

STATE OF THE SCHOOL REPORT | 2022



METAIRIE PARK COUNTRY DAY



Dear Country Day Community,

Spring is in the air, and there is no better or more beautiful place to be than at Country Day. With our campus fully open again, there is a renewed sense of optimism and excitement. I share this optimism as I remember all we accomplished in 2021 and the wonderful opportunities ahead for our School and our exceptional students.

With gratitude for being Board Chair while simultaneously a CD parent of two, I have witnessed our community come together in ways I never thought would be necessary or possible. Not only have we ensured our children are offered tremendous academic preparation, but we also continue to see excellence in the arts and athletics. Our tradition of focusing on the whole child continues to be the foundation upon which we build. One exciting task that will keep us moving forward has been updating Country Day’s master plan. As you may know, we are just beginning to share some of the exciting opportunities outlined in our new 2022 Master Plan and look forward to seeing it take shape. The fact that our community came together and was able to complete 75 percent of the projects outlined in our 1999 Master Plan sets us apart from many other institutions and positions us for ongoing success.

Each and every one of you are an important part of helping us build an exciting future for Country Day. As we continue to envision what might happen over the next 25 years, know that we will reach out to you for feedback and support. For now, please take a moment to read the thoughtful words of our Head of School, Rob Hereford, as he Looks Forward. I ask you to then take a moment to peruse the rest of this publication. The success of the past year and the vibrance of what’s to come is palpable. I hope you feel it, too.

I know I speak for all of us when I say we look forward to running into you on and around campus! Please join us at a softball, baseball, track and field event or at one of our upcoming art shows or theater performances. I know how much we have all missed the sights and sounds that are Country Day. Come back and reacquaint yourself! In doing so, you will remember why we think of it as home.

Warmest regards,

Rachael Gambel
Board Chair

On the Cover: Mrs. Haysley’s middle school students created a community mural. After discussing individuality and community, students researched contemporary artists, sharing their top five. Students then created their own mini-murals, critiqued them as a group, and took bits and pieces of each other’s work to create a group mural. The final design is a commentary on the idea that while we are individuals, we can all come together as a community. This mural is displayed in the Middle School Courtyard.



Academics *First Things*

BY G. HOWARD HUNTER, ACADEMIC DEAN

Please excuse my longevity. Men of my age who carry on with stories and old jokes can indeed be irksome. But forty years of teaching at the same school is a bit of a milestone and an opportunity to take stock in what we have accomplished in our “academical village” (a term coined by Mr. Jefferson regarding his University of Virginia) over this vast semblance of time that feels more like a blink of an eye. While prodigious societal change has marked the last four decades — and certainly the Country Day academic program reflects that — there is also a constancy to the way we educate and the values we espouse.

Technology has been a game-changer no doubt. The internet gives us access to Big Data where faculty and students can crunch, file, quantify, analyze, synthesize, and problem solve. Beyond the exigent courses in coding and formal computer science, technology has allowed us to push PBL (Project-Based Learning) by students constructing virtual models or researching and producing podcasts. Our teachers have employed CSL (Case Study Learning) through their respective remote training by the Case Study Method Institute. Both PBL and CSL have been around since the 1920s, but technology simply makes the pedagogies more effective because the materials are a click away. Technology has also given students and teachers entry into the aesthetic realms of art, film, and video, as well as access to presentations that reinforce material across the academic disciplines.

Yet technology is about technique. We engage the same big ideas to make sense of the world as we always have, and while the internet provides arrows for one’s academic quiver in the acquisition of information, the actual intellectual heavy lifting must be a labor of one’s own. This is not to disavow the importance of technique in other areas like modern surgical practices or transportation (where is that jet pack I was promised in 1965?) but education is a bit murkier because there is a tendency to confuse convenience with substance. For example, I might research primary documents online from the

National Archives in the comfort of my living room, but there is still the grind of making sense of an obscure source. Location may be different, but the struggle is every bit the same as if I were in that reading room on 700 Pennsylvania Avenue.

