

6. How has the person made a significant contribution to public education? _____

Coach Comer served Knox County Schools for 34 years. He founded the PE and basketball programs at West Valley Middle School when the building opened. Coach Comer taught at West Valley for 21 years and helped coach the basketball program for 23 years.

7. How has the person made a substantial contribution to his or her field of endeavor or to society in general? _____

Coach Comer founded the West Valley PE Department and basketball programs in 1999. He taught at West Valley for 21 years, was the head basketball coach for 17 years, and stayed on as an assistant for an additional 6 years. During his tenure as head coach, West Valley played for the County Championship 5+ times and won 3 Championships. As an assistant coach, he helped lead the team to 3 state tournaments.

8. How has the person exemplified scholarship, creativity, leadership or humanitarian and public service? _____

Coach Comer was always highly involved with Fellowship of Christian Athletes and was selected as the 2016 FCA male influencer of the year. Coach Comer was recognized as part of the 1998-1999 Tennessee Association of Middle Schools team of the year.

DIRECTIONS: Please complete the following section if the nominated name represents an event, place, or geographic location:

1. What is the significance of the nominated name to Knox County Schools and the Knox County community? _____

2. How does the nominated name exemplify the values of Knox County Schools and the Knox County community? _____

ATTACHMENTS:

- **Required:** If you have nominated a person's name, please include a written and signed release from the nominated person, or the most closely associated family representative to the nominated person (e.g., spouse, parent, children, or sibling).
- **Required:** Please include contact information for the nominated person or the most closely associated family representative.
- **Required:** Please attach any and all research that supports the name that you have nominated for consideration, including picture(s).
- **Required:** Three (3) letters of recommendation.
- **Suggested:** Additional letters of recommendation are welcome, but not required.

This form, along with all attachments, should be mailed or delivered to:

**Knox County Board of Education
Naming Facilities Committee
P.O. Box 2188
Knoxville, TN 37902-2188**

Reference: Knox County Board of Education F-140 "Naming Facilities"
<https://www.knoxschools.org/cms/lib/TN01917079/Centricity/domain/974/board%20policies/F-140%20Naming%20Facilities.pdf>

Note: Names may be submitted at any time. The Naming Facilities Committee shall convene within a reasonable period of time following receipt of nomination and submission of all required documents. The Committee recommendation will be submitted to the Knox County Board of Education for consideration as part of the regular session agenda process.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT


I acknowledge that I have reviewed Knox County Board of Education Policy F-140, have submitted the Naming Facilities Nomination Form with all required documentation and confirm that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, all information provided is true and correct.



Signature  Date 1-22-20

For questions, please contact the Board of Education office at (865) 594-1630 or by email at board.office@knoxschools.org.

For Use by Naming Facilities Committee only

Principal acknowledgement and confirmation of review of documentation, research and input.

Signature  Date 2/10/2020

Regional Director  Regional Supervisor 

Superintendent acknowledgement and confirmation of review of documentation, research and input.

Signature _____ Date _____

Statement of Nondiscrimination: In accordance with Public Law 101-336 and 42 U.S.C. § 12101, Knox County Board of Education does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, creed, religion, national origin, sex or disabilities in providing education services, activities, and programs, including vocational programs, in accordance with Title IV of the Civil Rights Act of 1964; Title IX of the Educational Amendments of 1972; and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973.



JENNIFER VACEK
PRINCIPAL

West Valley Middle School

9118 George Williams Road

Knoxville, TN 37922

Phone (865) 539-5145

Fax (865) 539-5155

MATT PATTILLO
ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

JESSICA McDONALD
ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

SHANE CHAMBERS
ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR

December 15, 2025

Dear Mrs. Vacek and Mr. Pattillo:

I am writing to give my permission to name the West Valley Middle School basketball court "Comer Court".

