

Good day Mt. Edgecumbe Braves,

My name is Harlan Standish and my partner in writing this paper is Austin Rice. We are currently finishing our senior year at Mt. Edgecumbe high school. This school has been our home and has given us something comparable to a family, that no one that has ever been a Brave, can ever forget. Our purpose in writing this is to present reasons for keeping our current Mt. Edgecumbe Braves logo. Any change proposed should not stray from the Alaska Native origins of MEHS. Many feel that this proposed change seeks to run away from negative feedback brought about by over sensitization and corporate entities that do not represent our school's ethnic culture.

To start off I believe it is somewhat pertinent to establish that neither of us believe the logo represents colonization. Mascots are made out of respect for the symbol that is being used. For example both the Celtics and the Vikings are respected teams whose player body represents the strength and determination of the mascot. The Braves logo represents our appreciation for community, sharing, and comradery.

1. Changing the logo would cost not only money but a part of the MEHS Braves Identity. From the recent locker room renovations to the Hall of Fame that's been around since the conception of our school our logo. From those who rally behind this the logo to those who vehemently speak for change.
2. Traditionally has been the logo for the past 72 years. This logo has represented the seniors attending this school for the past three almost four years. This logo has been the basis of pride for our forefathers long before we attended this school.
3. The difference between the Mt. Edgecumbe logo and the logos of other organizations that have been accused of racism and slander is paramount. Although there are similarities to the Boston Redskins (the original Washington franchise) . There are differences between them, most pertinent being history. Also the Redskins logo that most resembles the MEHS logo was made in 1972 with the help of Native American tribes. To our knowledge the MEHS logo was made in 1947 with the school, as confirmed by Mr. Mahoney (Teacher of the Mount Edgecumbe history class). We had our logo before the Redskins concept was made, by 27 years. It is also comparable to the 1952-1959 logo but those logos are still made after 1947. The Braves logo has been a mainstay in the Braves family all the way from Dr. Gil Truitt to this year's graduating seniors.

From the very conception of MEHS the mascot of our school has been a symbol for our students, staff, and alumni to rally behind. Generations of students have overcome the challenges of going to boarding school and being away from their families--all under the name and mascot of the Braves. Recent controversy has brought the symbology and objective of our mascot into question. We do not believe that the mascot was ever intended to belittle or trivialize any of the wide variety of cultures and peoples that make our school so great; nor do we believe that it does so today. The logo is not in any way a representation of Native Americans today, and to think that shows a stereotypical bias.