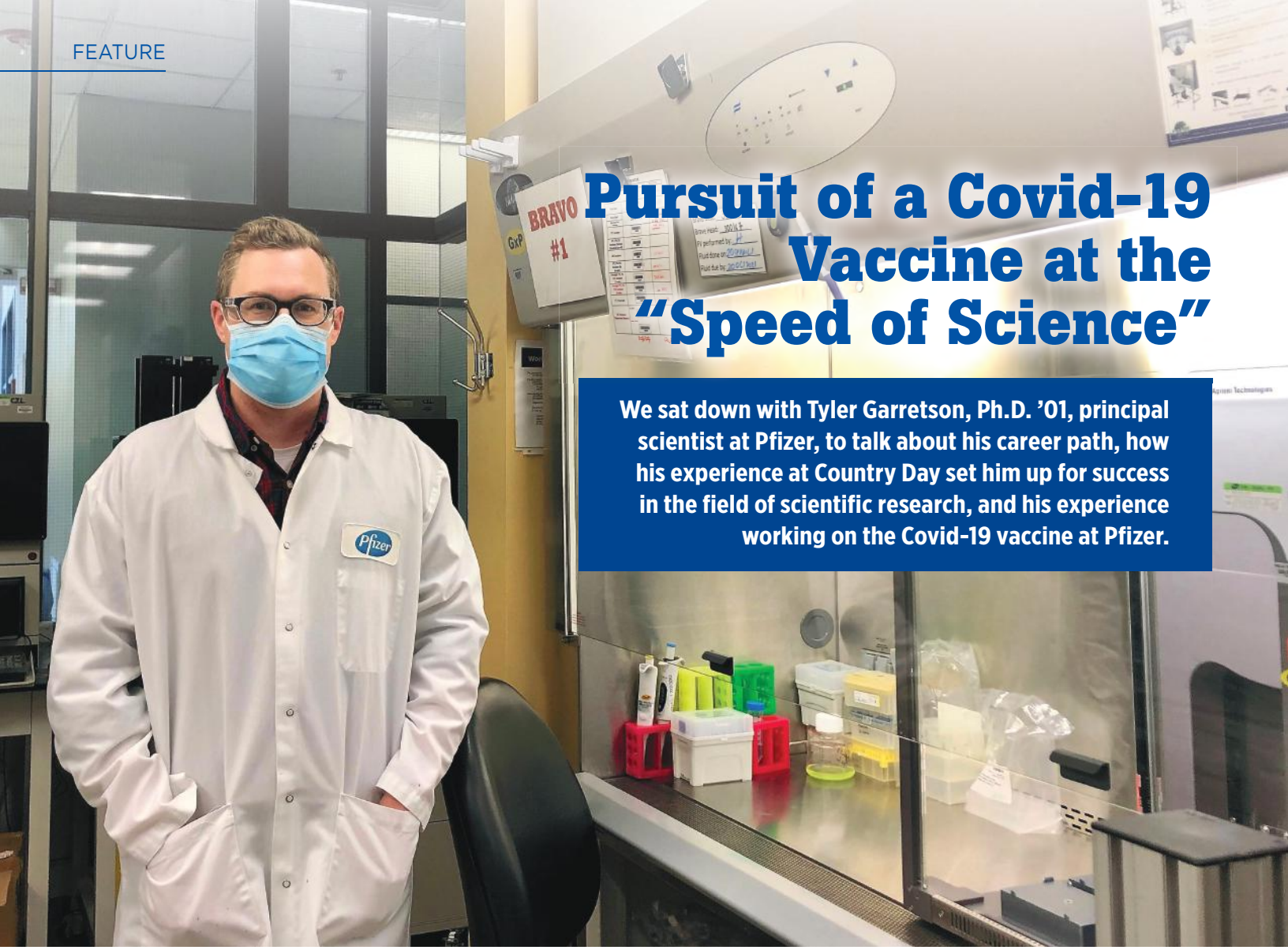
Alex is grateful for all her experiences at Country Day. "The academics were excellent. College wasn't easy but there were so many things that were manageable because of Country Day. At UC Davis, I was able to stay on top of my time and work and my mom said it's because I never worked harder than I did at Country Day. The thing is, while I was a student at Country Day, everyone was an overachiever, so it didn't feel out of the norm."

Alex was recruited by Williams College to play soccer but also received a well-rounded liberal arts education, double-majoring in biology and English. After graduation, she took a gap year to travel and study sharks. In November 2021, Alex obtained her Ph.D. in animal behavior from UC Davis. Her next stop is Oregon State, where she will study the effects of salmon sharks on the salmon populations of the Pacific Northwest.

"I'm an academic and make very little money but I'm happy with my day to day," said McInturf. "It's OK to deviate from the path that you think you should take in order to pursue your passions. I couldn't imagine my life any other way."



*After graduation from Williams College, Alex immediately embarked for an internship with Oceans Research in South Africa, where she primarily studied great white sharks.*




# Pursuit of a Covid-19 Vaccine at the "Speed of Science"

**We sat down with Tyler Garretson, Ph.D. '01, principal scientist at Pfizer, to talk about his career path, how his experience at Country Day set him up for success in the field of scientific research, and his experience working on the Covid-19 vaccine at Pfizer.**

### What is your position at Pfizer and what does it entail?

As a principal scientist in the assay development group at Pfizer Vaccines Research and Development (R&D), I help to develop and run assays (or tools), which we use to assess the immune response to vaccines. In 2020, I led a team that helped generate immunological data to move our Covid-19 vaccine through the clinical trial process. This eventually led to its approval in the United States and several countries around the world.

### How did you end up working on the Covid-19 vaccine?

While working as a scientific researcher at Penn, I was offered a scientist position at Pfizer Vaccines R&D. I leapt at the opportunity because I knew I wanted to be part of an organization that helps to deliver scientific breakthroughs and has a direct impact on public health. I was hired in November 2019 to lead a team developing tools for our influenza vaccine program. In March 2020 I was approached by management to lead a team that would develop a tool to measure in clinical trial samples the ability to neutralize the live SARS-CoV-2 virus (performed in a very safe lab environment). I took on this challenge because it was my chance to be a part of our 'Super Bowl.' Our team had to live up to some huge expectations and deliver.

### Did you know how big of an assignment this would be when you agreed to it?

It really hit me when my friends and family were asking about my work and the national news was constantly talking about the Covid-19 vaccine. I remember seeing on the national news a graph of data we helped generate and realizing how big this work was. This work was, of course, stressful and there were a lot of long days and nights; but to see friends and family – especially my parents – get the opportunity to be vaccinated because of the work my team did was incredibly rewarding. It is an experience I will hold onto for the rest of my life.

### What advice do you have for students who are interested in a career like yours?

If you are interested in exploring a career in science, stay persistent and embrace your passion for science. I had a lot of difficulties along the way with particular concepts and classes, but I never let it divert me from my goals in science. Seek help from teachers or professors and try to gain experience in a research lab where you can see the scientific method in action.

**Tell me about your experience at Country Day.**

I enrolled at Country Day as a sophomore. My older siblings went to public high school, but my parents thought I should consider enrolling in a private high school that was geared towards preparing me for college. My cousins graduated from Country Day and with their experience and high praise, we looked into Country Day as a possibility. After visiting, it seemed like a great fit for me.

