Methacton
SCHOOL DISTRICT

Native American Imagery, Mascots and Nicknames

January 20, 2026

Agenda

- Research and Background
- Viewpoints of Various Groups
- Warrior Mascot and Imagery Approaches
- Methacton’s Actions to Date
- Official Methacton Logos

Research

For use in this presentation the following terms are defined as:

Mascot - *a performative, symbolic figure adopted by a school, team, or organization to represent its identity and spirit. This could be a physical or graphic depiction of a living thing—such as a costumed performer or emblem.*

Imagery - *static visual symbols, designs, or depictions—such as logos, graphics, murals, uniforms, signage, or artwork—that represent or reference a group, culture, or identity.*

Nickname - *The word or title used to identify a school's teams or community. It's a name or label, not a representation or mascot.*

Notes:
Research is focused on imagery and mascots that depict Native American peoples and does not necessarily include images associated with Native Americans such as feathers or arrows.

There is no universal Native American perspective–opinions vary among tribes and individuals.

Viewpoints

Opposition to Use

- Viewed by many as stereotyping or dehumanizing living cultures
- Research cites psychological and educational harm
- Many tribes and civil rights groups oppose use regardless of intent
- *Examples:* National Congress of American Indians, U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, Delaware Tribe of Indians

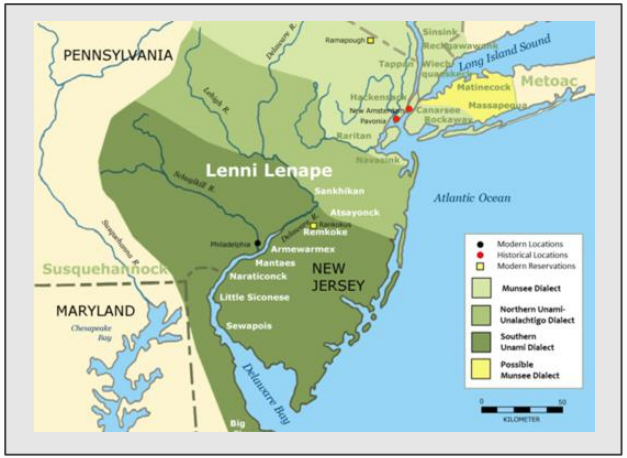
Support for Appropriate / Conditional Use

- Seen by some as honoring strength, tradition, and history
- Support of appropriate use when combined with education, context, and respect
- Support is typically contingent on tribal partnerships and education
- *Examples:* Native American Guardians Association, Seminole Tribe of Florida, Saginaw Chippewa Tribe, NCAA (with conditions)

Viewpoints of Lenape People

- The Nanticoke Lenni-Lenape, a state-recognized Lenape tribe in New Jersey, has formally opposed the use of Native American imagery, mascots, and names in schools.

- Of the three federally recognized Lenape tribes, the Delaware Tribe of Indians, based in Oklahoma, maintains strong ties to this region, including a working relationship with Ursinus College.



In 2022, the Tribe passed a resolution opposing all race-based Native American logos, mascots, and names, stating such use “denigrates, degrades, and stereotypes American Indian or Native American people and their cultures.”

Warriors Mascot & Imagery Approaches

Schools using the nickname ‘Warriors’ have taken a range of approaches when adapting their logos and imagery.

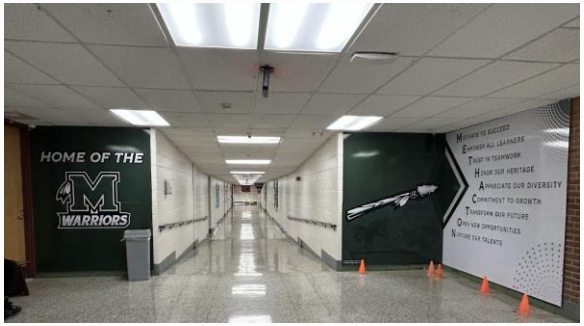
- **Elimination of physical or costumed mascots**
- **Retirement of culturally specific imagery**
- **Shift to generic or historical symbolism**
  - e.g. shields, helmets, swords, crests
- **Use of lettermarks or wordmarks only**
- **Adoption of a new mascot or logo**
  - e.g. Spartan-style warrior, wolves, lions, knights

Methacton's Actions to Date

- Removal of banners with imagery from championships hung in Methacton High School gym
- Removal of imagery on Methacton High School gymnasium floor
- Removal of imagery on MSD website and social media
- Removal of imagery on athletic uniforms
- Communication with athletics teams, clubs, Pioneer Athletic Conference and PIAA about using 'M' logo
- Attempt to remove imagery from Google searches
- Branding and design work to provide more school spirit in MHS while removing Native American statue and mural of headdress in lobby



New design in MHS hallway



New design in MHS lobby

Methacton Official Logos