Sincerely,

Chuck Comer



JENNIFER VACEK
PRINCIPAL

West Valley Middle School

9118 George Williams Road

Knoxville, TN 37922

Phone (865) 539-5145

Fax (865) 539-5155

MATT PATTILLO
ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

JESSICA McDONALD
ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

SHANE CHAMBERS
ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR

Charles "Chuck" Comer

Cell Phone: 865-936-0536

E-mail: isitfridayyet50@knology.net

Address: 1119 Francis Road. Knoxville, TN 37909

January 8, 2026

Dear Knox County School Board,

I am writing to express my strongest support for naming the basketball court in honor of Coach Chuck Comer. There is no one more deserving of this recognition, and I consider it a privilege to offer this letter on his behalf.

I had the honor of working alongside Coach Comer as a physical education teammate for 22 years, as well as coaching with him in track for three years. Over the course of our long professional relationship, I witnessed firsthand the immeasurable impact he made on both education and athletics, particularly during his time at West Valley.

Coach Comer's contributions extended far beyond teaching skills or running practices. While he was an outstanding basketball and track coach, his true passion was shaping young people into responsible, respectful, and confident individuals. He cared deeply for his students, his athletes, and the school community. He took genuine interest in learning about his students' families and their interests and activities outside of school, building meaningful relationships that lasted well beyond the classroom or the season.

Coach Comer firmly believed in the concept of the student-athlete. He consistently encouraged his athletes to excel academically as well as athletically, holding them to high standards while offering unwavering support. His influence helped countless students grow not only as athletes, but as people of character.

Naming the basketball court after Coach Chuck Comer would be a fitting and lasting tribute to a man whose dedication, integrity, and leadership shaped generations of students and athletes. His legacy at West Valley is one of service, mentorship, and genuine care for others, and this honor would reflect the profound difference he made in so many lives.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lori West".

Lori West
West Valley Middle School
Physical Education Specialist



Hardin Valley Elementary School

11445 Hardin Valley Road
Knoxville, TN 37932

David Claxton – Principal
Heather Records – Assistant Principal
Dr. Karen Sharpe – Assistant Principal

865-470-2088 Fax 865-560-1480

www.knoxschools.org/hardinvalleyes

To Whom it May Concern,

I am honored to share some thoughts about a living legend of KCS middle school basketball - Coach Chuck Comer. I was blessed to serve with him at West Valley Middle School from 2012 - 2023. In my role as an administrator at West Valley Middle School, I was afforded the opportunity to personally witness his day-to-day and year-to-year impact on not only the players he coached, but also on the students he taught in the building.

Coach Comer is a wonderful storyteller, and I always enjoyed listening to him tell stories from some games from the past. The wins and the losses. Some of my favorites are the ones where he stated they "...grabbed defeat from the jaws of victory...", but one of my favorites is "...you have to score to win...". Many years ago, an enthusiastic parent shouted this ("...you have to score to win...") to Coach Comer from the stands when he was implementing a game plan to deliberately slow the game down to limit the number of scoring opportunities for the talented opposing team. Coach Comer knew what he was doing to try and win the game. Reflecting on Coach Comer's career at WVMS, winning was certainly something Coach Comer knew how to do.

As the head coach of West Valley Middle School, his record was an amazing 202-125 (62% winning percentage). After stepping down as the head coach, Coach Comer continued to be an assistant coach for West Valley Middle and teach fundamentals/coach/mentor the JV and 6th grade teams. I will also add that anyone associated with sports can testify that it is hard to win a championship. Coach Comer won championships four different ways at West Valley: two regular season league championships, three middle school tournament championships, two academic middle school championships, and two team sportsmanship awards. Moreover, as he continued to serve as an assistant coach at West Valley Middle when he stepped down from head coaching, his fingerprints are also on the continued sectional and state level basketball success at West Valley. I would argue that every men's basketball trophy outside the West Valley Middle School gym is connected to him in some way - as a head coach and/or as an assistant coach.

However, when it comes to West Valley Middle having young people, boys and girls alike, surrounded by dependable, honorable, and dedicated adults on and off the court then the students and players at West Valley while Coach Comer was serving there were gladly undefeated! As an example, in addition to teaching and coaching, he sponsored on his own time the FCA and Teens For Christ clubs for years that met before school each week.

