

Frederick Law Olmsted Academy North

4530 Bellevue Avenue
Louisville, Kentucky 40215
(502) 485-8331
Fax: (502) 485-8381



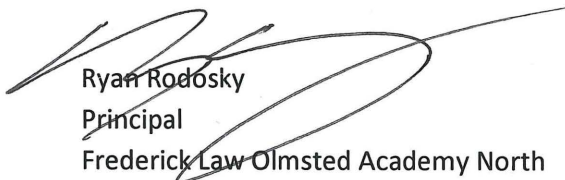
July 17, 2014

Dear Jefferson County Board of Education,

I am writing this letter in support and recommendation that the upper gym at Frederick Law Olmsted Academy North be named after Mr. Durk Davidson. Mr. Davidson has been a driving force in this school and community for the past 20 years. Through his efforts, Mr. Davidson has positively impacted thousands of lives.

Mr. Davidson deserves to be honored for his commitment to students, parents, and the Olmsted North family. Please support us in naming the gym in Mr. Davidson's honor.

Sincerely,



Ryan Rodosky
Principal
Frederick Law Olmsted Academy North

Frederick Law Olmsted Academy North

4530 Bellevue Avenue
Louisville, Kentucky 40215
(502) 485-8331
Fax: (502) 485-8381



June 25, 2014

Dear Jefferson County Board of Education,

The faculty, staff, and administration of Frederick Law Olmsted Academy North would like to dedicate its Upper Gymnasium, to our former Youth Service Center Coordinator, Derwin "Durk" Davidson. Durk is retiring as of August 1, 2014. He started in this building when it was known as Southern Middle School in January 1994. Durk has had a major role in many positive changes that have benefited the students and families of our community. This is the only school that "Mr. D", ever worked in for JCPS. Mr. Davidson has worked tirelessly to provide assistance and support such as community resources to the families of Olmsted North.

I believe that Mr. Davidson is very deserving of the honor of having the Upper Gymnasium dedicated to him for his 20 years of service in this school and community. He has dedicated his life to this school. He is a model of the values of which our district and community aspires to reach.

Sincerely,

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

Bill Perkins
Principal

July 8, 2014

Jefferson County Board of Education:

I, Brandy Stetser, SBDM parent council member, recommends that the upper gym at Frederick Law Olmsted Academy North to be named after Durk Davidson. Durk Davidson has been dedicated to Olmsted North for twenty plus years. As a Youth Services Center coordinator, he has touched many parents and children's lives. He always has a positive attitude and is approachable. His door is always open and welcomes everyone with open arms. These qualities have earned him the trust and respect of not only the boys at Olmsted but the parents as well.

Durk Davidson has also taught the boys many life lessons such as conflict management. Through his peer mediation program, boys at Olmsted are taught how to calmly solve issues inside and outside of the school. This has decreased the number of fights within the school building which has allowed for a more secure and productive learning environment. His devotion to this program and maintaining a safe surrounding is exceptional.

Durk Davidson's commitment to Olmsted Academy North and the students doesn't just stop at the front door. He represented Olmsted at Governor's Commonwealth Institute for Parent Leadership. You will also find him attending school events such as open house, parent nights, and athletic events. He will sit on the bleachers and associate with the parents, cheer on the team, and encourage all of the boys. The excitement on the boy's faces when they notice Mr. Davidson is at their game is remarkable.

With the large impact that Durk Davidson has had on Olmsted Academy North (previously Southern Middle School), the children, and the community, I propose that the upper gym to be named after him. He has left a positive footprint on the school and I think his dedication and leadership should be remembered. Although, I am said to see him go, I am thankful for the opportunity to get to know such a wonderful person.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Brandy Stetser', written in dark ink.

