

# JAY HIGH SCHOOL

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Superintendent Barber, Assistant Superintendent Harrell, and School Board Members:

This letter comes as a request to members of the Santa Rosa County School Board that the Facilities Naming Committee convene.

As the principal of Jay High School, I am requesting the Facilities Naming Committee consider naming the following locations on campus as described below:

- 1) Football field – Benny Russell Field
  - a. Our stadium is named “Merle V. North Stadium” We are requesting the new name of the facility – “Benny Russell Field at Merle V. North Stadium”
- 2) Track – named “Coach James McDaniel Track”
- 3) Cafeteria – named “Imogene Lewis Reeder Cafeteria”

Mr. Russell’s legacy is marked throughout our entire county. We feel it is very appropriate to name a facility after Mr. Russell in his hometown. This recommendation was brought to us by community members C. David Smith, M.D., and Bruce Godwin.

Coach James McDaniel taught and coached in Florida for 42 years, his last 36 in Santa Rosa County. He won 4 consecutive state championships in Girls Cross Country. His teams earned 31 District Championships in Basketball, Cross Country, and Track, winning 12 consecutive Track District Championships. He was responsible for helping develop and construct our current track in 1974. At the time, it was the first 440-yard paved track in Santa Rosa County. He was inducted into the FACA Hall of Fame in 1997. This recommendation was brought to us by our current head boy’s track coach, Stan Blackman.

Mrs. Imogene Reeder worked in Santa Rosa District schools for 34 years (1964-1998). She was a longtime cafeteria manager at both Fidelis School (Jay feeder school) and Jay High School. She finished her career at JHS with 17 years as our cafeteria manager. This recommendation was brought to us by current JHS teacher, Coach Rhett Rowell.

These individuals left an enduring mark on Jay High School touching countless lives while serving our community and Santa Rosa County. We feel that it is appropriate to recognize their longstanding service by naming these facilities in their honor. Therefore, I am requesting the Facilities Naming Committee convene to consider these requests.

Respectfully,

Benjamin H. West II

JHS Mission: *“To love, educate, and prepare all students for graduation and a successful future.”*  
SRCSD Mission: *“Santa Rosa County District Schools provides an environment that fosters each learner’s potential, equips students for academic excellence, and promotes lifelong learning.”*