When I got to Country Day I was educationally behind the curve and it took time – and the incredibly supportive school community – to overcome that. I am forever indebted to two teachers: Fred Carey and Paula Butler. As part of my transition to Country Day, it was recommended I take a summer prep course with Fred Carey to help with my writing. His teachings in written communication and organization have helped me throughout my life. I use his lessons to this day. As for Paula Butler, I have always been interested in science; however, in my younger years I lacked the confidence to embrace a scientific career path. Paula made her classes fun, engaging and exciting, and she gave me the assurance and self-awareness to pursue a career in science.






**What advice do you have for students when it comes to having a successful experience at Country Day?**

Take advantage of the top-notch teachers, technology, and resources at the school. Get involved in activities at school – go outside your comfort zone. I've always had trouble with public speaking, so I took a small role in the school's production of Little Shop of Horrors, which a teacher recommended I do to help get over my fear. I look back at that as a fun experience I would never have been a part of if it wasn't for a little encouragement.

**What are you doing now?**

One of the nice things about Pfizer is they continue to challenge you as a scientist to take on new roles. Right now I'm working on a project within the pneumococcal vaccine program, something I would have never envisioned working on. Also, my wife and I welcomed our first child into the world this past November – which is another experience I'll never forget. This might just be the biggest adventure yet.

# Ribbon-Cutting Marks Official Opening of the Brian J. Bortz Family Stadium

On Friday, August 20, 2021, a ribbon-cutting ceremony commemorated Cincinnati Country Day School's completion of a new turf field stadium.

"This stadium project is an exciting step forward for our school," said Rob Zimmerman '98, head of school. "Our generous donors have given us an athletic facility that matches our rich history and our bold ambition for the future."

The school hosted the ribbon-cutting ceremony prior to the first home football game of the season to officially mark the opening of Brian J. Bortz Family Stadium, named so after a multi-generational Country Day family and lead donor to the project.

"This $3.75 million capital project was made possible by 14 Country Day families, including our five lead donor families – the Bortz, Cicchinelli, DiSanto, Hildebrant, and Jurgensen and Alf families," continued Zimmerman. "The incredible commitment of these families is a shining example of what can be accomplished when our community comes together, and a reminder of how Country Day has been built since its founding."

During the ceremony, field team student-athlete representatives cut the ribbon to mark the occasion, with the football team entering the field for their opening game by running through a ribbon-holding Nighthawk banner.

"Our student-athletes, coaches, and families will all benefit from this amazing new stadium," said Dennis Coyle, athletic director and head football coach. "We are excited to watch our Nighthawk athletes compete on this field and in this stadium for years to come. Today is a great day to be a Country Day Nighthawk!"

Construction began in May 2021 and was led by John R. Jurgensen Company, which completed the project on schedule and on budget. The stadium renovation project includes:

- The Christopher R. & Susana M. Hildebrant Field, a multi-sport synthetic turf field and six-lane track.
- Home stand for more than 530 spectators, with an integrated press box.
- Visitor bleachers for 130 spectators.
- Modern LED lighting, sound system, and digital display ScoreVision scoreboard.
- Remodeled athletic entryway, incorporating seating and outdoor learning spaces.
- Remodeled Lower School play area, including upgraded playground.
- Landscaping to replace dying trees and invasive plant species with native trees, shrubs, forbs, and grasses.



# No End to Trying Hard




Irene Wang '22 does not let anything or anyone stop her, not even herself.

An international student from China who came to Cincinnati Country Day School in 2019, Irene is a National Merit Commended student and involved in the International Club. But rowing is where her real passion lies – on a boat and in the water.

During her sophomore year, Irene decided to try rowing but before her season could start, the Covid-19 pandemic hit so Irene started doing Zoom workouts at home.

"Even back then, when I barely understood how to move the boat, I knew it was something I'd want to spend more time doing," said Wang. "It was the feeling of wind passing by you when you move on the water. There is something special about that."

Irene describes herself as "not physically built like a rower" because of her shorter height and smaller frame, but she does not let that stop her.

"I have to focus so much on my technique to balance out the disadvantage of my height," said Wang. "But I am a very serious person when it comes to sports, and I try hard at every practice."

At the beginning of her junior year, Irene was determined to perfect her rowing skills. Yet, even with her drive and determination, juggling schoolwork, clubs, friends, and rowing practice made Irene feel overwhelmed. But she didn't give up; she joined a year-round rowing club team to get more off-season practice.

Despite placing in last place in almost every race at first, she kept trying.



> "I always remind myself what my mom told me when I was five – if I want to start something, don't quit halfway; I must try my best. And that's what I do for everything."

"In the beginning, I was far behind everyone else, trying to keep up but then I started to move up," said Wang. "Instead of celebrating my minor victories, like passing other boats, I looked behind me and then kept going. Then I got to a point where I could keep up with the front of the group. But that was not my goal, so I didn't stop there. I moved from the end of the race to the front in less than a year."

Having improved her rowing techniques and falling in love with the elegance of the sport, Irene applied to Harvard University in hopes of joining their crew team.

"Am I proud of myself? Yes, I am incredibly proud of who I've become," said Wang. "But am I going to stop because I've achieved something? No, never. There is no end to trying hard. There is no end to being the best version of myself."

# Nine Students Receive National Academic Recognition

Cincinnati Country Day School is proud to announce our five National Merit Semifinalists and four National Merit Commended Students in the Class of 2022.

Christian Fitzpatrick (Kenwood), Pooja Kantemneni (Mason), Victor Nica (Anderson), Alistair Norwood (Coldstream), and Margaret Sprigg-Dudley (Loveland) were named among the approximately 16,000 Semifinalists in the 2022 National Merit Scholarship Program.

These academically talented high school seniors have an opportunity to continue in the competition for approximately 7,600 National Merit scholarships worth more than $31 million that will be offered in the spring. The nationwide pool of Semifinalists, representing less than one percent of U.S. high school seniors, includes the highest-scoring entrants in each state.

"It's no secret that Country Day is academically rigorous and that certainly helped me prepare for the test, but being such a small school, we also get more individualized attention from our teachers and that is invaluable," said Margaret Sprigg-Dudley.

Christian Fitzpatrick added, "The quality of teachers is also really important. If you have quality teachers that go beyond the required material like we do here [at Country Day] I'm sure that increases the likelihood that you would be prepared for something like standardized testing."

Marissa Handler (Loveland), Cole Harten (North Avondale), Mimi Liao (Mason), and Irene Wang (Loveland) were recognized as Commended Students for their academic achievement by the National Merit Scholarship Corporation.

It's estimated that about 34,000 out of 50,000 high scorers on the PSATs receive



*National Merit Semifinalists Victor Nica, Pooja Kantemneni, Alistair Norwood, Margaret Sprigg-Dudley, and Christian Fitzpatrick.*



*National Merit Commended Students Irene Wang, Marissa Handler, Cole Harten, and Mimi Liao.*

Letters of Commendation to recognize their outstanding academic promise.

"I've heard my friends from other schools talk about how much they had to study, but I felt prepared to take my PSAT just by being in class and learning from my teachers here at Country Day," said Irene Wang, who also won the American History prize last year.

Marissa Handler, a Country Day lifer and the 2022 Class Scholar, also said she used what she learned in her classes – specifically her literature classes – to help her score higher on the PSATs.

Country Day is proud to honor and recognize these students for their accomplishments!

