

School Naming Initiative:

Patrick Henry

Public-submitted rationales for suggested names

Submitted names as of Noon on March 22, 2022

Proposed Name Submissions

- Arnold Pinkney
- Benjamin Wade
- George Washington Williams
- John Patterson Green
- Stephanie Tubbs Jones
- Fannie Lewis
- Thomas Paine
- Jesse Owens
- Abraham Lincoln
- Hope Elementary (or Station Hope Elementary)
- Creative Purpose/ Creative Minds Community School
- Durant Street Elementary School
- Forest Hills

Arnold Pinkney

- The following is the rationale provided for this submission. ***Please note: this information has not been checked for accuracy!***
- Born in Youngstown
- Political strategist and civil rights activist
- Helped elect Ohio's first black congressman, Louis Stokes, in 1968
- Managed Jesse Jackson's 1984 presidential campaign
- Advised Jesse Jackson, Carl Stokes, and Governor Richard Celeste
- Special adviser to the Ohio Legislative Black Caucus
- Co-founded Pinkney-Perry Insurance Agency, Ohio's oldest and largest minority-owned insurance company

Benjamin Wade

- The following is the rationale provided for this submission. ***Please note: this information has not been checked for accuracy!***
- 19th century senator
- Ardent abolitionist, support of women's and African-American suffrage, and a Northeast Ohio resident
- Within one vote of becoming President of the United States during the impeachment of Andrew Johnson
 - Members of his own party did not vote to remove President Johnson because they thought Senator Wade's ideas about universal suffrage were too radical for the time

George Washington Williams

- The following is the rationale provided for this submission. ***Please note: this information has not been checked for accuracy!***
- Late 19th century African-American journalist, lawyer, minister, and historian who wrote the first comprehensive history of African-Americans from their own point of view
- Authored the two-volume History of the Negro Race in America from 1619 to 1880
- Founded a respected black national newspaper (The Commoner)
- First black member of the Ohio state legislature

John Patterson Green

- The following is the rationale provided for this submission. ***Please note: this information has not been checked for accuracy!***
- Born April 2, 1845, Patterson is known as the "Father of Labor Day".
- His family moved to Cleveland in 1857. He attended Central High School (1866-69), and in 1870 graduated from Union Law School, moved to South Carolina, and was admitted to the bar.
- Green returned to Cleveland in 1872 and was elected Republican justice of the peace, the first black elected to office in Cleveland. He held the post for 9 years (1873-82). In 1881 he won election to the Ohio House of Representatives. He was elected to the Ohio legislature in 1890, there introducing the bill that established Labor Day as a state holiday; the U.S. Congress made it a national holiday in 1894.

Stephanie Tubbs Jones

- The following is the rationale provided for this submission. ***Please note: this information has not been checked for accuracy!***
- Mrs. Jones worked in the City of Cleveland as a prosecutor and congresswoman; she is a worthy individual to be named after a school.
- Community stakeholder, consistency of success with the Clinic, bus station, and recognition of community belonging and success

Fannie Lewis

- The following is the rationale provided for this submission. ***Please note: this information has not been checked for accuracy!***
- Lewis, Fannie (6 June 1926 - 11 August 2008) was the Ward 7 representative for the Cleveland City Council, an area that included the city's Hough neighborhood, for almost thirty years. Lewis, a Democrat, earned a reputation for her tireless efforts to improve Hough in the wake of the 1966 riots in the neighborhood.
- Lewis was inducted into the Ohio Women Hall of Fame in Columbus in 1996.

Thomas Paine

- The following is the rationale provided for this submission. ***Please note: this information has not been checked for accuracy!***
- Founding Father who shares similar virtues as Patrick Henry but was anti-slavery - political activist, philosopher, political theorist, and revolutionary.
- On March 8, 1775, one month after Paine became the editor of The Pennsylvania Magazine, the magazine published an anonymous article titled "African Slavery in America," the first prominent piece in the colonies proposing the emancipation of African-American slaves and the abolition of slavery. The essay attacked slavery as an "execrable commerce" and "outrage against Humanity and Justice. -authored Common Sense (1776) and The American Crisis (1776–1783), two of the most influential pamphlets at the start of the American Revolution -helped inspire the patriots in 1776 to declare independence from Great Britain -His ideas reflected Enlightenment-era ideals of transnational human rights.

Jesse Owens

- The following is the rationale provided for this submission. ***Please note: this information has not been checked for accuracy!***
- Attended East Tech High School and Ohio State University
- A gifted athlete who excelled in the 100m, 200m, long jump and relay, Owens' track record speaks for itself.
- In 1936, Jesse became the first American in Olympic Track and Field history to win four gold medals in a single Olympiad and, as a black American man, was credited with "single-handedly crushing Hitler's myth of Aryan supremacy"
- He was the grandson of a slave
- In 1976, Jesse was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom by Gerald R. Ford, the highest award bestowed upon a civilian and was posthumously awarded the Congressional Gold Medal in 1990 by President Bush.

Abraham Lincoln

- The following is the rationale provided for this submission. ***Please note: this information has not been checked for accuracy!***
- Abraham Lincoln became the United States' 16th President in 1861, issuing the Emancipation Proclamation that declared forever free those slaves within the Confederacy in 1863.

Station Hope Elementary

- The following is the rationale provided for this submission. ***Please note: this information has not been checked for accuracy!***
- Station Hope was the codename for Cleveland on the Underground Railroad.

Creative Purpose/Creative Minds Community School

- The following is the rationale provided for this submission. ***Please note: this information has not been checked for accuracy!***
- Kuumba (Creativity) and Nia (Purpose) are two principals of Kwanzaa. Children are very creative and their minds are like sponges. They have no concept of what they can't do, they only know what they can do.

Durant Street Elementary School

- The following is the rationale provided for this submission. ***Please note: this information has not been checked for accuracy!***
- Durant is the street where the school is located

Forest Hills

- The following is the rationale provided for this submission. ***Please note: this information has not been checked for accuracy!***
- Forest Hills is the community where the school is located

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