Having an opportunity to have the court named in his honor is a deserving and a fitting way to highlight his legacy for KCS schools and highlight the positive impact he made on the players he coached and the students he taught. It would be so very easy to ask a plethora of former players to share their thoughts about Coach Comer deserving this honor and I imagine all of them would share, upon reflection, that he is and will continue to be one of the most positive influential figures in their lives. "You have to score to win..." and, in my personal experience, West Valley Middle and KCS won when they "scored" Coach Chuck Comer back in 1999 to be a teacher and as a basketball coach.

What a great continued legacy it would be for the court at West Valley Middle to officially be named in his honor.

Sincerely,

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

David Claxton

Principal

Hardin Valley Elementary School

Former Administrator of West Valley Middle School (2012 -2023)

January 2, 2026

To the Members of the Naming Committee of the Knox County Schools (KCS) Board of Education,

I am writing to offer my strongest recommendation that the basketball court at West Valley Middle School (WVMS) be named in honor of Charles (Chuck) Comer, a retired Physical Education teacher and Basketball coach whose dedication, leadership, and service have left a lasting impact on our school community.

For numerous years, Mr. Comer served the students at WVMS with exceptional commitment and passion. As a Physical Education teacher and Basketball coach, he went far beyond teaching skills and the rules of the game. Comer instilled in students the values of teamwork, discipline, perseverance, and respect – lessons that extend well beyond the gym and into everyday life.

The basketball court, in particular was a space where Comer's influence was most strongly felt. Countless students were introduced to the game, encouraged to challenge themselves, and supported regardless of skill level. He consistently fostered an inclusive environment where all students felt welcome, motivated and valued. Many former students credit Comer with sparking a lifelong love of physical activity or helping them develop confidence and character through sports.

In addition to teaching and coaching, Comer contributed to the WVMS school community through organizing events, mentoring students, supporting teachers and school leaders, etc. His professionalism, integrity, and genuine care for learners earned the respect of colleagues, families, and administrators alike.

Naming the basketball court in honor of Charles (Chuck) Comer would be a fitting and meaningful tribute to a career dedicated to student growth, wellness, and school spirit. It would serve as a lasting reminder to future generations of the positive influence one educator can have on an entire community.

Thank you for your consideration of this recommendation. I would be happy to provide any additional information in support of this nomination.

Sincerely,



Renee Kelly
Former Principal
West Valley Middle School
Renee.Kelly@ClaytonHomes.com
865-384-5651

1/6/2026

To: Knox County School Board

Re: Court naming for Chuck Comer

From: Dr. Brad Corum, Director of Academies

School Board Members,

It is my privilege to be asked to submit a reference letter on behalf of naming the West Valley Middle School basketball court in honor of Chuck Comer. During my tenure as Assistant Principal at West Valley Middle School, I had the privilege of working with Chuck as both a teacher and a coach in the athletic program. During this time, I found Chuck to be an exemplary staff member and coach, representing the school and the athletic program with professionalism, dedication, and humble dignity. Chuck has coached numerous teams since the middle school's opening and has worked to instill essential values of citizenship, teamwork, and accountability, both personally and as student-athletes.

Given my experience with Chuck and this program at West Valley Middle, I would be remiss if I did not submit this letter of support. I truly feel he is a coach, teacher, and person well-deserving of this honor. Again, he has been a stalwart representative of both the school and the basketball program since the school's opening. I would ask that he be given every consideration in this process. I thank you for the opportunity to share this information with you.

Respectfully,

Brad C. Corum, Ed.D.

Knox County Schools

December 19, 2025

Knox County Board of Education

Please accept this letter of support for the consideration of naming the basketball court of West Valley Middle School "Comer Court". Comer Court would be named in honor of long time Knox County teacher, coach, and mentor to student Charles 'Chuck' Comer.

Chuck made a career of teaching, coaching, and mentoring students while serving the majority of his tenure at West Valley Middle School. Chuck had a great deal of success as boys' basketball coach. What is more impressive about Chuck Comer is that he is a 'Transformational coach'. By definition, a transformational coach is one who is more concerned with the players heart than their ability. Chuck won many championships over the years however, as a transformational coach, he won many more hearts!

