

URSULINE ACADEMY

Dear Ursuline Family,

As you all know, Ursuline Academy of New Orleans prides itself on our history of inclusiveness in the education of all women that the Sisters began nearly three centuries ago. The academy has served a diverse group of young women throughout our history and continues to do so today.

In recent years, we have received feedback from both our internal and external communities questioning our use of the Sioux class mascot and its appropriateness in today's society. We have taken this feedback very seriously and have formed a committee to review inclusion and diversity beginning with the Sioux mascot.

At the very heart of who we are as a school, Ursuline seeks to instill acceptance of all. Our Ursuline Sisters believe in the dignity of all people. Our Sisters have been women of courage for centuries. It is with great courage that we, as an Academy, reflect on this past tradition and seek to make changes that honor our traditions, reflect our mission, and invite our girls to continue to serve as compassionate leaders.

As is the case with traditions though, the class mascot legacy has evolved over time. And it will evolve once again as we retire the Sioux mascot with this year's graduating seniors. We'll use this occasion as another opportunity to educate our students around cultural sensitivities and diverse viewpoints.

As was done in 1948, we will allow our students to thoughtfully consider this and create a new mascot to be adopted for the current 9th graders. Ursuline alumnae who are a part of the Sioux tradition, will forever remain a part of the history of this tradition.

In staying true to the words of our foundress, St. Angela Merici: "if according to times and circumstances, the need arises to make new rules or do something differently, do it prudently and with good advice. When we grow in understanding of others, we can see where we must alter things that can be hurtful. When we know better, we do better."