

# North American First People's Day

A Presentation to Summit County Council  
by Students from The Lippman School and  
Members of the Northern Cheyenne Tribe  
to Honor First People of Akron





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[www.TheLippmanSchool.org](http://www.TheLippmanSchool.org)

## In Support of Legislation to Establish "First People's Day" in Summit County, Ohio

The Lippman School offers students cross-cultural educational programming steeped in universal Jewish values that strive to build collaborative partnerships in our diverse Akron community and beyond. We create experiential educational opportunities where students learn from and with people inside and outside of our school community. Learning about the first people that inhabited where we live and helped to shape the culture of our city, state and nation it is an important aspect of any student's education. Summit County and Ohio in particular have a rich native history that needs to be accurately and honestly taught to our students. Through our partnerships with the Northern Cheyenne Nation in Montana, who trace their lineage to the Great Lakes Region, and the Summit County Historical Society, we have been able to teach our students authentic native history. Through their own learning through these experiences, they have begun to recognize the cultural and historical significance of native contributions to our county, state and country and are excited about the opportunity to formally recognize those contributions through the establishment of First People's Day in Summit County, Ohio.

Samuel L. Chestnut  
Head of School

Matthew G. Russ  
Humanities Teacher  
Curriculum & Student Affairs Coordinator

John R. Bennett  
Imbedded Technology Specialist

Brayden

7<sup>th</sup> grade

The Lippman School

### **The History of the Lippman School**

The Lippman school's rich history began with a group of interested and engaged members of the Akron Jewish community who wanted a traditional day school opportunity for students to learn about Judaism alongside their general studies.

In 1965, the school opened as Hillel Academy at Beth El Synagogue on South Hawkins Avenue, accepting kindergarteners and first-graders.

A short time later, the school moved into the JCC's camp pavilion and began educating students through sixth grade, as parents expressed interest in having their children continue at the school

Construction of a new school building on the campus was completed later, and in 1996 a middle school building was added.

In its more recent past, school leaders undertook a strategic planning process that resulted in major innovation to the school's curriculum, including cross cultural programming where Jewish and non-Jewish students learn together.

Yuhidit

7<sup>th</sup> Grade

The Lippman School

## **The Lippman School Program**

**The following is adapted from the Lippman School website: [www.thelippmanschool.org](http://www.thelippmanschool.org).**

The Lippman School provides a superior and individualized education steeped in Jewish values and a global perspective. We believe in respecting ourselves and people of all faiths. We believe in positive character development, including confidence, self-esteem and leadership skills. We believe in the universally embraced values of Judaism.

Ravinda  
8<sup>th</sup> Grade

The Lippman School

## Curriculum at Lippman

Curriculum at The Lippman School provides students with 21<sup>st</sup> century skills. Students have the choice between Hebrew and Spanish languages. Lippman graduates often enter Pre-IB, AP, or Honors programs in high school. The school also has partnerships with students from the Northern Cheyenne Reservation in Montana and the Dali School in China. Every year the students from the schools on the reservation come to Lippman; every other year students from Lippman travel to the reservation. When the different schools get together, they not only learn from group activity but also from one another. Every year there is a school play that the whole school takes part in, which highlights both languages. These are just some of the curricular opportunities at Lippman.

Ryan  
7<sup>th</sup> Grade  
The Lippman School

## **Importance of Native American Culture**

We believe First People's Day will help to educate the public about Native American people and their history. The reason it is on the first day of October is so schools can teach about them during the school day and all participate in the walk together. We think that they should be recognized for who they really are and not just stereotypes.

We need this day because of all the culture and religion Native people are keeping alive. We need to remember all of their contributions. All of the people who died unjustly need to be memorialized and we need to not forget the massacres like Sand Creek in Colorado, 1864

We need to recognize all of the active tribes in this country that practice their culture and religion. To have a day to learn about them is important so that we don't forget about them and what they did for our country. We want people to remember what they did and how brave they were in their struggles with the government.