Brandy Stetser

Parent/SBDM Council Member

Jon Auslander-Price
Kentucky Youth Career Center
4107 Morgan Jaymes Dr
Louisville, KY 40299

June 30, 2014

Jefferson County Board of Education:

Please accept this letter in recommendation of naming the gymnasium at Frederick Law Olmstead Academy North in honor of Durk Davidson. Mr. Davidson has spent a significant portion of his career at FLOAN as the youth service center coordinator and has given of himself tirelessly to every student that attended during his tenure. I had the pleasure of working along side of Mr. Davidson for almost two years and his passion for youth achievement and the overall success of FLOAN continues to be an inspiration. I have seen him take the most difficult of situations and resolve them with the greatest of ease. On almost a daily basis, students from his past, many with their own children attending FLOAN would come just to visit. Mr. Davidson is far more than the youth service center coordinator; he is truly a vital part of the community that surrounds that surrounds Frederick Law Olmstead Academy North.

Sincerely,

Jon Auslander-Price

Jon Auslander-Price
Program Coordinator

June 27, 2014

Jefferson County Board of Education:

My name is Bobby Huffman Jr.

I'm writing this letter to ask you to consider naming the upper gym at Olmsted Academy North Middle School after Mr. Davidson. Not only is he a great staff member of the Olmsted Academy family, he's also a great person. He has been a great help to me and my son. He has helped me make my son into a great young man.

My son was going down the wrong path when I was going through a divorce with his mother. The last two years I have had custody of my son and he has become a young man with the help of Mr. D.

I know Mr. D has helped a lot of young men in his 20 years at Olmsted.

If you were to put his name on the upper gym, there would be a lot of young people that will say 'that was my mentor'.

Mr. D wasn't just a staff member to the Huffman family, he was family.

For the community of Jefferson County, please consider putting Mr. Davidson's name on the upper gym at Olmsted North Middle School.

Thank you,

Bobby G. Huffman, Jr.



July 3, 2014

Dear Friends:

I am honored to support the request to name the Upper Gym at Olmsted Academy North in honor of Durk Davidson, retiring Youth Service Center Director. I have had the delight of working with Durk for the past 20 years when Peace Education Program (Peace Ed) first helped him introduce mediation skills to the school. At the time, youth were body slamming each other in the hallways and gang culture dominated the school and neighborhood. Durk was at the forefront of turning around the school culture to what it is today: one where student attendance is high, suspensions are greatly reduced and young men are graduating as leaders, excited about attending high school and college!

I hold out Durk and the team of mediators at Olmstead as models of best practices in mediation throughout the School District. Durk already has his eye on 6th graders, many of them labeled as “troublemakers”, that he is going to help improve their behavior, attendance and academic achievement for two years, so that they can become mediators as 8th graders. His methods, combined with the commitment of school administration, teachers and staff, have created a winning combination. In fact, I have requested that he help other schools strengthen their mediation programs in the future.

Every year, Peace Ed joins with the Louisville Bar Association and Just Solutions (a mediation center for adult conflicts) to host a “Meeting of the Minds” gathering of youth and adult mediators. Judges, lawyers, and business leaders who are also mediators in our community meet with youth mediators in our schools. Durk and his team of mediators join us every year! The adults and youth share best practices, mediate mock conflicts and spend time getting to know each other. Durk’s mediators are shining stars at this gathering. They never fail to impress the adults with their knowledge and skills. This year we surveyed the 28 mediators. Everyone of them wants to help their future high schools start or strengthen their mediation programs!

Peace Ed celebrated our 30th anniversary this year with a dinner at the Olmsted on Frankfort Avenue. Three hundred guests were captivated by a speech given by Bobby Huffman, an 8th grader at Olmsted Academy. He spoke about the many ways Mr. D and mediation skills had changed his life. This is the legacy of Durk Davidson: helping young men exposed to high levels of conflict have hope they can turn around their lives and providing them the skills to make it possible! There are thousands of positive leaders in our community because of Durk Davidson.

Thank you for this opportunity to support this special recognition of this special man.