In my mid-career, there was talk about technology replacing teachers. While there are programs online that can ameliorate a student’s understanding of the material, Covid-19 belied the notion that live teachers are expendable. Admittedly Zoom has been useful for students under quarantine, yet it hardly measures up. Technology does not ask the big questions. Every year in our senior humanities requirement we read the “Melian Dialogue” from The History of the Peloponnesian War by Thucydides. In the chapter dated 416 B.C., Athenian emissaries attempt to convince leaders of the island of Melos, an erstwhile Spartan colony, to become a “tributary ally,” in other words an ally that pays protection money. At this point, the war had dragged on for 15 years to a stalemate and both Athens and Sparta pillaged each other’s allies. The Melians maintained they wished to adopt a policy of neutrality and refused to honor Athenian demands. Against all odds, the Melians put up armed resistance and paid dearly. All Melian men were put to the sword and all women and children were sold into slavery. The reading raises profound questions about our humanity — Does might make right? When should one stand for principle and when is it irresponsible to resist? What is the nature of power and tyranny? How can war perhaps cause a shift in one’s ethical compass?

Even as we navigate the challenges and blessings imposed by technology, the questions of forty years ago remain. Since 1929 the student/teacher relationship has been the foundation of a Country Day education. And beneath the shouts and murmurs of a future that is both scary and holds great promise, we continue to press on through human relationships and big ideas.

THE ARTS

The Arts are alive at Country Day! Here is a snapshot of all that is happening in and around the Country Day campus!



ALL-STATE ALL-STARS

Music was in the air at the Louisiana Music Educators Association Conference as top musicians from across the state gave outstanding performances. Congratulations to Parijat who sang with the Women's Chorale and to Phillip, Mason, and Charlie who played with the Orchestra.



MIDDLE AND UPPER SCHOOL INSTRUMENTAL CONCERT AND SHOW

Middle and Upper School band and strings students' performed in December as part of the Parents' Association Holiday Boutique. This concert was followed by the Middle and Upper School Art Show, the Upper School Choral Concert, and the 7/8 Grade Choral Concert.



LOWER SCHOOL HOLIDAY EVENING SING-A-LONG

The Lower School Sing-A-Long in Chandler Circle was magical. Families gathered and sang around Chandler Circle reading from songbooks lit by candlelight.



SUSTAINABILITY IN THE ARTS

Students in Mrs. Haysley's class built technical skills during the first semester. This semester students are taking that knowledge and using it in a more conceptual way. They are focusing on sustainability in the arts with the goal of creating with what we already have. For example, students learned about how to create one of art's essential materials: paper! By exploring paper making, using paper they already have (like old notes from the 8th grade that are for some reason still in their backpack) the class discussed contemporary paper makers and how they are elevating the craft into fine art. Later they used paints made from pulverized rocks to analyze paint texture and physical properties of something we often overlook: paint. Ms. Haysley's goal is to teach these students new skills but also reinforce the artistic practice of creative problem-solving. According to Haysley, "Students need to be encouraged to create and challenged with seeing items with a new set of eyes. This project will inevitably teach them to think creatively and hopefully encourage them to be more confident and courageous in their future art-making."



CHICAGO

The longest-running American musical in Broadway history came to Country Day, *CHICAGO*! Live performances returned to Weinmann Auditorium this November after a two-year absence. Set in the Jazz Age 1920s, *CHICAGO* took the format of a vaudeville show to tell a musical story of murder, corruption, celebrity, and "All That Jazz." The original Broadway production premiered in 1975, ran for 936 performances, and earned nominations for 10 Tony Awards, including Best Musical. In 1996, *CHICAGO* returned to Broadway in a new production that is now in its 25th year of performances, making it the longest-running American musical in history.



3/4 MUSICAL, IT'S GOTTA BE JAZZ

Students performed four iterations of their musical, *It's Gotta Be Jazz*. These performances were at the conclusion of an interdisciplinary unit that incorporated the history, artwork, music, and more of the Jazz era.



12TH ANNUAL CHAMBER CONCERT

Our 12th Annual Upper School Chamber Concert was one for the books! Students selected their own pieces and ensembles for the program, which varied from pop music to Mozart to film score music to television theme songs.



ATHLETICS

2021 CHEERLEADING

Head Coach: Amy Luke	UCA All-American: Jane Thompson, Genesis Scott, Claire Cannella, Kate Corcoran, Marguerite Schwarz, Layne Corcoran, Lauren Wright, Valerie Cannella, and Sophia Temple
Assistant Coach: Maddie Oboerfell	

2021 SWIMMING

Head Coach: Catherine Healey	Assistant Coach: Kelly McGeehan
GIRLS: 12 TH in state	BOYS: 11 TH in State
LHSAA Division IV State Championships:	LHSAA Division IV State Championships:
10TH in 200yd Medley Relay: Thompson, Norwood, De La Cruz, Jones	4TH in 200yd IM: Devenport
3RD in 100yd Freestyle: De La Cruz	5TH in 50yd Freestyle: Singleton
8TH in 200yd Freestyle: Norwood, Thompson, Jones, De La Cruz	13TH in 100yd Freestyle: Devenport
3RD in 100yd Backstroke: De La Cruz	2ND in 100yd Backstroke: Singleton