In the past, Native Americans have been treated wrongly and killed. Trying to remember all of the wrongdoings and change stereotypes and our actions is important. This day will help us establish a foothold and spread the message.

Cale

8<sup>th</sup> Grade

The Lippman School

## **Importance of Native American Culture**

First People's Day will bring self-confidence to us and pride of our heritage so that we don't forget about Native American history and culture. We should always remember our own heritage. Native Americans are a big part of our culture because they give us confidence to fight and not give up. The Native Americans have kept their heritage for so many years and it shows that people should keep their heritage forever because it is such a big part of who we are.

Historically, they were mistreated by the government and we need to remember this because we don't need events like this to happen again. We don't need people around the world killing people for no reason. We don't want kids learning to be mean to other people just because of their race.

Native Americans have been hard working, taxpaying, law abiding and war fighting Americans just like everyone else. They deserve credit as citizens like everyone else in America. Everybody deserves credit for the contributions they have made, or receive justice for injustice done to them, so this day is for the Native Americans.

## **History of Native Americans in Ohio**

The very first people to occupy the Ohio area were the Paleo-Indians. They were descendants from those who crossed the Bering Strait during the final ice age and there is little known about them. They had homes here as early as 12,500 B.C. E. and were mostly hunters and gatherers. The next people to live in the Ohio Area were the Archaic Indians, who were famous for burying their dead in dirt mounds and were more ceremonial than the Paleo-Indians. Following the Archaic Indians came the Adena, Hopewell, and Fort tribes. These peoples were religious and ceremonial, more so than the Archaic, and continued to build burial mounds. The final group of ancient peoples to settle Ohio were the Whittley Focus peoples who were farmers and precursors to the Erie culture.

The Mingos and the Delaware were the two tribes that lived in the Akron area after the arrival of European immigrants and the disappearance of the ancient peoples. The area had been claimed by the powerful Iroquois nation as a hunting ground, which left northeast Ohio sparsely settled until Mingos moved into the area in the 1740s and the Delaware in the 1750s. European impact and influence would later play an important role in Native wars for sovereignty over their ancestral land.

By 1800 the Mingos lived, with other tribes, principally Miami and Shawnee, in the Sandusky River area in northwest Ohio. The Mingos became sedentary farmers and established schools in their villages, but they were removed from Ohio with the 1830 Indian Removal Act.

The influx of American settlers into Ohio with the passing of the Land Ordinance Act (1785) and the Northwest Ordinance (1787) sparked raids and violence by both sides, and the new American government worked to remove all Native Americans from Ohio. In 1790



Jude  
8<sup>th</sup> Grade  
The Lippman School

President Washington called for an expedition to remove the natives. The 1790 force led by Gen. Josiah Harmar and 1791 force led by Gen. Arthur St. Clair was defeated by Miami chief Little Turtle. Washington named Gen. Anthony Wayne as the newest leader and Wayne built a string of defensive forts in northwest Ohio. In 1794 he defeated Little Turtle at the Battle of Fallen Timbers, and in 1795 the Treaty of Greenville pushed Ohio's tribes into a demarcated section of northwest Ohio.

The Treaty of Greenville opened up Ohio for American settlement, and the Western Reserve east of the Cuyahoga River filled quickly. This meant crossing the Cuyahoga River boundary of the Treaty of Greenville with the Treaty of Fort Industry (1805). The new boundary for Ohio settlement angered the younger generation of native tribal leaders in Ohio. The Shawnee brothers Tecumseh and Tenskwatawa, reunited the Ohio Confederacy of tribes to withstand American settlement and the influence of western lifestyle practices.

In 1811 at the Battle of Tippecanoe, Tenskawata decided to fight against William Henry Harrison and lost. This defeat convinced Tecumseh the Native alliance couldn't succeed, and he sought monetary and military aid from the British on the Great Lakes. In the War of 1812, the Battle of Thames removed the Indian Nations from Ohio and defeated the Ohio confederacy for good when Tecumseh died in battle.

