

## **Indigenous Peoples' Day Land Acknowledgement\***

*by Eric Hogenson, Director of Grades 3-6 & STEAM Innovation K-6*

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Good morning Laurence community,

Today is Indigenous Peoples' Day. It is an occasion to recognize and honor the past, present, and future of Indigenous Peoples and their communities in North America. The very land we sit on today – the classrooms, gardens, and fields at Laurence School – were once traditionally inhabited and cared for by the Chumash Indigenous People. We acknowledge this land today and pay respect to the Chumash people who called it home for thousands of years. We remember that the Chumash peoples of this area have been separated from these lands, unable to maintain livelihoods as they should, unable to recreate traditionally, unable to maintain traditional lifeways freely, and unable to have the same access to their lands that we are provided.

And now, as educators, students, friends, and allies, together, we can acknowledge the mistakes of the past and move forward in remembrance of and relationship with current Indigenous Peoples, to facilitate their process of healing by making sure that our decisions (even right here at Laurence) make room for Indigenous voices to be heard, their traditional knowledge to be listened to, and their beautiful cultures to be preserved and celebrated.

We come together today to acknowledge, learn from, stand up for, and give voice to, the Chumash and all other Indigenous Peoples.

Have a great day and thank you for having an open heart and taking the time to listen this morning and all your days.

\*Adapted from a [Land Acknowledgement by the Associated Students of UC Santa Barbara](#)