# *Clue* – A Celebration of Community

*by Nick Rose, Upper School theater director and speech teacher*



*Clue* was a monster of a play which required a constantly changing set, precision timing of delivery, and specificity in every moment. At every step of the way, the young artists at Cincinnati Country Day School displayed a professionalism to rival most regional theaters. They focused on each detail, they kept the pace moving, and they supported and pushed each other to make each moment as right as they could. They proved no part was too small. They built and painted a sprawling mansion onstage, and made it come to life with clockwork backstage coordination. And most importantly, they had fun and bonded as a group in the process.

For that, any Upper School director would consider themselves more than blessed. But it did not stop there.

A small army of parents dedicated themselves to keeping our cast and crew fed on long days, pushing out shares and likes on social media, and helping sell tickets and concessions. The administration of the school hung posters in their windows, offered time to preview our show in assembly, and crafted a beautiful social media campaign to market the production. Teachers and students talked it up with each other. And come opening, the entire Country Day community gathered over three nights to celebrate the production. We broke presale and house attendance records. We made those same professionally minded young artists feel like rockstars for their efforts. And, we had a wonderful time doing it.

This community. This wonderful community. They have made my first production as a theater director at CCD an experience I will never forget and always cherish.

# Students Qualify for College Board's National Recognition Program

We are honored to recognize seven senior students that qualified for the College Board's National Recognition Program for high PSAT scores for students of African American or Hispanic background. Congratulations to (from left to right): Jourdan Jones (Indian Hill), Kirstin Hayes (West Chester), Priya Thompson (Loveland), Jade Abu Bakr (Norwood), Christian Fitzpatrick (Kenwood), Noah Duplechan (Madeira), and Ryan de Beer (Loveland, not pictured).



# Leading Conservation Efforts at the Next in Nature Summit

*by Margaret Sprigg-Dudley '22*

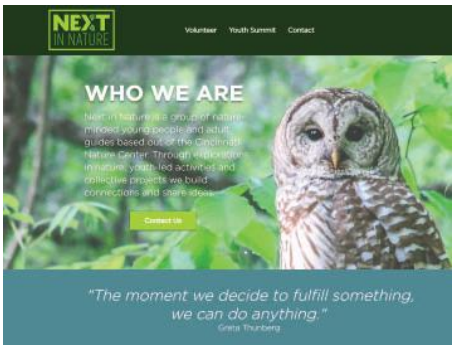
The Next in Nature Summit is an annual event hosted the Cincinnati Nature Center (CNC) and planned by the youth of Cincinnati. The intent of the summit is to educate youth about conservation and provide them with opportunities to channel their passion for conservation into action.

We began planning the summit in May after my classmates Kirstin Hayes and Mimi Lao, and I joined the marketing team. Over the summer, we updated the Next in Nature website (www.nextinnature.org), and designed social media posts and other marketing materials.

At the beginning of August, we received a $4,000 grant from the Martha Holden Jennings Foundation to fund marketing and speakers for the summit. We worked closely with the other organizations at the CNC to finalize our speakers list, the schedule, and our marketing plan. Mimi and Kirstin have both been speakers at past summits, so their perspective and input was invaluable.

At this year's summit, we had about 200 registered participants. On the day of the event, Kristin and Mimi facilitated the event and introduced speakers. I presented as one of the speakers and spoke about the conservation podcast that I launched with some other teens.

The goal of the conference was to provide resources for teens to get involved in conservation, so afterward we sent out a link where people could apply for a conservation course and for funding for their own projects. You can find clips of the event at https://www.nextinnature.org/recordings.




*Margaret, Kirstin, and Mimi helped update the Next in Nature website.*

# Fall 2021 Miami Valley Conference All-Stars

## Girls Golf

Record 8-7, MVC Champs, 5th at Sectionals
*Coach of the Year:* Pat Dunn
*First Team:* Natalie Kaminski '22, Pooja Kantemneni '22
*Second Team:* Katie Wang '24

## Boys Golf

3rd at Sectionals, 3rd in MVC and finished 8th in Districts; record 3-8
*Second Team:* Drew Bagnoli '22, Elijah Guttman '25

## Girls Tennis

4th place in MVC; 2nd at Coaches Classic; 5-8 record
*Second Team:* Rana Arebi '24, Priya Thompson '22
*Honorable Mention:* Krithika Dama '22, Hannah Nguyen '22, Georgie Masterson '22

## Cross Country

Boys 5th Place at MVC, 5th at Districts & Regional Team Qualifier for Districts
Girls 4th at MVC & 7th at Districts
*First Team:* Joe Gibson '23
*Second Team:* Sam Nitzberg '22

## Volleyball

5th in MVC Scarlet; 11-11 record
*Second Team:* Daisy McClean '22, Gracie Barnes '23
*Honorable Mention:* Gracie Mitchell '24, Charlize Rust '24

## Football

MVC Gray Champions; 7-3 record
*Coach of the Year:* Dennis Coyle
*Offensive Player of the Year:* Ashton Snell '22
*First Team:* Ashton Snell '22, Andrew Vance '22, Silas Snell '22, Shepard Snell '24, Ryan Coyle '25, Kyle Collett '23, Colin Heekin '23
*Second Team:* Zach Corbin '22, Lee Thomas '25, Patrick Ramage '25, Gavin Clark '23, Carson Yackey '24
*Honorable Mention:* Andrew Zimmerman '24, Parker Corbin '24

## Boys Soccer

*First Team:* Lucas de Alarcon '24, Sam Nitzberg '22, Trey Vredeveld '22
*Second Team:* Hayden Bortz '22, Andrew Pavlisko '24, Beck Graham '22, Fritz Graham '22
*Honorable Mention:* Casey Graff '22, Donovan Gray '25

## Girls Soccer

MVC Scarlet Champions, District Champions, 17-1-1 record
*Coach of the Year:* Theresa Hirschauer
*Player of the Year:* Jada Moorman '22
*First Team:* CJ DeBra '23, Jada Moorman '22, Emma Robinson '22, Sarah Zimmerman '22
*Second Team:* Sydney Hardesty '23, Elizabeth Zimmerman '24, Megan Zimmerman '24
*Honorable Mention:* Piper Farris '24, Annabel Blum '22

## Cheer

*Captains:* Kourtni Hamilton '22 and Kirstin Hayes '22

*Squad members:* Jade AbuBakr '22, Bella Timmerding '22, Hannah Nguyen '22 , Imri Young '25, Brina Crellin '25, and Maddy Heaton '25



# Seniors Leave a Lasting Legacy

Seniors Annabel Blum, Sarah Coyle, Emma Robinson, Jada Moorman, and Sarah Zimmerman have made a lasting impact on not just the girls' soccer team but also the Country Day community. These students will finish their time as Country Day soccer athletes with a 74-4-7 record.

According to Coach Hirsch, these seniors have accomplished so much in their four years at Country Day.

This season, Sarah Zimmerman, Jada Moorman, and Emma Robinson were named 1st team MVC and 1st Team All-District. Annabel Blum waited three years to win a starting position and developed into a player who never came off the field as a senior. Sarah Coyle started as a fantastic softball player who loved playing soccer and improved tremendously over three years. Jada Moorman scored an incredible 67 goals over the last two years, making her one of Country Day's most dominant athletes. Sarah Zimmerman started on the team from day one of her freshman year and dominated the midfield for four years. And Emma Robinson changed positions and started three years, and she is also an incredible leader for younger players on the team.




