

# School Naming Initiative: Thomas Jefferson

Public-submitted rationales for suggested names

As of March 1, 2022

## Proposed Name Submissions

- Arnold Pinkney
- Benjamin Wade
- George Washington Williams
- International Newcomers Academy
- Martin Luther King, Jr.
- Natividad Pagan International Newcomers Academy
- Frederick Douglass
- Omar Ibn Said Newcomers Academy
- John Patterson Green

## 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!***
- 19<sup>th</sup> 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 19<sup>th</sup> 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

## International Newcomers Academy

- The following is the rationale provided for this submission. ***Please note: this information has not been checked for accuracy!***
- It is a non-political, appropriate name as it describes the students who go there. There are 3 refugee response programs in Cleveland, so we will always need a newcomers academy.

## Martin Luther King, Jr.

- The following is the rationale provided for this submission. ***Please note: this information has not been checked for accuracy!***
- Prominent Civil Rights Leader and Author
- A member of the executive committee of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.
- Leader of the bus boycott that lasted 382 days.
- Elected president of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, an organization formed to provide new leadership for the now burgeoning civil rights movement.
- At the age of thirty-five, Martin Luther King, Jr., was the youngest man to have received the Nobel Peace Prize.

## Natividad Pagan International Newcomers Academy

- The following is the rationale provided for this submission. ***Please note: this information has not been checked for accuracy!***
- She was the principal for Thomas Jefferson and also Gallagher. A pillar of the community and cared very much for the Youth and for the community. She devoted her life to help give children a better education and a better life. She worked in the community for many many years and also for the Board of Education she also was co-founder a Julio Debulgos which also educates children of the community about their culture. She would say that Thomas Jefferson School was her baby every time she said she was going to retire she kept going back she just couldn't let go. She loved what she did I feel naming this school after her would be a great justice she deserves this honor.



# Frederick Douglass

- The following is the rationale provided for this submission. ***Please note: this information has not been checked for accuracy!***
- Born in Maryland in 1818
- African American abolitionist, orator, newspaper publisher, and author who is famous for his first autobiography, *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, an American Slave, Written by Himself*.
- He was the first Black U.S. marshal.

## Omar Ibn Said Newcomers Academy

- The following is the rationale provided for this submission. ***Please note: this information has not been checked for accuracy!***
- Omar Ibn Said was a West African scholar who was captured in war and sold into the transatlantic slave trade in the early 19th century. His autobiography is the only known autobiography of an enslaved person in America written in Arabic. As a multilingual immigrant and a scholar who suffered oppression and later escaped slavery, he is a positive role model for new arrivals in the United States who may have fled difficult situations in their home countries. Honoring him is a step toward repairing the historical injustices promulgated by the school's current namesake, Thomas Jefferson.

## 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.

Please use the QR code below to rank your Top Choices



English



Spanish