Although no longer a part of Ohio culture since 1812, Native Americans have been on North American land much longer than non-natives and their contributions to our history should be celebrated.

Sylvia

7<sup>th</sup> Grade

The Lippman School

### **Walk The Portage Path – The App**

In 2016, The Lippman School created an app to teach people about the Portage Path and its history. All of the content and research was completed by students from The Lippman School, the Portage Path Community Learning Center in Akron and the Northern Cheyenne from Montana. This project took a year to finish.

To make the app we researched information about different tribes that walked the Portage Path. Different groups of students researched different tribes. All grade levels created content for the app. The information about the birds that can be found along the Portage Path was done by the kindergarten. The information about the trees along the path was done by the first and second graders. The maps of the Portage Path were added by the third and fourth graders and the history of the Portage Path was done by the middle school.

Allison  
7th grade  
The Lippman School

## The Lippman School and Northern Cheyenne Partnership

The Lippman School has had a connection with the Northern Cheyenne tribe for seven years. Every year students and tribal leaders come to our school. We learn about them and they learn about us. For the Lippman School it is very important to learn about different cultures, which is why we have events like a campout every year, where we get to help build tipis and sleep in them that night. Every other year we go to the Northern Cheyenne Reservation and we participate in activities like a sweat lodge ceremony and we visit some historical sites.

Martha  
7<sup>th</sup> grade  
The Lippman School

## The Lippman School and Northern Cheyenne Partnership

The partnership between The Lippman School and the Northern Cheyenne Nation originally started with Steve Chestnut, my grandfather, who was a lawyer for the tribe for 40 years. His son Brian now serves in that role. Steve received a traditional Northern Cheyenne name, which is a great honor. Later Sam Chestnut, Steve's son and Head of The Lippman School, started a partnership to help both communities educate one another. Although this partnership started small, we are constantly trying to make it bigger and better. We are growing the connection because we want to learn more and it's a part of our school program. The Lippman School has not only taken students to the reservation, but two adult groups as well. Our connection is getting stronger and stronger especially with the Portage Path walk.

Ilan  
8<sup>th</sup> grade  
The Lippman School

## **Lippman, Northern Cheyenne Programming**

The Lippman School does many educational things when the Northern Cheyenne come here to Akron. The first thing is that we went to Kent State and did rock climbing and afterward met with students from KSU's Native American Student Association. Another thing we do is hiking in the Cuyahoga Valley National Park. We also debark tipi poles together, make fry bread together and a new thing we did this year was make drumsticks. Once all the poles are debarked then we make tipis together. This school year we had three tipis and next school year we hope to have four. That weekend we hold a bonfire for the school, and the Northern Cheyenne dance in their regalia. We had three other schools besides Lippman last time we had the walk. We hope we can have more schools join us next year.

Sonja

7<sup>th</sup> Grade

The Lippman School

## **Walk on First People's Day**

Last October, when we walked a part of the Portage Path with the Northern Cheyenne and two other Akron schools, it was a very exciting and educational experience. This walk was also the biggest one yet, with local news coverage, multiple schools present, and a presentation at the end of the walk as well. This next year, we are hoping to have our walk take place on Akron's first First People's Day. If we did have the chance do so, we think it would be very meaningful and historic for the city of Akron.

Hemma  
8<sup>th</sup> Grade; 13 yrs. Old  
The Lippman School

## **Summary of Statements in Support of First People's Day**

We all know that Native Americans have been here a long time. We know they were here first, that they were here before European arrival. How many people actually know how long they were here? Why don't we learn these things at school? Are they not a big part of our history? We should make this as important as the rest of our history. Students should have the luxury of learning about our heritage, about the people who were here first. We as a people should educate and be educated. What better way to teach and celebrate than an officially recognized day of honor?

