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DIRECTIONS: Please complete all requirements and portions of this form that relate to your nomination. Only one name is accepted per form submission.

Nominated Name (First, Middle, Last)

Mary Stroube Adams

The name to be considered is based on the following categories: (Check all applicable boxes.)

- The person has made or is making significant contributions to the District and whose virtues or characteristics will serve as role models to students, staff and the community.
- The person is making or has made significant contributions to public education or has made some significant connection with the District either as a student, an alumnus, a staff member, an administrator, a donor, or a supporter.
- The person has made substantial contributions to his or her field of endeavor or to society in general.
- The person worked for the District and served in education for at least 20 years, was a distinguished District employee for at least 10 years, and is retired or deceased.

Biographical or Historical Data (250-1000 words)

Mary Stroube Adams was a highly educated and important influence in advanced academics for all students in Temple ISD, working for the district in several capacities for over 45 years. She believed in inclusivity and worked tirelessly to engage all students from all backgrounds. She inherited her strong Texas values from her education in Abilene, Texas, moving to SMU and then Stanford University, where she blossomed into a civil rights advocate following the tenets of Dr. Martin Luther King; his influence upon her decisions about what is best for children has remained with her throughout her extensive career. Her time spent working with college admissions for Stanford prepared her well for the amazing letters of recommendation she would later write both for her students and her colleagues, opening doors for them. Mary Adams began her teaching career with the University of Houston, moving to Middlesex Academy in Massachusetts and finally settling in Temple to teach for Temple ISD. She was the first female teacher at Middlesex; breaking through barriers was a particular strength she had. She and her husband, Dr. Louis Adams, a pediatric ophthalmologist, raised their children to attend schools in Temple ISD, where all three flourished. The couple became everpresent in the cultural life of the community through the Cultural Activities Center, the Temple Symphony Orchestra, and Temple Civic Theater; they were both avid THS sports fans, and there was rarely a performance from THS fine arts programs Mary missed. Mary was instrumental in teaching groups of high school students and adults the game of bridge and helped build interest in the game. Even after their retirement, the couple continued to support everything Temple and especially Temple ISD.

Description of the significant contribution(s) or historical significance (250-500 words)

Administrative positions Mary Adams held over the years included district-wide coordinator roles in K-12 Gifted Education, Language Arts, and Social Studies. She served as an interim principal at Temple High School as well as Curriculum Coordinator and Dean of Instruction and Campus Site-Based (SBDM) Facilitator. Even after her retirement she stayed completely attached to Temple ISD, serving in such capacities as teaching part-time as needed in both AP and IB English courses, as facilitator for Advanced Academics (writing countless letters of recommendation to college for THS seniors), and serving in way or another with the Temple Education Foundation. She was especially proud of her mentoring of elementary students and encouraged others to make a commitment to our community's youth. Mary Adams would accept some administrative duties with Temple ISD but always managed to teach at least three hours a day and believed all administrators should teach to stay focused upon students over any other considerations. She managed to help hire exceptional teachers and administrators over her years, seeing the potential in them and working with them to bring out their best, just as she inspired and encouraged her students. She was a champion of intellectual freedom, and everyone who met her became her student. Temple High School blossomed in her care, and she initiated honors courses, which evolved into Advanced Placement courses, Dual Credit courses in conjunction with Temple College, and International Baccalaureate courses. Our high school was the first to offer a course in the Humanities in the state of Texas. At that time there was a rigorous application process to take the course and to remain in advanced academics, but Mary quickly worked to eliminate those requirements and open up all advanced courses to any student who wanted to take them. A rich mixture of students from all walks of life and countries in those courses grew to large numbers, mirroring the breadth of ethnicities and world cultures found in the community. Her classes and the Humanities course became quite large with almost 100 students taking the evening Humanities course and more than that spread out in her day courses, creating a need to find a larger space to accommodate them, which administration always supported. We can be quite proud of that inclusivity.

An impact statement explaining why a facility or school should be named after this person (250-500 words)

Mrs. Adams garnered a number of awards through the years, but she is proudest of one from a senior class, the class of 2000, initiating the Mary S. Adams Award at the high school. The selection each year is nominated and voted upon by the senior class, and each year she would present the award to the next recipient, someone who made a significant impact at the high school through their service. Reverend Matthew Wilson (Mr. Stop) was our traffic guard at the entrance to the school for many years, and it was especially gratifying to her that he was the second recipient of the award. In her words she has been "honored to present the award ever since that time to so many cherished colleagues who have given so much to the young people of Temple." Those who worked alongside Mary Adams became better educators by her example. She was masterful at pinpointing what needed to change to improve the learning experience for students and fearless about articulating those needs to anyone. Her students never forgot her or her valuable lessons about how to live and how to treat others; her colleagues are inspired every day by her example of how to take a young mind and heart and grow it, opening up its potential. Mary Adams is the consummate educator and devoted her years of service to the Temple High School family; it is totally appropriate to honor her in some permanent way.

Contact information for Nominee/Family Member:

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Terms of Agreement

I have completed this form accurately to the best of my knowledge and I understand that only complete submissions will be considered. I understand that this is only a nomination and does not guarantee selection. The Temple ISD Board of Trustees will have final authority in naming district facilities.

I agree.

Confirmation Email

janstewartward@gmail.com