*Left to right: Sarah Coyle, Annabel Blum, Coach Hirsch, Jada Moorman, Sarah Zimmerman, and Emma Robinson.*

"The 2021 team was one of my favorite teams in my 32 years," said Theresa Hirschauer, head of middle school and coach of the varsity girls team. "We had such incredible leadership and a team that was very much like a family."

# Sports Highlight: Ashton Snell '22




*Left to right: seniors Andrew Vance, Andon Peacock, Silas Snell, Zach Corbin, and Ashton Snell.*

Ashton Snell '22 spent the last three years running cross country but decided to try his hand – and feet! – at football this year. His decision to switch his focus to football made a tremendous impact on the program.

At the Homecoming game against Lockland, Ashton had two kick-off returns, five tackles (four of them solo tackles), and 38 carries for 282 yards. In addition, he almost broke the school's record for the most touchdowns in a single game.

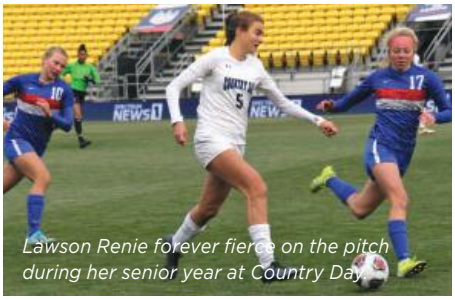
Ironically enough, during halftime, the Country Day community honored the school's 1971 football team for their undefeated season and their 50-year reunion. In attendance was Rodney Geier '71, who is the 2021 Virtue in Action recipient and holds the record for most touchdowns in a single game.

The football team finished their season 7-3, and Ashton Snell was voted MVC Offensive Player of the Year.

# Country Day Alums Compete in NCAA Soccer Tournaments

This year, Lawson Renie '20 and her Tennessee teammates won the SEC Championship. Lawson currently leads the team in minutes played. At the time of publication, the Vols are playing in the second round of the NCAA soccer tournament.

Joely Virzi '20 and her Middlebury (DIII) teammates won the NESCAC Championship. Joely scored the tying goal in both the quarter and semi-final matches to help lead Middlebury to victory. Middlebury finished its season on November 14 with a loss to Misericordia University in the second round of the DII NCAA Tournament.



*Lawson Renie forever fierce on the pitch during her senior year at Country Day.*

## Southwest Ohio High School Soccer Coaches Hall of Fame

Coach Theresa Hirschauer (girls soccer) and Coach Greg Hirschauer (boys soccer) have both been named District Soccer Coach of the Year by the Southwest Ohio High School Soccer Coaches Association. "What an accomplishment for our girls' and boys' programs," said Head of School Rob Zimmerman '98. Congratulations to the amazing Hirschauer siblings!




*A throwback picture of Greg and Theresa Hirschauer with their parents.*

## Hirschauer Inducted Into Hall of Fame

Theresa Hirschauer, head of middle school, varsity soccer coach, and former Country Day athletic director, was inducted into the Ohio Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association Hall of Fame.

"I am humbled to be selected for the 2021 Hall of Fame," said Hirsch. "I loved my 20 years working as an athletic director, and I am very appreciative of the support Country Day has given me."



*Head of School Rob Zimmerman '98 and Theresa Hirschauer celebrate her induction.*




## Student-Athlete Recognized for Outstanding Leadership & Skill

Daisy McClean '22 was awarded the Outstanding Volleyball Player & Leadership Award by the Ohio Valley Officials Association and was recognized at the District 16 All-Star game.

This award is presented to only one player in the city each year. About 100 referees throughout the city vote on the recipient of this award. In years past, this recognition has been awarded to student-athletes who have gone on to be Division I athletes.

"It is an awesome achievement because it recognizes Daisy for what she brings both on and off the court," said Chris Bannister, head volleyball coach.

To be considered for this award, the referees submit nominations for players they noticed shine in both character and skill.

"It is amazing that out of all the players in the city, she was noticed and selected," said Bannister. "But anyone that knows Daisy knows exactly how incredible she is, and this recognition comes as no surprise."

# New Faculty Spotlights



## Lower School: Jared McFee

Every day fourth grade teacher Jared "Mr. Mac" McFee gets to live out his lifelong dream by being in the classroom.

Not only is this Jared's first year teaching at Cincinnati Country Day School, but it is also his first year teaching. He comes from a marketing and fundraising background but has always wanted to teach.

"Teaching has always been a lifelong dream of mine," explained McFee. "I've always wanted to teach, to have a direct positive impact on the lives of others."

From the moment he walked into Country Day, he felt at home.

"I left my interview knowing I wanted the job," said McFee. "When I think about the Country Day faculty and staff, the Maya Angelou quote, 'At the end of the day people won't remember what you said or did, they will remember how you made them feel' comes to my mind."

It is evident by stepping into his classroom that Jared cares about each one of his students.

"He seems so comfortable and excited with his transition to the classroom," said friend and eighth grade science teacher Nate Johnston. "It's fun to see and hear about the great things he's doing in his classroom."

One of the fourth graders in his class told his parents, "Mr. McFee brings lots of books that have people in them that look like me. I like him. He is a great teacher. He pushes me because he wants me to be great!"

The diversity of books in his classroom library is very much intentional.

"I spend a lot of time trying to find books and curriculum that represent all children, all gender, all races, and all religions," said McFee. "Even if they aren't represented in my classroom, I want diversity represented in the learning. It matters. It's something I think about a lot. I want students to be able to find themselves in my classroom."

His goal every day is to inspire and engage his students. "My win on any day is that the kids are engaged in what we're learning and that they feel challenged. If you don't feel challenged, you're not learning."

Country Day's character virtues are his favorite thing to teach in the classroom.

"The character virtues are fundamental here. They aren't just words. People are living and breathing the character virtues. We are trying to make the world a better place."

## Middle School: Dawn Daugherty

When you walk into Dawn Daugherty's classroom, you know she is the type of teacher that goes above and beyond for her students.

"I've known since third grade that I wanted to be a teacher," said Daugherty. "The teachers I had growing up are why I'm here today. They were my biggest inspiration."

But the journey hasn't been that linear for Dawn. Five years ago, she and her mom were both diagnosed with breast cancer at the same time. Though scary, Dawn said going through that experience with her mom was something special. They scheduled their surgeries and appointments together, even waiting on one another to plan the next steps. Now a true cancer survivor, Dawn has more perspective on life than ever.

"Going through that journey, especially with my mom, gave me a whole new outlook on life. I truly saw miracles happen," said Daugherty.

After beating cancer, Dawn was not sure if she would return to teaching. But she said she knew from the moment she met Middle School Division Head Theresa Hirschauer that she was ready to teach again, especially here at Cincinnati Country Day School.

"You can't work for anyone better than Hirsch," laughed Daugherty. "Country Day is my home now. I feel so comfortable here."

Dawn has indeed jumped in and made herself right at home, coaching middle school volleyball this year along with Tom Cote, the middle school's administrative assistant.



"She's brought a lot to the program with her coaching experience and her enthusiasm," said Cote. "We balance each other out and I feel like we are a great coaching team."

Off the court and in the classroom, Dawn is willing to do anything to help her students learn. Her favorite book to teach is "Freak the Mighty" and she loves teaching the students that reading can be fun no matter what the book is. At the beginning of the school year, she held a "book tasting" for her class to get a "taste" of the year's reading menu, complete with red-checkered tablecloths and all.