2021 BASEBALL

Head Coach: Tommy Mathews	1ST Team All-District: Daniel Conwill, John Overby, Owen Marchal, Jack Schwing, Dawson Simmons, Dylan Simmons (MVP)
Assistant Coaches: Jim Mann, Michael Mann, Grant Mathews	Honorable Mention All-District: Jake Ibieta and Sinnott Bland
Overall Record: 15-5	District Coach of the Year: Tommy Mathews
Lost in Regionals to Opelousas Catholic	LHSAA All-Academic Team: Hartson Moss and John Overby
District Champions	

2021 GOLF

Head Coach: Doug Gordon	4TH in District, State Qualifier: Ryan Cooper
	5TH in District: Matt Varon

2021 BOYS' BASKETBALL

Head Coach: Mike McGuire	All-District Team: Xane Hunter, Gabe Kohlmaier, Hartson Moss
Assistant Coaches: Justin Napoli, Kent McGuire, Roland Daniels	All-State 2ND Team Xane Hunter
Overall Record: 14-10	LHSAA All-Academic: Gabe Kohlmaier and Hartson Moss
LHSAA Class 1A: Lost in Semi-Finals	

2021 INDOOR TRACK & FIELD

Head Coach: Maurice DuCarpe	11TH in 60m Hurdles: Jack Morton
Assistant Coaches: Dominic Maley and Susan Lee	8TH in Pole Vault: Jack Caplan
12TH in 1600: Jack Zink	



2021 CROSS COUNTRY

Head Coach: Maurice DuCarpe	BOYS: District: 2 ND Place
Assistant Coaches: Haley Fayette, Susan Lee, Dom Maley, Lane Porter	All-District Team: Jack Caplan, Jack Zink (MVP)
GIRLS: District: 2 ND Place	LHSAA All-Academic: Ethan Taylor, Wil Watrous, Jack Zink
All District: Emmeline Moore, Mason Poole, Margo Thionville, Salem Fitch	State: Champions
State: 5 TH Place	1A Top Ten: Jack Zink, Jack Caplan
1A Top Ten: Emmeline Moore	All-State Honors: Jack Zink
LHSAA All-Academic: Layne Corcoran, Mason Poole	All-Metro: Jack Zink

2021 GIRLS' BASKETBALL

Head Coach: Clinton Wenzel	Overall Record: 0-8
Assistant Coaches: Joe Mitchell	All-District Team: Ellie Schneider

2021 SOFTBALL

Head Coach: Jacqueline Rosenblat	1ST Team All-District: Lauren Perlis
Assistant Coach: Matt Reynolds	2ND Team All-District: Ellie Schneider and Maggie Schneider
Overall Record: 3-9	LHSAA All-Academic Team: Lauren Perlis and Virginia Vaughan
District Record: 2-3	

2021 TENNIS

Head Coach: Johnathon Ames	Quarterfinals (Regionals), State Qualifiers: Emma Launey & Marguerite Schwarz
GIRLS SINGLES: Quarterfinals (Regionals), State Qualifier: Caroline Koppel	BOYS DOUBLES: 1ST Round (Regionals): Jacob Boelte & Easton Moore
1ST Round (Regionals): Emmeline Moore	1ST Round (Regionals): Dominic Dazet & Henry Swope
BOYS SINGLES: 1ST Round (Regionals): Ethan Forstall	Quarterfinals (Regionals), State Qualifiers: Sammy Nichols & William Sinnott
2ND Round (Regionals), State Qualifier: Jack Morton	LHSAA All-Academic Team: Sammy Nichols
GIRLS DOUBLES: 1ST Round (Regionals): Claire Cannella & Morgan Hirsch	LHSAA All-Academic Composite Team: Caroline Koppel
2ND Round (Regionals): Caroline Grant & Margo Thionville	

2021 BOYS' TRACK & FIELD

Head Coach: Maurice DuCarpe	3RD in State
Assistant Coaches: Jason Abate, Josh Dunmiles, Howard Hunter, Guy LeCompte, Susan Lee, Dom Maley	Regionals Champions
	District Champions
	LHSAA All-Academic Team: Ryan Cooper and Douglas Heebe