I had the honor of serving alongside of Chuck for three years while serving as a school administrator at West Valley Middle School. Chuck was/is a fine teacher who demonstrated outstanding pedagogy as well as leadership. Additionally, I had the privilege of being a parent of one of Chuck's basketball players. My son has fond memories of Coach Comer taking time to show him specific skills even though he was not one of the main players. Each time I see Chuck now, he asks about my son. That matters to me as a father.

It is because of these reasons as well as the hundreds of students and players Chuck coached and taught over the years why I fully support the naming of the West Valley Middle School Gymnasium floor after such a fine, and upright man as Chuck Comer. I am honored to call him friend. He has made me and many others better men just by the way he lives his life and the outstanding example of a Godly man he is.

Sincerely,

Rich Fulford

A circular handwritten signature in black ink, containing the initials 'RF'.

Head of School, The Christian Academy of Knoxville

Noel James Landrum II

10237 Canton Place Lane ♦ Knoxville, TN 37922 ♦ 513-225-3418 ♦ noel.landrum@knoxschools.org

Knox County Schools
400 W. Summit Hill Drive
Knoxville, TN 37902

January 5, 2026

To the Knox County School Board,

My name is Noel Landrum. This is my twelfth year teaching at West Valley and I also served as the boys basketball coach for nine years.

I want to take the honored opportunity to join countless others and recommend that the basketball court at West Valley be named "Chuck Comer Court" in honor of Coach Charles Comer, a long time teacher and basketball coach within the Knox County School System.

I served as Coach Comer's assistant coach from 2014-2016 and then he served as my assistant coach from 2018-2024. In the eight years that Coach and I worked together, we competed in seven Knox County championship games, we won four Knox County Championships, and went to the Tennessee State Tournament three times. Prior to my joining his staff, Coach Comer won an additional three championships and West Valley was regularly competing for regular season and tournament titles.

However, the real legacy of Coach Comer went far beyond the basketball court. He was a mentor to myself, but was a leader to so many others. He stays in contact with many of his former players and remains friends with coaches that he competed with decades ago. His presence is infectious and he always takes the time to ask how others are doing.

He also always set an example for kindness in every interaction he had. He took the title of teacher quite personally and always led students in a kind and reflective manner, something I strive to model but will never attain as Coach Comer is truly one of a kind.

Coach Comer's legacy is synonymous with both West Valley basketball but the school at large. He continued working with the basketball program for years after he retired as a teacher and is still a regular attendee at games. He is the alpha wolf in our pack and there is nobody more fitting for the court at West Valley to be named after. It is both as an honor to him but also as a reminder for what all of us at West Valley should aspire to be.

He is inspirational and beloved by all at West Valley, and I cannot wait to celebrate this tremendous honor with him.

Thank you for any and all consideration,



Noel James Landrum II

- From Coach Henry to Coach Comer
- For being a great, perfect fit when you came to Farrago Middle
 - West Valley had not opened up and you made us ^{ONE} of five P.E. teachers
 - we were running about 1800 students and surrounded by Flat tops.
 - The year we were together we became the best of friends
 - we learned that we were both Christians and had wonderful Christian families
 - When West Valley opened up a number of our teachers went to West Valley, Coach Comer being one of them.
 - I, Coach Henry was at the end of my Basketball Coaching career (35 yrs) not teaching (49 yrs) when my health broke. By this time Coach Comer was at West Valley
 - More than once I told Coach Comer I should have quit coaching, D.D. and gave him the program. To late
 - He had gone to West Valley as their P.E. teacher and Boys Basketball Coach
 - And the rest is history. He built a Basketball dynasty at W.V. & its going strong today

Outside of teaching & coaching
at different schools we still do
family things together

1. we go out & eat

2. we been on 1 vacation together

3. we been on 2 cruises together

4. Chuck & I became golfing

Buddies for years down at Ed Boling's

Ex. Meadow Par 3. After the B.B. season

we would play every Thursday

rite at Ed Boling's Par 3 in Lenox City

5. my wife & I came to Chuck's

retirement from West Valley.

IN the Bible God tells us if
we honor Him he will in due time
honor us

Chuck with His total life has
been a great Christian example to all

So much more than I can say
about my dear friend.

you in our prayers daily with your
health needs.

Love in Christ, Coach Henry FMS