"She brings incredible energy, warmth, and positivity to all that she does. She loves working with young people and is dedicated to lighting a spark within each of her students," said Dr. Christine Bridge, upper school English teacher and one of Dawn's closest friends.

Christine and Dawn became friends while teaching together at University of Cincinnati. After Christine transferred to Country Day they kept in touch, and she introduced Dawn to the school. Dawn says they both like to think their paths were always meant to cross.

"My biggest inspiration is the relationships I build with students every day. If the connection is there, then the academics come more easily. The students need to know you care. That's why I'm so drawn to Country Day – 'known and nurtured' aren't just words; it's how we operate here."

## Upper School: Dr. Alley Schottenstein




Dr. Alley Schottenstein, history teacher at the upper school, believes that history is a mosaic of rich stories that can help the younger generations learn and create change. If you step foot into her classroom, you will see that she does just that.

"We must explore history from all different dimensions," said Schottenstein. "We must look at things from different people's points of view."

Through her vast experience, Alley is precisely the right person to look at things from different points of view. She taught history at University of Cincinnati (UC) before coming to Cincinnati Country Day School this year. She has a bachelor's degree in near eastern and Judaic studies and women and gender studies, a master's degree in American history with a Certificate in Holocaust Education, and a Ph.D. in American history.

She is also an accomplished author. Her book "Changing Perspectives: Black-Jewish Relations in Houston during the Civil Rights Era" tells the story Jewish and Black communities from the 30s to the 60s and how they struggled to claim the rights and privileges they desired together.

"It's an incredible story about two communities – working together for positive change, despite political complications – who believed in hope and that change can start with the youth," said Schottenstein. "My grandfather was a Holocaust survivor, so I've always had a strong passion for the Jewish community and telling Jewish stories."

Her belief that change can start with the youth is what led her to Country Day.

"I've always wanted to teach at the high school level," said Schottenstein. "At UC, I worked with undergraduate students who would say to me, 'I wish I knew this in high school' so, I wanted to bring that experience and knowledge here."

What Alley teaches in the classrooms does not always come from traditional history books, though. Instead, she uses pop culture to immerse the students in history.

"My goal is to get the students thinking, 'why did these pop culture pieces choose to portray this history like this, what is right and wrong about this?'," said Schottenstein.

Some of the pop culture items she uses in the classroom include The Simpsons, "Gone with the Wind," "Lincoln the Vampire Slayer," and Sam Cooke's music.

"Music is one of the most powerful tools in history," said Schottenstein. "It lets us explore different things. It lets people relate to that time in our history."

It is clear that Alley has a deep love for history and teaching young minds. Her passion comes not only from her Jewish roots but also her idealism.

"I'm so intrigued by history because it's all about people wanting to change their lives," explains Schottenstein. "It's people taking fantastic chances to improve their lives. That passion is very moving to me. It is incredible how much change has happened and how our everyday existence is different because of what people in history did and fought for."



# Veteran Staff & Faculty Spotlights

*Tina with her daughter, Morgan '07, and grandson, Jackson, on his first day of kindergarten this year.*

## Lower School: Tina Moulin

Tina Moulin's title might be assistant administrator at the lower school and director of summer programs, but there is so much more she is involved in at Country Day.

The pre-primary students call her 'lunch lady' – a title she said she is happy to fulfill – but in Tina's roles as director of summer programs, co-chair of our COVID-19 Rapid Response Team, and assistant administrator in our lower school, she helps keep Country Day on the path toward continuous improvement and innovation as we head toward our centennial in 2026.

"She is an incredible asset to our community," said Mark Morawski, head of lower school. "She brings creativity, passion, talent, and commitment to every project on which she works and to every person with whom she collaborates."

And she's been collaborating at Country Day for quite some time now. She was hired in March 2000 as the lower school administration assistant under the direction of Susan Drackett, who served as the head of early childhood at the time.

Both of her children attended Country Day and her grandson, Jackson, is currently in Lee Ann Bertsch's kindergarten class.

"It's a privilege to watch my grandchild grow and thrive in the lower school's nurturing environment," said Moulin.

She has also volunteered at many events over the years, including FallFest, CountryDate, and Divas and Darlings. That sense of community has always been a source of support for Tina.

"Without a doubt, the warm and welcoming feeling that Country Day is well known for is what I treasure the most," said Moulin. "I had recently moved to Cincinnati when I began my job in the lower school 20 years ago, and it didn't take long before Country Day became like family to me. The school's caring community has supported my family in times of need, and I'm fortunate to have a role that lets me pay it forward to others in our community."

And paying it forward is exactly what Tina does every day. This has not gone unnoticed by her peers. In 2019, Tina was the first recipient of the school's Staff Recognition Award, which honors outstanding workplace achievements and distinguished service by a non-teaching member of the Cincinnati Country Day School staff.

"Her passion and commitment to Country Day is extraordinary, and her focus on students and 'whatever-it-takes' attitude is inspirational," said Morawski. "Tina's efforts improve our community and inspire those around her to do the same."

Even in her free time, Tina pays it forward. "I enjoy working in the dirt. My garden keeps me busy and it's great exercise. It's fun to share my small harvest with my Country Day family."

Because Country Day is like family to her, she said she loves coming to school every day.

"I enjoy working with my talented colleagues, but the students give me the greatest joy. Their smiles, laughter, and sweet conversations fill my heart every day. I could write a bestseller with the clever, funny things students share with me."



# Middle School: Beth Langenbahn

Cincinnati Country Day School is a special place because of people like Beth Langenbahn.

"She is a master teacher and incredible teammate; she is everything you want a colleague to be and then some," said Theresa "Hirsch" Hirschauer, head of middle school. "She has the respect of the entire faculty and staff."

Beth started her career at Country Day 30 years ago as the administrative assistant for Dr. Richard Schwab, who was head of middle school at the time. Today, she teaches 5th grade math and 5th grade social studies. This year also marks the last year she will have a child at Country Day.

All three of her children are Country Day lifers – Nicholas graduated in 2015, Gretchen in 2018, and Christopher is a senior.



*Beth with colleagues on Match Day last year.*

"I believe the greatest gift you can give children is a good education," said Langenbahn. "I am so thankful for the faculty at Country Day and the wisdom they have shared with my children."

And there is so much wisdom and joy that Beth shares with her students.

"I love sharing my excitement for history and how it can relate to everything from art to music to myths to maps. In math, I love sharing with students how numbers relate to each other, sharing puzzles, and challenging them to think outside of the box. There is nothing more rewarding than working with students to create a project and then seeing them hit their presentation out of the park. Teaching in the classroom is the best part of my day."



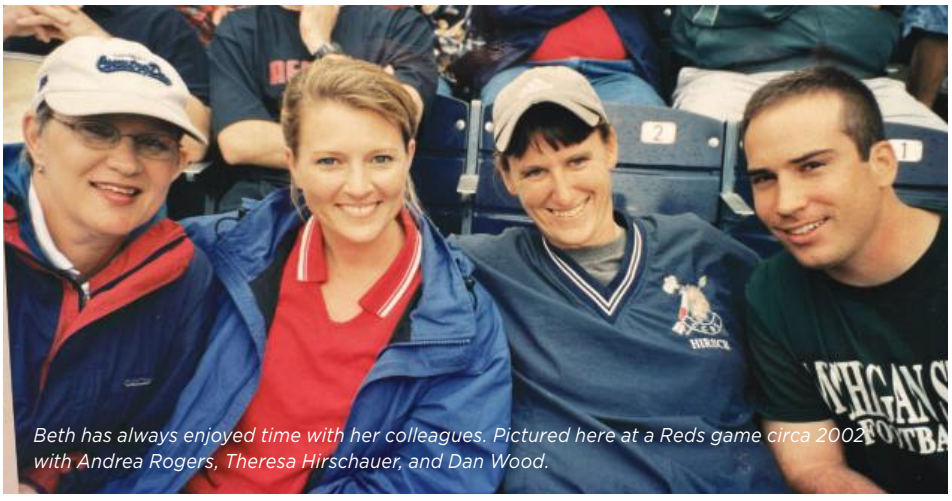

*Beth and most of her family at the boys soccer senior night this year.*

It is because of her organization, compassion, and creativity that her peers often seek her out for advice.