My school, The Lippman School, believes that learning about our Native people and history is important, and I'm glad they do. My teachers think it's so important that we should learn about native people through personal experience, by meeting the people of a tribe in person. They think it is important to make a connection with them. We learn with them every year, and each of us learns more every time. Then, we thought it was so great that we wanted to share it with others by walking the Portage Path. We went so far as to make an app about the Portage Path so that not just our school community can learn about our native people and history, but that the Akron community and beyond can learn as well.

Our school is not the only one to think that our heritage is important. First people are celebrated internationally. The United Nations finds their history very important. We should make it a holiday; we should be one of the few to lead by example. I am forever grateful that I learned about my heritage; I believe others should have the luxury of learning about their

heritage. My colleagues and I speak for those who didn't get the chance to learn about our Native Peoples. We speak for those who are working hard to educate as many people about our Native People. We speak for the Native people themselves. We speak for all of these people when we ask you to please consider making First People's Day a holiday in Akron, Ohio.





**President**  
Leianne Neff Heppner

January 18, 2018

Marilyn Keith  
Chair, Rules Committee  
Akron City Council  
166 S. High Street  
Akron, OH 44308

In re: Resolution Creating First Peoples Day

Dear Ms. Keith:

We support the resolution before your committee creating First Peoples Day on the first Monday of October. It recognizes the contributions of the original people who lived here, who used the portage between the Cuyahoga and Tuscarawas Rivers and became part of tribal nations preceding the settlement of the continent by Europeans.

Throughout its 94 year history, the Summit County Historical Society has been the most active and vocal supporter of preserving the memory of the Portage Path. George Tod Perkins created the first permanent markings of the Indian trail, including the insertion of a historic marker in the perimeter stone wall of the Perkins Mansion. In 2001 the Society provided the leadership and organization for "The Marking of the Trail of the Portage Path," which consists of two monumental sculptures at the trail's termini, along with 50 bronze blades permanently marking the trail's 8- mile route through Akron.

Notably, the Akron portage was part of the western boundary of the United States open to white settlement from 1785 to 1805, and was shown on maps used by George Washington and Thomas Jefferson.

Over the last three years, the Society has been privileged to partner with the Lippman School to commemorate this history, through art workshops and trail walks in 2016 and 2017. It is our intention to continue collaboration among various history-related groups who will seek to memorialize Native American history on the first weekend of October each year.

We appreciate your support and enthusiasm for this project. Thank you.

Sincerely,

David Lieberth  
Chairman of the Board

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Cheryl Warren, Michael Wilps



Stewards of  
Historical Preservation

January 18, 2018

Marilyn Keith  
Chair, Rules Committee  
Akron City Council  
166 S. High Street  
Akron, OH 44308

In re: Resolution Creating First Peoples Day

Dear Ms. Keith:

We support the resolution before your committee creating First Peoples Day on the first Monday of October. This resolution recognizes the historic and modern significance Native American and American Indian tribes have had on the landscape and history of Akron, Ohio, and North America.

In the year since Stewards of Historical Preservation (SHiP) was founded, our mission has been to education, preserve, document, and inventory the history of Northeast Ohio, both written and unwritten. Currently, SHiP is in the process of consulting with Federally Recognized Tribes with ancestral ties to Northeast Ohio; these consultations will be used to nominate the Portage Path to the National Register of Historic Places as a Traditional Cultural Property (TCP). To date, no TCP has ever been nominated in the state of Ohio. This resolution will provide clear support to tribes during the nomination process.

