

**PROPOSAL**  
**for Naming the Middle School Wing of the Marianna K-8 School**  
**The EDDIE L. ELLIS MIDDLE SCHOOL WING**

Pursuant to Jackson County School Board Policy 8.54, please consider this a request to name the middle school wing at the Marianna K-8 school after Eddie L. Ellis. This proposal is being presented in particular by the Marianna High School Class of 1977, but it also has wide community support. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic and Mr. Ellis' sense of modesty, this proposal has been shared with very few individuals. In fact, Mr. Ellis doesn't know this is being proposed. It is hoped that once the pandemic has eased, a formal portrait unveiling can be scheduled and all the appropriate accolades showered on Mr. Ellis.

Mr. Ellis is in his last year of employment with the Jackson County School District. He was initially employed on September 1, 1981 and has served continuously since that date. Mr. Ellis graduated from Marianna High School in 1977. He graduated from Chipola College in 1979 and Athens State College in 1981. While at Marianna High School, Mr. Ellis was a member of the Afro-American Club, the Activette Club, and the Boys' Basketball Team. Mr. Ellis also played basketball at Chipola College and Athens State College where he was a multi-year all-star player.

While employed with the Jackson County School District, Mr. Ellis served as a Teacher at Sneads Elementary, Golson Elementary and Sunland School. He also served as Assistant Principal and Principal at Marianna Middle School and is currently the Principal at the Marianna K- 8 School. Mr. Ellis coached basketball at Sneads Elementary, Sneads High School and Marianna High School. He is affectionately known as "Coach" by his older students, "Eddie Wayne" by his classmates and Mr. Ellis by his current students.

In his almost forty years of service, Mr. Ellis has always served as a mentor and leader to both his fellow employees and his students. His ability to touch students and fellow employees is exemplified by the letter attached hereto as Exhibit "A". It is unsigned but we are sure you can gather who it is from. "Eddie Wayne" has always served as a calming influence. There is no measure Eddie Wayne will not undertake to make others feel comfortable, safe and welcome. His leadership has been most evident to the general public during the aftermath of Hurricane Michael and during the Covid-19 pandemic. His calming words to his students and to parents through social media and personal interaction have had a lasting impact on students, parents, fellow employees and many citizens of Jackson County. Eddie Wayne's calm leadership is similar to another Teacher who calmed the winds of a storm while the others were afraid.

When "Eddie Wayne"/"Coach"/Mr. Ellis hears that last school bell at the end of this year I'm sure he is thinking: *"When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and when you pass through the rivers, they will not sweep over you. When you walk through the fire, you will not be burned; the flames will not set you ablaze."*

Please consider this request on behalf of the Marianna High School Class of 1977 and particularly: Joe Frank Smith, M.D., Bobby Pierce, Margena Myrick, Vincent Page, Linda Pforte, Monica Jenings Phillips, John W. Milton, Mark Hinson, Deborah Dudley, Tim Hatcher, Jo Ann Appleton, Joan Brown Kaplan, Melissa Nicholson Anderson, Tracey Walsh Roberts, Robby Brendemuehl, Lisa Padgett Douglas, Rosemary Robinson Jackson and Laurie Moreland Dula.