"The neat part for me is that I'm team teaching with her this year," said Hirsch. "It's my first time teaching 5th grade math but I feel OK about it because Beth is such a pro. There is so much foundation work laid in 5th grade when the students are making the step from lower school to middle school, and Beth does such an excellent job at helping the students cross that bridge."

And while everyone feels lucky to have Beth on the team, Beth said she feels fortunate to have the opportunity to do what she does every day.

"I have been blessed to be a part of such a giving, encouraging, positive, and energetic community all these years. The teachers here are family; we would do anything for each other. This carries outside of school hours as well. Country Day is a pretty special place with an amazing group of faculty and staff."



*Beth has always enjoyed time with her colleagues. Pictured here at a Reds game circa 2002 with Andrea Rogers, Theresa Hirschauer, and Dan Wood.*



*Yvonne and her family celebrate her daughter's wedding. From left to right: Zachary '04, Yvonne, Barry Magee (son in law), Ella Green (niece), Ashley '03, Dustin Church (nephew), Ryan '98.*

# Upper School: Yvonne Green

As Country Day's assistant to college counseling and testing coordinator for more than 20 years, Yvonne Greens brings a lot of "know how" that really enhances the college counseling experience for our families.

"What makes her so good is that she's a teacher," said Sarah Beyreis, director of college counseling and external opportunities. "She works with students and parents so effectively, and the kids love her and come back to see her because she's so warm, supportive, funny, and down to earth."

It helps that Yvonne loves Country Day.

"I love Country Day for many reasons, but mostly because it has allowed my children to believe what they were taught here – that you can go anywhere and be anything. My children are kind, productive soldiers for change in the world. I am very proud of that."

Her family has always been a source of pride, learning, and strength. "I married Elliott in 1978 when interracial couples were not the norm," explained Green. "Our children were not the norm, and we had many experiences, good and bad, but we learned from all of them. I lost Elliott to prostate cancer in 2007, but our sense of family is still strong."

Prior to working at Country Day in 1994, Yvonne was a Country Day parent, which provided her with a perspective that undoubtedly helps her navigate her current role. Her children graduated from Country Day – Ryan '98, Ashley '03, and Zachary '04 – and all are successfully pursuing their passions.

"She has tremendous institution memory and is connected in many ways, both as a parent and because she has worked here for so long," explained Beyreis. "That perspective is so helpful."

Perspective is certainly not something that Yvonne lacks. She was a special education teacher for Cincinnati Public School for 27 years and worked as a severe behavior handicapped specialist at The Children's Home of Cincinnati, which included a residential program for youth removed from schools for behavioral issues. The Children's Home is also where she met her husband, who was a Cincinnati police officer and worked for the FBI and DEA.

In 1999, she was diagnosed with stage 4 breast cancer and was told to get her affairs in order, so she retired. After 24 weeks of chemotherapy, a bilateral mastectomy, and 30 radiation treatments, she lived to tell the tale. She decided to go back to work and took on various roles at Country Day until she became the full-time receptionist in 2000 and then transitioned to her current role in 2001.

Despite – or maybe because of – her life experiences, her children refer to her as "the life of the party."

"I'm not sure I agree with them, but I'll take it. My children also tell me that I am a kind person which is why people feel comfortable talking to me about personal issues," explained Green. "I have also worked at all levels of education – with very deprived kids in difficult family situations to kids from very supportive families. I learned that kids are kids, and they all need the same chance and attention."

And while other schools have tried to lure Yvonne away, she said she is here to stay.

"I still work every day because I think I still have something to offer. I am very committed to making sure today's Country Day students get what my children had when they were students. Every day I ask myself, 'Would I want my children here now?' and my answer has always been yes."



*Yvonne and her husband, Elliott, at CountryDate in 1997.*

# Sarah Herrlinger '90 Is Making a Lasting Impact



This year, Sarah Herrlinger '90 was selected as the Distinguished Alumna for her groundbreaking work to ensure accessibility is built into everything Apple creates.

As Apple's senior director of Global Accessibility Policy and Initiatives, she leads accessibility programs and support for disability communities worldwide to ensure that Apple products, services, and workplaces are built for everyone.

"Country Day is where it all started for me with the Apple II e's in the computer science classroom and volunteering as a sophomore at Stepping Stones," said Herrlinger.



*Sarah (in the pink skirt) participated in the school's production of* Godspell *in 1988 and encourages today's students to get involved as much as they can.*

Herrlinger noted that her experience with the teachers at Country Day also made a difference in her life and prepared her for her position at Apple.

"The faculty teach you to care, take chances, step outside of your comfort zone, and embrace opportunity," said Herrlinger. "I had so many phenomenal teachers who absolutely expected the best from their students. Because of my French education at Country Day, I have been able to actively participate in meetings in Brussels and Paris, which leaves my colleagues pleasantly surprised. Having French as a standard component of my curriculum from Montessori through senior year was hugely beneficial and something I will always cherish."

She also credits Country Day's campus for giving her the space and place to lead and explore.

"There is something to be said for having everyone on one campus," explained Herrlinger. "When I was in lower school, upper school students would come to

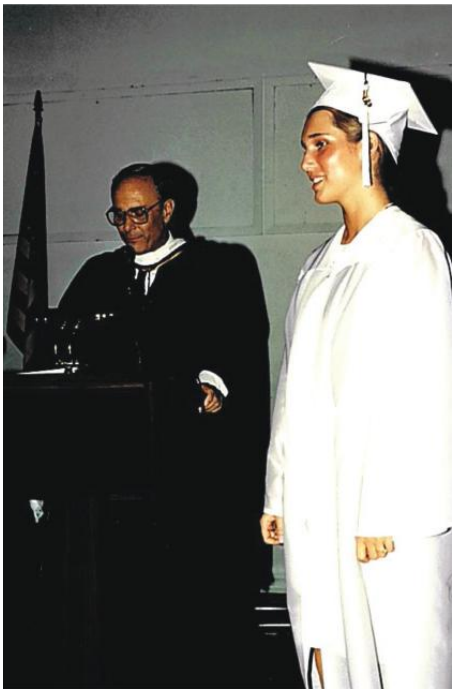
"Sarah's professional journey highlights the importance of a wide-ranging liberal arts education at Country Day, with a focus on leadership and life skills – where we must prepare students for careers that do not yet exist. Sarah's job did not exist when she was a student at Country Day or even when she began working at Apple. But while Sarah may not have learned how to make iPhones accessible for visually impaired users during her tenure at Country Day, she did learn habits of mind and became a lifelong learner at Country Day."