We greatly appreciate your enthusiasm for recognizing Tribal contributions to Akron. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Eric Olson  
President

**Board of Directors**

Eric Olson, President; Dr. Tim Matney, Vice President; Robert Tucker, Secretary; Robert Trattner, Treasurer; Kevin Kern, Dr. Jerrad Lancaster, David Lombardi

P.O. Box 612 Akron, Ohio 44309 P: 330.714.5554

[historicalakron.wordpress.com](http://historicalakron.wordpress.com)



# City of Akron, Ohio

JEFF FUSCO, MAYOR

October 7, 2015

Sam Chestnut  
Head of School  
The Lippman School  
750 White Pond Drive  
Akron, OH 44320

Dear Mr. Chestnut and Students:

I am very concerned that the citizens of Akron are not aware of an important treasure that is right here in our city. It is The Portage Path. This path that was travelled by Native Americans for centuries and was so famous that at one time it was the western boundary of the United States. Since then, the city of Akron has grown up around it and eventually the path was covered with roads, houses and sidewalks. Even though we have markers showing the path, I believe that most Akronites and visitors to Akron do not realize the importance of this historical treasure.

I have been watching what the The Lippman School has been doing for Akron and your connection to the Northern Cheyenne tribe. Would you be willing to help me and the city by finding a way to increase awareness of the Portage Path and its history? I know that you are very technology savvy and I think that you could use your technology to create something wonderful and educational for the citizens of Akron.

I hope that you will accept this challenge to help make Akron a better informed community about an important nationally recognized historical site right here in our city: The Portage Path.

Sincerely,

JEFF FUSCO  
Mayor

EVBJRY

January 29, 2018

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Offered by: MAYOR HORRIGAN AND COUNCILPERSONS KEITH, SOMMERVILLE, FUSCO, NEAL, OMOBIEN & SWIRSKY **SAMPLES**

RESOLUTION NO. 31 -2018 recognizing and honoring the history and culture of Native Americans, and the contributions by tribal nations to the development of the American continent, and acknowledging the efforts to preserve this history in our country, in Akron, Summit County, and Ohio by establishing "North America First People's Day" on the first Monday of October; and declaring an emergency.

WHEREAS, the land on which the city of Akron was built was first occupied as long as ten thousand years ago by ancestors of American Indian tribes, which native settlements were observed by Europeans who ascended the Cuyahoga River in 1797 to survey the 8-mile Indian portage to the Tuscarawas River that traverses Akron yet today; and

WHEREAS, the Portage Path is Akron's prehistoric treasure that was a boundary between portions of the Ohio country open to European settlement and portions reserved to native people from 1785 to 1805 when the Treaty Line ended and native occupants were pushed further west, and today is commemorated in sculptures dedicated in 2001 by the Summit County Historical Society and in the establishment of Treaty Line Park by Summit Metro Parks; and,

WHEREAS, The Lippman School of Akron has established a working partnership with the nation of the Northern Cheyenne of Montana to foster mutual education opportunities, and to promote discernment of how modern cultures often share a history, all of which has provided learning opportunities for students and families alike, and which has been shared with the greater Akron community by Lippman School's annual walks along the Portage Path; and

WHEREAS, Native Americans protected our land and our environment and formed tribal groups that evidenced great character and who cared about each other and protected each other; and we should honor native people because they were here first, were pushed from their lands, suffered persecution and attempts at extinction of their culture, but continue to celebrate their ancient practices; and

WHEREAS, Ohio commemorates the state's ancient settlements and the native peoples that first occupied this land through events during Ohio Archaeology Month each October; and

WHEREAS, The Lippman School and its students, have joined in a collaborative effort with other Akron schools and local history organizations to request that Akron City Council respectfully acknowledge a day of commemoration called "North America First People's Day," honoring Native Americans and the Indian tribal groups that continue their historic cultural ceremonies and traditions; and

WHEREAS, "North America First People's Day" will honor the first inhabitants of this country, and offer an occasion to educate young and old of their history in this City and throughout the United States; and

WHEREAS, "North America First People's Day" will provide an opportunity to reflect upon past harms inflicted upon Native Americans and acknowledge their past mistreatment, and by studying this history may aid in avoiding unfair treatment of marginalized groups of people in the future; and

WHEREAS, "North America First People's Day" would honor all descendants of American Indians and tribes still active in the United States, and recognize that, although they are often overlooked, members of tribal nations continue to contribute to society and American culture.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Akron:

Section 1. That Council hereby expresses its respect and honor for the history, culture, and contributions of Native Americans to the development of the American continent, and specifically Akron, Summit County, and Ohio, by establishing "North America First People's Day" on the first Monday of October.

