

Indian mascot controversy: respectful or racist?

By Chloe Mallon, @chhhloe17

The Indian has been the mascot of the high school for many years. Most people in the high school probably don't think much of it though, and just go along cheering for the school. To many Native Americans, though, it is very offensive.

A majority of Native Americans don't understand why they are considered a mascot when other races aren't. There are some Native Americans though, who think being considered a mascot is very honorable.

Matthew Pflughaupt, senior, is one of the Native Americans who think when they are considered a school mascot that it is very honorable.

"I think that when choosing a mascot they would want something that symbolizes strength, resilience, or other similar characteristics, so it is an honor that a school would choose to base it around an Indian mascot," Pflughaupt said. Pflughaupt is half Native American, with his mother being a full Native American.

"I think that the Indian mascot should stay the same as any school," he said. "The school has never portrayed the Indians in a negative way and I feel like other students take pride in being called the Marion Indians."

Pflughaupt is very proud of his heritage and being part of this culture, and he thinks very highly of holding the honor of being called a mascot.

"Nobody in my family has ever had any problems with the Indian mascot and I don't personally see any reason to change it," Pflughaupt said.

Others at the school, however, have other opinions.

Mrs. Sarah Doyle, English teacher, thinks the Indian mascot causes many problems and is not a good thing for us to be referred to.

"I understand that many people would like to keep the mascot because of its history," Doyle said. "However, I think it's in the best interest of the school to change the mascot to be politically correct."

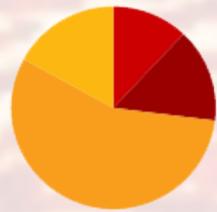
Doyle thinks that if there is even a question, that it should be changed.

Pflughaupt and Doyle obviously have very different opinions on the matter, and that is the main issue going on at the high school. There are so many conflicting opinions and arguments about it, and that will make it a difficult decision for anybody in charge thinking about a change.

Although some may think that the Indian mascot is concerning, many people of Native American heritage see no problem with it. Whether the school will actually change the mascot ever is unknown at this stage, however, it may be someday soon, and it will certainly be a decision that will take a lot of time and thought.

In the end the school will make a decision hopefully everybody will be okay with and respect.

What should our new mascot be?



■ Vipers (12%) ■ Sharks (15%) ■ Wildcats (56%)
■ Foxes (17%)

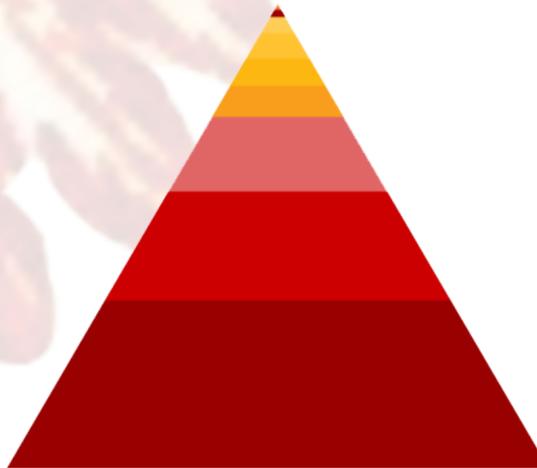
Mascots that have changed in the past 35 years

- Stanford University - Indians to Cardinal (1972)
- Dartmouth - Indians to Big Green (1974)
- Siena - Indians to Saints (1988)
- Eastern Michigan - Hurons to Eagles (1991)
- St. Johns (N.Y.) - Redman to Red Storm (1994)
- Marquette - Warriors to Golden Eagles (1994)
- Miami (Ohio) - Red Skins to RedHawks (1997)
- Seattle University - Chieftains to Redhawks (2000)
- Louisiana-Monroe - Indians to Warhawks (2006)

Scan these QR codes and watch videos about the Native American mascot



Sports Names Referencing Native Americans



■ Warriors (37%) ■ Indians (23%) ■ Raiders (16%) ■ Braves (7%) ■ Chiefs (6%)
■ Official Tribe Names (6%) ■ Redskins (4%) ■ Redmen (1%) ■ Savages (1%)
■ Reds (0%) ■ Tribe (0%) ■ Orangemen (0%) ■ Squaws (0%) ■ Shaman (0%)

FOR

AGAINST



"I think it's perfectly okay to have an Indian as our mascot because we're not being disrespectful. It's just a symbol."
-Jenna Danninger, '17



"I don't think it should be our mascot because it could be highly offensive to people of that descent."
-Bobby Lockhart, '18



"I'm fine with the Indian being our mascot because it's been a tradition for a while."
-Christian Morehouse, '17



"I think just because it's been our mascot for a long time doesn't mean it's not insensitive to their culture and up for discussion."
-Wyatt Ehr, '17



"I think it's good with the Indian being our mascot as long as we don't disgrace them."
-McKenna Merck, '17



"You have to respect the true Indians and respect their beliefs. It should be up to them."
-Chase Wood, '17

HOME OF THE
MARION INDIANS

The Daily Powwow @dailypowwow Following

Do you think our mascot should be changed from Indians? Reply with your answers and why!

Chloe Mallon @chhhloe17 Following

@dailypowwow definitely racist. Indians should not be made a mascot, they are people too. It would be the same as saying the "Marion Asians"

SJG™ @SolomonJohnG Following

@dailypowwow We're stealing dignity and culture from a race that has already had so much taken.

Sarah Doyle @Doylinator Follow

@dailypowwow If there's even a ?, then change. Schools teach and stand for tolerance. Swamp Fox Festival = Foxes. #tradition&tolerance

Jordan Hansen @JordyHansen Following

@dailypowwow yes. Just look at the wall outside of the weight room. How's that not racist?

Kay-tay Chalstrom @KatieChalstrom Follow

@dailypowwow as long as we don't abuse the name and turn it into a derogatory term, it's fine as it is.

MLE @EmilyRWyant Follow

@dailypowwow no. We are the Indians. It's not racist, people shouldn't be looking at it that way. I'm proud to be a Marion Indian.

Dean @TheBean853 Follow

@dailypowwow no, it's always been the Marion Indians and there's no need for a change. It's not like we've mocked natives, we're respectful

Ashley Hilzendager @ashley_hilz Following

@dailypowwow It shouldn't be changed. We use Indians to represent pride, strength, and bravery, just like other schools use animals. Keep it