-Head of School Rob Zimmerman '98 at the Alumni Breakfast in October 2021 to honor Sarah Herrlinger as the 2021 Distinguished Alumni



*Sarah's brothers Bert '88 and Roth '86 attended Country Day and the Alumni Breakfast in October, where she was honored with the Distinguished Alumna award.*

our rooms and read to us and then I remember doing the same when I got older. There were always opportunities like this all year long. It felt like family wherever you were on campus."



*Sarah on graduation day at Country Day in 1990.*

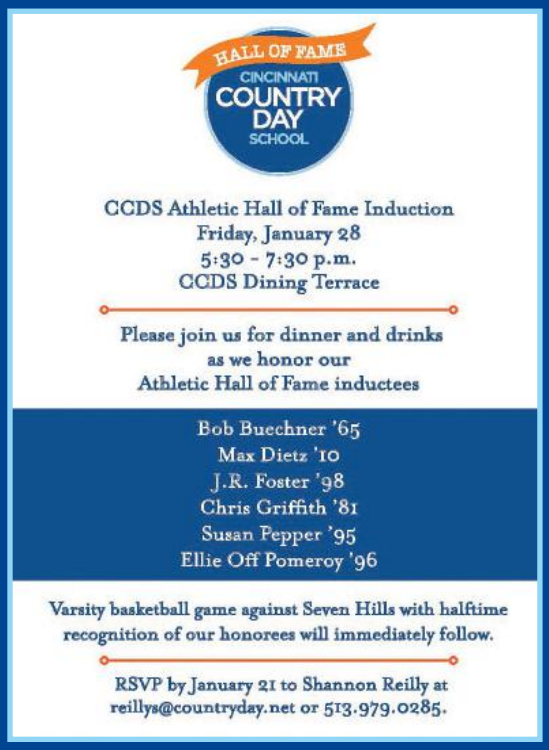
And she did have family on campus – her brothers Roth '86 and Burt '88 paved the way for her; Sarah's mom, Sally, started CountryDate and was on the Board of Trustees for nearly a decade. At times, Sarah said it felt like they spent more time on campus than at home. As educators, Sarah said that her parents selected Country Day because "they wanted their children to go to a school where education was a priority and where we were going to learn and learn to love learning in a family atmosphere with teachers who cared."

This supportive environment where students are known, nurtured, and inspired hasn't changed since Sarah was a student. Through her international travels, she has encountered a lot of people – including Country Day students.

"On a business trip in Italy I ran into a Country Day student and her mom in a hotel elevator of all places," explained Herrlinger. "By the time we exited the elevator we had made plans for a lovely lunch together. The teenager was everything I expected from a Country Day student – she was bright, articulate, poised, and outspoken. It was so nice to realize that the school had not changed and was still preparing students for success in life beyond Country Day. I love that Country Day continues to help students discover who they are and how they can become forces for good as future generations of dreamers and doers."



*Sarah was a Country Day lifer, pictured here when she was three years old on her first day of Montessori.*




## CCDS Athletic Hall of Fame Induction

**Please join us in honoring our newest Athletics Hall of Fame inductees! This year's honorees were all multi-sport athletes during their time at Cincinnati Country Day School. Their achievements as athletes and as students were monumental while attending Country Day. The honorees are:**

Bob Buchner '65 for basketball, tennis, and golf

Max Dietz '10 for football and baseball

JR Foster '98 for soccer and track

Chris Griffith '81 for basketball, baseball, and track

Susan Pepper '95 for track, cross country, and swimming

Ellie Off Pomeroy '96 for tennis, basketball, and softball



*Rodney Geier and his family enjoy time together at the Alumni Breakfast.*

# Rodney Geier '71 Exemplifies Virtue in Action



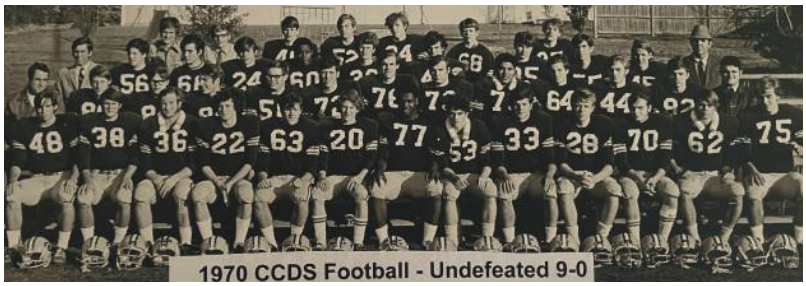
On October 2, the Cincinnati Country Day School community celebrated Dr. Rodney Geier '71, this year's recipient of the Virtue in Action Award, for his embodiment of the school's commitment to service.

Geier, a retired radiation oncologist, said that "Country Day was one of the best things that ever happened to me. You really had to work hard. The teachers were excellent, and they demanded a very high level of academic achievement."

As this year's Virtue in Action Award recipient, Geier was recognized for his dedication, attitude, and motivation expressed through volunteer service to the community.

"Rodney is the epitome of our school's motto – Virtue in Action," said Rob Zimmerman '98, head of school. "In fact, Rodney's prodigious tenure at Country Day was tellingly predictive of the philanthropic life he would later embrace. His active leadership and caring nature have made Country Day and the Queen City a better place."

Geier has held many leadership roles as a volunteer, most notably at Country Day but also with many other non-profit organizations – from serving on the school's Board of Trustees as well as boards for Family Service Agency of Cincinnati and St. Ursula Villa to serving on the Medical Staff Executive Committee of The Christ Hospital and as Councilor of the Academy of Medicine. Geier has also been a longtime supporter of LADD, a disability-focused nonprofit that was founded by his family.




*This team was honored by The Enquirer as one of Cincinnati's ten greatest high school teams.*

Through it all, he is grateful for the experiences and friendships Country Day provided him.

"At Country Day we were challenged; we learned diversity; we were taught to eloquently express ourselves in writing; and we were encouraged to volunteer at an early age. Added to that, my life-long best friends are former Country Day students. I went to college and then on to my residency and my career and the people who I consider 'my people' are my friends from Country Day. I am grateful to celebrate and share in our humanity with these people and this institution."

# News Notes

## 1977

"I recently exhibited one of my sculptures at the Coachella Valley Art Center as a part of the Desert Open Studios Tour. For summer 2021, I have a sculpture in the New York Studio School Alumni Virtual Exhibition which will continue to remain online (scan the QR code below!) After retiring from teaching for 32 years in California, I built a small studio behind my house, and I am creating art full-time. I continue to play guitar with various jazz ensembles in Southern California. Retirement is a lot busier than I thought."
– James Taylor

## 1994

Greg Lewis works for SHP Architects in Cincinnati as a lead designer. His design of Dover High School in Dover, Ohio was chosen as a grand prize winner in Learning by Design magazine.

## 1996

Libby and Ben Hardigg welcomed baby boy William (Wick) Benjamin Hardigg IV on October 5, 2021.

## 2001

Tyler Garretson and his wife, Monica Feng, welcomed Luca Garretson into the world on November 18. Read more about Tyler on page 8. v





Ariella "Ari" Cohen was named one of the Cincinnati Enquirer's Women of the Year. For more information, scan the QR code below (An Enquirer Woman of the Year Discovered Her Passion for Philanthropy as a County Day Student | News Posts v

## 2006

Kelsey and John Bahl '06 welcomed baby boy Conner Michael Bahl on November 1, 2021. v



## 2007

Lee Strasser Lindner and Will Lindner welcomed baby boy Arlo Lindner on September 7, 2021.