2021 GIRLS' TRACK & FIELD

Head Coach: Maurice DuCarpe	2ND in Regionals
Assistant Coaches: Jason Abate, Josh Dunmiles, Howard Hunter, Guy LeCompte, Susan Lee, Dom Maley	District Champions
	LHSAA All-Academic Team: Emma Morton

To see individual Track & Field results visit: www.mpcds.com/track

2021 FOOTBALL

Head Coach: Guy Lecompte	All-District 2ND Team: Casey Rizzi (OL), Will Lafaye (OL), Yash Gupta (WR), Andrew Conrad (WR), Maddox Moss (RS), Miles Lemmler (DL), Colin Cummings (DL), Michael Talbot (LB), Scott Isacks (LB), Parrish Abramson (DB), Maximo Valdobra (DB), Scott Isacks (Flex), Andrew Conrad (P)
Assistant Coaches: John Bordelon, Chris Chetta, Mark Drago, Josh Dunmiles, Clinton Wenzel	All-Metro Team: Michael Talbot, Scott Isacks
District: Champions	LHSAA All-Academic Team: Parrish Abramson, Jacob Amann, Maximo Valobra
State: Quarterfinalist	All-District Honorable Mention: Ethan Smith, Taj Oberhelman
Overall Record: 6-3	All-State Honorable Mention: Michael Talbot, Scott Isacks
All-District 1ST Team: Jake Ibieta (OL), Michael Talbot (QB), Scott Isacks (RB), Evan Nunez (WR), Clayton Gehman (WR), Jack Schwing (RS), Connor Gibbs (K), Casey Rizzi (DL), Christian Daly (LB), Jack Schwing (DB), Maddox Moss (DB), Michael Talbot (Offensive MVP)	Allstate Sugar Bowl Player of the Week: Scott Isacks



2021 VOLLEYBALL

Head Coach: Julie Ibieta	Division V All-State Team: Nia Washington, Ellie Schneider, Ellison Vosbein
Assistant Coaches: Dana Launey, Lauren Leaumont, Myra Bordelon	Most Outstanding Player Division V State Championship Game: Nia Washington
Overall Record: 31-6	Division V Player of the Year: Nia Washington
LHSAA State: State Champions	Division V Coach of the Year: Julie Ibieta
District: Champions	All-Metro Team: Nia Washington, Ellie Schneider, Ellison Vosbein
All-District First Team: Nia Washignton (MVP), Elie Schneider, Ellison Vosbein, Olivia Prout	All-Metro Small School Player of the Year: Nia Washington
All-District Second Team: Gigi Dazet, Evelyn Rivas, Emma Launey	LHSAA All-Academic Team: Ellison Vosbein
District Coach of the Year: Julie Ibieta	AVCA 2ND Team All American: Nia Washington

2021 BOYS' SOCCER

Head Coach: Lea Westlake	All-District: Charlie Michaud (Offensive MVP), Sammy Nichols (MVP), William Messersmith (Defensive MVP), Lance Hebert, Tommy Wisdom, Maximo Valobra, Willie Odem, Carter Borrón, Jake Amann
Overall Record: 6-6-1	All-District Honorable Mention: Dean Cutrone, Henry Swope, Simon LaGraize, Jean Paul Doucet
District: Champions	All-State: Sammy Nichols
LHSAA State: Lost in the Quarterfinals	All-Star Team: Sammy Nichols
LHSAA All-Academic: Carter Borrón and Sammy Nichols	

2021 GIRLS' SOCCER

Head Coach: Glenn "Benji" Benjamin	2ND All-District Team: Lila Moody, Lauren Perlis, Elizabeth Rogers, Ellison Vosbein
Assistant Coaches: Chris Coniker and Elizabeth Manuel	LHSAA All-Academic Team: Aliya Eissa and Lauren Perlis
Overall Record: 4-6-4	All-Star Team: Adelaide Gaines
LHSAA Division IV State: Lost in Bi-District round	LHSAA All-Academic Composite Team: Elizabeth Rogers
1ST All-District Team: Sophia Temple, Adelaide Gaines, Elle Davidson, Cecile Hattier, Sophia Temple	

Financial Statement 2020-21

ANNUAL OPERATING BUDGET

Metairie Park Country Day School has an annual operating budget of \$19.5 million. The annual operating budget is funded through four major sources: Tuition, Auxiliary Services (Dining, Early Childhood, Summer Programs), charitable giving, such as Annual Fund, and annual endowment draw.