Sincerely,

Eileen Blanton

Eileen Blanton, Executive Director

Administrative Offices

VanHoose Education Center
P.O. Box 34020
Louisville, Kentucky 40232-4020
(502) 485-3011



June 25, 2014

Dear Jefferson County Board of Education,

Please accept this recommendation for the upper gym at Fredrick Law Olmsted Academy North to be renamed for the retiring Youth Services Center Coordinator, Derwin "Durk" Davidson. Mr. Davidson began his career at Southern Middle School in the winter of 1994. He immediately made connections with the students, families and staff of the school and became an advocate for all students throughout the community. Through the transition of Southern Middle School to the Fredrick Law Olmsted Academy North, Mr. Davidson worked tirelessly to ensure a smooth transition for both the girls formerly of Southern Middle School who would now be attending Fredrick Law Olmsted Academy South and immediately began bonding with "his boys", those who were staying at the school and the others who were newly assigned to the school. Mr. Davidson is well known throughout the community for his passion for children and his willingness to do whatever it takes to break down barriers to student academic success.

Mr. Davidson is a true example of the importance of keeping the students the focus of everything that happens in a school. He is a positive role model for all "his boys" and helps them understand that through education and hard work they can become whatever in this world they wish. Mr. Davidson is retiring as of August 1, 2014. For his dedication to the academic success of all students, I recommend the upper gym at Fredrick Law Olmsted Academy North be renamed for Derwin "Durk" Davidson. If you have any questions, please contact me at 485-3703.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Carol Bartlett".

Carol Bartlett, Ph.D.
Director, Family Resource & Youth Services Centers
Jefferson County Public Schools
3332 Newburg Road
Louisville, KY 40218
502-485-3703

Community Support Services

Alison Educational Resource Center
546 South First Street, Suite 204
Louisville, Kentucky 40202
Phone: 485-3926
Fax: 485-7877



July 15, 2014

Dear Jefferson County Board of Education,

Please accept this recommendation for the upper gym at Fredrick Law Olmsted Academy North to be renamed in honor of Mr. Derwin "Durk" Davidson, who has been the Youth Services Center Coordinator since 1994. Mr. Davidson is retiring after serving the students, families and staff faithfully and whole-heartedly for 20 years. I have had the privilege of working alongside of Mr. Davidson for many of those years and have never come across an individual with such genuine commitment for students in removing barriers to education. He has helped thousands of students find their dreams and overcome many of life's challenges. Mr. Davidson is loved and admired by countless numbers of students whose lives he helped shape. Mr. Davidson is a dynamic example of a FRYSC Coordinator, true mentor, educator, child advocate, embracer of diversity, and community collaborator.

It is my hope that the Jefferson County Board of Education would support us in the above recommendation of naming the upper gym at Fredrick Law Olmsted Academy North as Derwin "Durk" Davidson Gymnasium. If you have any questions regarding my recommendation, please feel free to contact me at 485-3926.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Ben Langley", is written over a horizontal line.

Ben Langley
Specialist Community Support Services
546 South First Street, Suite 204
Louisville, Kentucky 40202

July 16, 2014

To: Jefferson County Board of Education,

I am writing about naming the gym at Fredrick Law Olmsted Academy North.

The name on the gym would be for Mr. Clark Davidson. He has done alot of good work for the school and the years he put in his job. Mr. D. as everyone knows him as always tries his best to help everyone out if he can.

He is always at games and different events the school has if it is possible for him. I have known Mr. Davidson for four years. Besides being a guardian I was PTSA President the past three years (2011-2014). Mr. D. really does more than his share. This letter is being wrote to name the gym at Fredrick Law Olmsted Academy North for a special and caring person Mr. Clark Davidson.

Sincerely

Joyce Fritz

PTSA President 2011-2014

Fredrick Law Olmsted Academy North

June 27, 2014

Jefferson County Board of Education:

Hi. My name is Bobby G. Huffman III.

I'm writing this letter to ask you to name the upper gym at the school after Mr. Davidson.

I served on the Olmsted Academy North Youth Service Center Advisory Council for two years with Mr. D. Every time you walked into the Youth Service Center, Mr. D was working on ways to improve the school and the center. Over the years, Mr. D has been more to me than a Youth Service Center Coordinator; he has become family to me. If you need to talk to someone about anything, Mr. D is the one to talk to. He will do anything for you.

In the past twenty years that Mr. D has been at Southern/Olmsted North, he has made a tremendous change and Mr. D made the changes he wanted to.

Thank you for considering my request.

Bobby Huffman III