Section 2. That Council supports the continued exposition of the historic nature of Akron's Portage Path through education, events and displays and commends such recognition to state and national organizations.

Section 3. That this resolution is hereby declared to be an emergency measure necessary for the immediate preservation of public peace, health, safety and so that Council can convey its respect and honor for the Native Americans by establishing North America First People's Day, and provided this resolution receives the affirmative vote of two-thirds of the members elected or appointed to Council, it shall take effect and be in force immediately upon its passage and approval by the Mayor; otherwise, it shall take effect and be in force at the earliest time allowed by law.

Passed January 29, 2018

[Signature]  
Clerk of Council

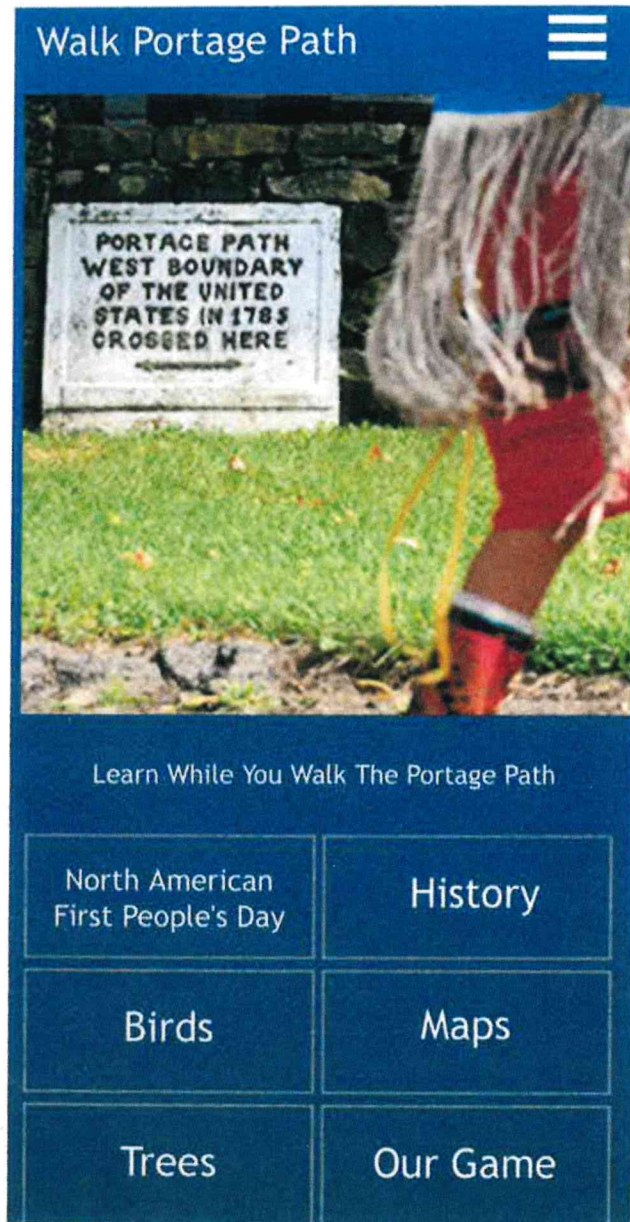
[Signature]  
President of Council

Approved 1/30, 2018

[Signature]  
MAYOR

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# walkportagepath.org



Enjoy our app on your smartphone and learn more about the Portage Path: a local national historical landmark. This problem based learning project was researched and created by students from three schools in two nations.