

# Noah Cyrus

January 9, 2014

Dear School Board Members:

As a student who considers Nashville to be her home, I'm writing because Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus will soon be performing at the Bridgestone Arena. Ringling routinely gives discounted tickets to schools, including Metropolitan Nashville Public Schools, in order to increase its profits. Circus performances are not educational and should never be offered to students. I just narrated a video for PETA Kids about all the pain that animals in the circus go through. It has not been released yet, but I want you to be the first to see it [here](#) so that the school board will consider a ban on school field trips to the circus before Ringling comes to Nashville in January.

At Ringling, scared baby elephants are torn away from their mothers so that they can begin to be taught the painful and confusing tricks of a circus routine. They are beaten, slammed to the ground, shocked, and yelled at. A former Ringling employee said that trainers would turn up the music during training sessions because the elephants' screams were so loud. (See [this article](#) for more sad details.) When they're not performing, elephants are kept on short chains and have no freedom to move around, look for food or water, or do anything else that would be meaningful or important to them in the wild. The only thing that kids learn from a circus performance is that it's acceptable to bully animals for human entertainment. That's a terrible lesson that should never come with the school's endorsement.

Will the school board ban field trips to the circus? Every ticket to the circus, no matter what the price, contributes to animal suffering. I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Noah Cyrus". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Noah Cyrus