

May 12, 2025

Superintendent Marty Pollio
Board Member Tricia Linker
3332 Newburg Road
Louisville, KY 40218

Good Morning Dr. Pollio and Ms. Linker,

I am writing to ask that we reconsider the naming of Grace James Academy of Excellence to Dr. Grace James Academy of Excellence. We would like to acknowledge the appropriate title of our namesake. Our mission is to empower, activate, and illuminate academic excellence in each and every girl through an Afrocentric, Gender specific, STEAM curriculum. The majority of our population are black and brown females, and we are frequently letting our staff know that our students can't be what they cannot see and require that they provide learning spaces that acknowledge their cultural contributions. We believe this vision begins with the changing of the marquee. As an Explore Health Science and a High School Biomedical program, we want to acknowledge the contributions of Dr. Grace James in the medical field in the Louisville community. This gives our students a role model to aspire to become.

Attached, you will see letters of support from our community project Louisville Urban League, Simmons University, and the Louisville Chapter of Girlfriends. These community groups understand and support the mission, vision, and values of our institution and understand what we are trying to show and provide students in this transformative space.

Dr. Pollio, I want to personally thank you for your support of Grace James Academy since day one. I appreciate your support of hearing and moving this request forward.

Sincerely,

LaTonya Frazier-Goatley
Principal



Louisville
Urban League

*Empowering People.
Changing Lives.*

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May 2, 2025

Dr. Marty Pollio, Superintendent
Members of the Board of Education
Jefferson County Public Schools

Re: Support for the Renaming of Dr. Grace M. James Academy

Dear Dr. Pollio and Members of the Board,
The Louisville Urban League is writing to express our strong support for the request made by The Louisville Chapter of The Girl Friends, Incorporated, to include Dr. Grace M. James's title in the name of the school dedicated to her.

We recognize and celebrate Dr. James's immense contributions to this community. Her dedication to the well-being of children and her pioneering role as a female physician make her an exemplary figure, especially for the young girls the school serves.

We agree that including Dr. James's title is important for several reasons:

- It accurately reflects her professional achievements and the significance of her contributions.
- It provides an inspiring example for the students and demonstrates the importance of education and professional attainment.
- It aligns with the practice of including titles for other accomplished individuals for whom schools are named, ensuring consistency and respect.

While we understand that immediate changes may not always be feasible, we strongly urge the Board to consider this request favorably, perhaps by incorporating the full title into the permanent signage and official name when the school's location is relocated.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this important matter. The Louisville Urban League is committed to supporting initiatives that honor the legacy of outstanding community leaders and inspire future generations.

In the Movement,

Lyndon E. Pryor
President & CEO



SIMMONS
COLLEGE OF KENTUCKY

VICE PRESIDENT OF ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

Simmons College of Kentucky has been proud to partner with Grace M. James Academy through our dual credit program since Fall 2024. This collaboration has allowed students to begin their higher education journeys early, grounded in both cultural relevance and academic rigor. Solidifying the academy's name deepens the shared mission between JCPS and Simmons to cultivate leadership, scholarship, and innovation within historically underserved communities. Together, we are shaping tomorrow's STEM leaders.

We urge the JCPS Board of Education to move forward in formally naming the school in honor of Dr. Grace M. James. Such an action would be both a tribute to a trailblazer and a continued investment in Louisville's educational and cultural future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "S. Betton", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the left.

Dr. Samantha Betton
Interim Vice President of Academic Affairs
Simmons College of Kentucky

We respectfully appreciate your consideration of this request. If we need to provide further information regarding this issue, please advise.

Carrye Bowers Jones, President, Louisville Chapter

Carrye B Jones

Deanna Shobe Tinsley, EdD, Community Relations/Civics Committee
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Members of The Louisville Chapter of The Girl Friends, Incorporated

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