FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Northdale Academy Plans Ceremony to Name Gym After Founding Principal

BATON ROUGE, La. — The East Baton Rouge Parish School System and Northdale Superintendent's Academy will honor the school's founding principal, Leroy Helire Jr., by naming the school's gymnasium in his honor during a special ceremony.

The Leroy Helire Jr. Gymnasium Dedication and Naming Ceremony will be held from **9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 11,** at the school, 4451 Fairfields Ave. Helire will be present for the celebration.

"This dedication will celebrate Mr. Helire's pioneering leadership and his lasting impact on generations of students, educators, families and the greater Baton Rouge community," said Northdale Principal Alisha Hebert. "This reflects our desire to recognize an educational leader whose legacy remains deeply connected to our school and community."

The event is part of the school's 40th anniversary celebration. Northdale was established in 1986 through a partnership between the district and the Greater Baton Rouge Area Chamber of Commerce to address the growing high school dropout rate.

Today, the school is known as Northdale Superintendent's Academy and continues to serve students in grades 6–12. This is Northdale's first year at its Fairfields Avenue location — the former campus of Belfair Montessori — after more than three decades on Cletus Drive.

During his approximately 28 years in leadership, Helire helped establish a school culture rooted in consistency, discipline, accountability, perseverance and academic achievement. He believed that every student deserves an opportunity to succeed, regardless of the challenges they may have encountered along the way.

Helire's contributions extend far beyond the walls of Northdale. He remains a respected figure in EBR Schools and throughout the Baton Rouge community.

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