	(Amts in '000)	
Tuition, net of Financial Assistance (\$3,660)	\$12,930	66%
Auxiliary Services: Dining, Early Childhood, and Summer Programs	\$3,251	17%
Annual Endowment Draw	\$576	3%
Contributions, including Annual Fund and Restricted Contributions	\$786	4%
Other*	\$1,981	10%
TOTAL REVENUE	\$19,525	100%

* Includes PPP loan funding that was received in April 2020. This PPP loan forgiven and recognized as income in December 2020.

The largest expense in this operating budget is salaries for our faculty and support staff which are the foundation of the strong and nurturing learning environment we build at Country Day. The remaining funds go towards funding our Instructional and Student Support Programs, including our strong arts and athletics programs, providing financial aid, and maintaining our beautiful campus.

	(Amts in '000)	
Salaries, Taxes, and Benefits	\$12,911	66%
Instructional and Student Support Programming	\$2,488	13%
General and Administrative, including Debt Service	\$1,242	6%
Plant Operations, including Major Repair and Maintenance & Reserves	\$2,884	15%
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$19,525	100%



Development

THE 2021-2022 COUNTRY DAY FUND*

Thanks to our generous donors and 100+ volunteers, this year's Country Day Fund campaign is off to a great start.

100%

Participation from
FACULTY
AND STAFF*

100%

Participation from
THE ALUMNI
BOARD

100%

Participation from
THE BOARD
OF TRUSTEES*

We've raised over
75%

of the dollars needed to reach our
\$750,000 GOAL
for The Country Day Fund

Over
50

VOLUNTEERS
for the
Country Day Fund

COUNTRY DAY
FUND CO-CHAIRS
Florie Claire
and Jamie Snyder

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Lisa and
John Morton

PARENT GIVING
CO-CHAIRS
Jessica and
Jordan Schulman

as of February 2022



Looking Forward

BY ROB HEREFORD, HEAD OF SCHOOL

When I arrived here at Country Day in late June, most of us anticipated a seamless transition into a post-Covid environment. The virus appeared to be waning and we began to map out a joyous return to normal school practice.

We all know how that scenario played out. The Delta variant upended all of our plans, putting us back in the thick of managing another set of uncertain, rapidly-evolving conditions.

However, life is beginning to feel like it did last summer, with signs of hope on the horizon as we envision an eventual shift from navigating a pandemic to living with an endemic virus. It's exciting to be able to look forward to positive developments in Country Day's future. A couple of large projects have provided a number of us on campus with the opportunity to take a longer view and tackle work for the future of our School.

One of those projects involves defining the Portrait of a Country Day Graduate. Schools that undergo this process outline the broad expectations and aspirations for students who have completed their course of study. In addition, the work can help unify a faculty community around "a core set of learning goals, goals that support the development of skills and habits of mind that matter in school and beyond." (Eric Hudson, Designing a Graduate Profile: Four Essential Steps)

A faculty committee of representatives from Early Childhood through Upper School has worked throughout this school year to develop our portrait. We hope to capture elements of our program that we are currently doing well, and also include aspirational targets that we can aim to build into the student experience over time.

We have shared drafts of our work with the Middle and Upper School Student Councils for their feedback. As you would expect, our students provided helpful guidance that will shape the final portrait. We will seek input from other groups in the weeks to come, with the plan to unveil our finished Portrait of a Country Day Graduate near the end of this school year.

The other initiative that will shape the future of Country Day is our 25-year Campus Master Plan. This plan came together during months of work by a cross-section of the Country Day community and took shape under the direction of WGM Design, LLP. All of these efforts occurred prior to the pandemic, and we are now in a position where we can begin sharing these plans with the larger Country Day community.

This spring we will host presentations for our faculty and staff, parents, alumni, and neighbors. In these meetings, we will show the exciting plans for the campus over the next several decades. After sharing with our community and Jefferson Parish, the Board of Trustees will begin setting priorities for the numerous projects within the Master Plan.

The Master Plan provides a blueprint for Country Day's future, assuring that our facilities will meet the needs of our students as we look toward the school's one-hundredth birthday. Country Day has thrived for almost one hundred years because of the foresight and vision of past school leadership, and this plan represents our generation's opportunity to ensure Country Day flourishes for another century.



STRENGTH OF INTELLECT
STRENGTH OF CHARACTER

300 Park Road, Metairie, LA 70005



Metairie Park Country Day School enriches the lives of talented young people in a dynamic learning environment, building strength of intellect and strength of character within a community that is simultaneously challenging and supportive. Our students learn to be flexible, to be adaptable, and to face the challenges of life with honor, optimism, confidence, creativity, and a sense of humor.

2021-2022 BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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