## 2009

Marshall and Jesse Deane '09 held their wedding reception and sent us this awesome Country Day '09 alumni picture (left to right): Marshall Beale (bride), Jesse Deane (groom), Michael Contreras, Halsey Perrin, Rob Davis, Alex Angotti, Luke Schneider, Sam Wilson, Casey Hopple. Jesse and Marshall were married in 2020 but postponed their reception due to Covid. We wish them a lifetime of love and happiness! v



## 2010

Michelle and Thomas Langlois '10 welcomed baby boy Henry William Langlois on October 13, 2021.

## 2017

Ronald Allen signed with the Florence Yall's, Northern Kentucky's professional baseball team and member of the independent Frontier League an MLB Partner League. v



# In Memoriam

### Taylor "Tuck" Asbury '43

Taylor Asbury, MD, age 96, passed away on November 9, 2021. He is survived by his beloved wife of 71 years, Cornelia "Connie" Holden Asbury, his loving daughters Mary (Robert Newman) Asbury, Janet (Michael) Pogue, Helen Asbury, Carolyn (Peter Ranney) Asbury, and Anne (partner David Friesen) Asbury. He is also survived by grandchildren Sarah Asbury Pogue, Christopher Michael (Chantal Dubois) Pogue, Liza Asbury Newman, Foster Asbury Ranney, Allison Asbury (Alex) Baggott-Rowe, John Christopher (Rachael Adams) Rowe, great-grandchildren Eleanor & Rousseau Pogue, and his brother Arthur K. (Carolyn) Asbury and sister, Elizabeth Asbury Stone. Taylor was the son of the late Drs. Eslie and Mary Knight Asbury and is preceded in death by his son-in-law, Christopher C. Rowe, MD.

### Grant Simpson Purcell '56

On June 7, 2021 Grant Simpson Purcell, of Brevard, passed away peacefully at his home. He was born on December 26, 1937 to Henry (Hank) and Jane (Painter) Purcell. He grew up in Cincinnati, Ohio, and graduated from the Cincinnati Country Day School, where he was an all-state athlete in football, basketball, and baseball. He attended Williams College, where he was a member of the Kappa Alpha fraternity. After starting his career in the oil business and moving many times in his 20s, he settled back in Cincinnati in the late 1960s where he joined the family clothing business, Carriage Trade. This business expanded in Cincinnati as well to Columbus (Ohio), Naples (Florida), and Hilton Head Island (South Carolina).

### Daniel Huger Robertson '61

Daniel Huger Robertson died peacefully at his home in Paradise Valley, Arizona on August 6, 2021. He was 79 years old. He leaves behind his adored daughter Sara Robertson and her husband David DeKruif, his siblings Peter Robertson and his wife Cathie, Mardi LaForce and her husband Dick, Hope Robertson, George Robertson and his wife Mary, sister-in-law Vicky Robertson, and his stepsiblings Leslie Meek, Jr., Brett Meek, and Kathy Meek, along with many loved cousins, nieces, and nephews. Dan was predeceased by his older brother Reuben Buck Robertson, III. Dan graduated from Cincinnati Country Day School in 1961, where he was a key player on the school's first undefeated football team in 1960 and a member of the varsity soccer team. Dan was also a member of the school's dramatic society, as he had been at Asheville School (Asheville, North Carolina) and University School (Cleveland, Ohio) – both of which he attended before Country Day.

### Polk Laffoon IV '63

Polk Laffoon IV died August 5, 2021 of a heart attack while swimming in Lake Michigan near his summer home in Harbor Springs, MI. He was 75. He spent his last day exactly as he would have written it, under a beautiful summer sky, enjoying his family, swimming in the lake he loved. Born in Cincinnati, Polk attended Cincinnati Country Day School, graduated from Yale University in 1967, and earned an MBA from the University of Pennsylvania Wharton School in 1970. In addition to his wife, Polk is survived by his brother Peter Laffoon (and his husband John Fowler); son Coleman Laffoon (and his wife Alexi); son Brent Laffoon; daughter Samantha Gaylord Laffoon; cousin Susie Dudley, and four grandchildren – Homer Laffoon, Zoey Laffoon, Emmylou Polk Laffoon, and Wyatt Laffoon.

### Dr. Peter Charles Podore '69

Dr. Peter Charles Podore, 70, of Breckenridge, CO and Roxbury, CT, died on September 5, 2021. He was born on August 27, 1951 to Sarah Ruth Podore and Dr. Clarence Podore, in Cincinnati, Ohio. Peter is survived by his beloved wife of 42 years, Rebecca Rob Podore, his children, Anna Podore Collard, Andrew John Podore, Alice Podore Nocco, his grandchildren, Grace Podore Collard, George Podore Collard, Sam Podore Collard, Frank Podore Collard, Luella Podore Nocco, his sister, Nancy Podore Mangel, and her family. Peter graduated magna cum laude from Williams College ('73) and University of Rochester's Medical School ('77).

### Jeffrey L. Lazarus '72

Jeffrey L. Lazarus, III, Ph.D., passed away on April 24 in Oakland, CA. He was 66. Jeff was born and raised in Cincinnati, and had close and loving relationships with his parents, Ann Ballenberg and Jeffrey L. Lazarus, Jr, who predeceased him. Throughout his life he remained close to friends from Cincinnati. While attending Beloit College, Jeff completed an internship in Palo Alto, CA and realized he wanted to return to Northern California to live. He knew from childhood that he wanted to be a psychotherapist and after obtaining his bachelor's degree, Jeff moved to San Francisco to pursue his doctorate from the California School of Professional Psychology. During their first semester of graduate school, Jeff and Susan Kegeles met in the Psychology Library at the University of California, Berkeley, which she was attending. Jeff and Susan were together for 42 years and married for 37 years. They made their home in Berkeley, CA, and had two children, Paul Lazarus, of Berkeley and Rebecca Lazarus, who is following in her father's footsteps as she is pursuing her doctorate in Counseling Psychology in Miami, FL.

### Barnard G. Pogue '73

Barnard G. Pogue was 66 years old when he passed away peacefully, surrounded by family on August 26, 2021. He was a loving husband to his wife, Mara, and their children, Madeline, Joanna, and Jackson. He was a brother to Elissa Pogue and her husband, Michael Henson, and a great uncle to their son, James. Friends and family gathered to celebrate his life and next great adventure.

### Angela Eynon

Angela Barrett Eynon passed away peacefully on October 23, 2021, after a three-and-a-half-year battle with Lewy Body Dementia and Progressive Supranuclear Palsy. She leaves behind her loving husband of nearly 53 years, Ernest A. Eynon II "Ernie", their six children: E. Edward "Teddy" Eynon (Elizabeth), May Babcock (Troy Selby), Elizabeth Barrett "Libby" (Sam Welch), C. M. Barrett Eynon '95 (Adrienne '98), Emily Brecon (Brad Little) and Christina Bothwell "Chrissy" Eynon '98; and 13 grandchildren: Brecon, Winnie, Polly and Lannon Welch; Hudson, Brooks and Gates Eynon; Mimi, Ainsleigh and Bridget Eynon; Remy Selby; and Barrett and Wiley Little. She also leaves behind four brothers, C. Francis Barrett, John F. Barrett, Hon. Michael R. Barrett and Dr. William P. L. Barrett, and her sister, Marian C. B. Leibold, along with their spouses and 16 nieces and nephews.

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