



# GREATER ALBANY PUBLIC SCHOOLS CommunityNews

## A New Era for Greater Albany Public Schools!



Due to your support we passed a \$159 million dollar construction bond in a convincing

manner. This is the largest facility bond passed by our community. As a result of your willingness to invest in our schools, we will be able to create new and modern spaces for student learning and help address overcrowding issues around our school district.

I am particularly excited about the investment our school district is making in Career and Technical Education (CTE). This type of education is also referred to as Vocational Technical Education and Science Technology Engineering Math (STEM) education.

The Greater Albany Public Schools is in partnership with the Albany Area Chamber of Commerce, local businesses, Linn Benton Community College and OSU in developing new programs that will prepare our students to compete in the modern workforce.

*Continued on p. 3.*

## High school dual credit program gives students an early college boost

In partnership with Linn Benton Community College, Greater Albany high schools are offering college course through the state-approved College Now program. College Now is available through community colleges at schools around the state. It is a jump-start to college that can expose students to post-high school opportunities and allow them to earn college credits that will save them tuition costs.

South and West Albany high schools are among 16 schools in the Linn Benton area that participate in the LBCC College Now program. High school teachers must be approved to teach College Now by Linn Benton. To be eligible, they need a masters degree in the instructional field or sufficient industry experience.

GAPS HS Participation in LBCC College Now	Unduplicated (total number of students)	Duplicated (total course participation for students enrolled in more than one course)	Credits Earned
South Albany HS	234	599	2,278
West Albany HS	346	1,154	4,003



*Sunrise Elementary School students enjoy outdoor playtime during recess.*

Read about bond project planning on page 3.

## Greater Albany School District Every Kid. Every Day.

*Believe in best intentions.  
Ask for clarification.  
Test for understanding.*

GAPS staff are using these guidelines to improve communications between individuals and teams of people.

We are charged with meeting the needs of every kid every day! Our school district is focused on the Five Pillars, which we know are essential for creating great public schools.

The Five Pillars, below, will form the structure for the District's strategic plan to guide decision making. The School Board will discuss one pillar every month, beginning in October.

### **Pillar 1: Schools that produce good citizens**

- Mentally and physically healthy kids.
- People who give back to their communities through service.
- Creating an inclusive community where all people are valued.

### **Pillar 2: All students graduate and go on to successful post high school outcomes**

- Employability skills, good attendance, work habits and social skills.
- Lifelong learners (high school is not enough!).
- Degrees, certificates and personal improvement through more education.

### **Pillar 3: Equity Lens**

- Schools are places that overcome individual circumstances purposefully.
- Resources are allocated in a manner that helps overcome issues of poverty and race. Outcomes for all groups are similar.
- Continual reflection on operations. No shame, no blame, no excuses.

### **Pillar 4: Continuous Improvement Principles are used system wide**

- The organization embraces a "Growth Mindset."
- The organization utilizes continuous improvement principles and has a culture that has the technical training and believes in system thinking and improvement.
- Decisions are made using data and a culture of continuous improvement permeates the entire school system.

### **Pillar 5: Efficient Operations**

- Schools are system-oriented and seek to continuously improve operations.
- Transparent operations with explicit measurements.
- Public and private partnerships are sought out in order to leverage more resources to improve student outcomes.

# Bond Project Update

Superintendent's Message, continued from p. 1

*"I want to sincerely thank the Greater Albany community for supporting our school bond last May."*

— Superintendent Jim Golden

## Vocational / CTE Education Spaces

We will be adding these spaces, along with teachers and curriculum, to help prepare our students for employment in a modern economy. The modern workforce will require integrated technical work skills, creativity, and the ability to work effectively with teams of people. We need to prepare our students for a future that has not yet been created but will emerge as a result of continued efficiency, improved technology and international competition.

We will also add new CTE/VTE/STEM spaces at both West Albany and South Albany high schools and at each of our middle schools.

## Oak Grove Elementary Remodel/Addition

As part of our bond projects, we will be doing a major remodel at Oak Grove Elementary, which will add enrollment capacity and modern learning spaces. We will be building a new elementary school next to Timber Ridge with a likely capacity of 600 students.

## West Albany High School

Finally, we will begin a two-phase remodel of West Albany High School that will include a new commons that will feed into the existing gymnasium and a new auditorium.

The first phase of the remodel at West Albany High School will be completed by the fall of 2020 along with most of the other major bond projects. This is truly a historic time for the Greater Albany Public Schools and I feel so fortunate to work in a community that fully understands the value of education and works to partner with and support our mission.

## Bond Project Community Meetings

We will be holding community meetings in our buildings which are undergoing extensive remodels or CTE/VTE/STEM projects later this fall or in the early winter to share with you the exciting work we are doing to make our school system an even better place for our children.

Most of the remodel work and the new elementary school next to Timber Ridge will be completed by the fall of 2019.

I am truly excited for our students and the enhanced educational experiences that the bond projects will provide in every school in the district.

Sincerely,  
Superintendent Jim Golden

## Site plan for new elementary school near Timber Ridge School.

See more architectural drawings and conceptual designs at [www.albany.k12.or.us/district/bond-project-planning](http://www.albany.k12.or.us/district/bond-project-planning).



Read more about the bond projects at [albany.k12.or.us/district/bond-project-planning](http://albany.k12.or.us/district/bond-project-planning)



**Greater Albany Public Schools**

718 7th Avenue SW

Albany, OR 97321

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Postal Customer

## About our District:

<b>Total Enrollment: 9,521 (October 2017)</b> Elementary (K-5): 4,436; Middle (6-8): 2,151; High (9-12): 2,868 Post Grad: 66
<b>Schools: 21</b> Elementary schools (K-5): 14; Timber Ridge (3-8); Middle schools: 3; High schools (9-12): 3 SAHS and WAHS are <i>comprehensive</i> , <i>Albany Options</i> is an <i>alternative high school</i> .
<b>Students (2016-17 data)</b> Special Education students: 13.5% English Language Learners: 9%
<b>Staff</b> Total Employees: 1,213 Teachers: 534.35 FTE; Classified: 515.53 FTE; Confidential: 5 FTE; Principals/Administrators.: 47 FTE <i>FTE stands for Full-Time Equivalent or full-time positions.</i>



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**Find important dates on the district website: [www.albany.k12.or.us/about/academic-calendar/](http://www.albany.k12.or.us/about/academic-calendar/)**

### Upcoming Key Dates:

**Oct. 13:** No School

**Oct. 20:** No School

**Oct. 26-27:** Parent conferences

**Nov. 10:** No School: Veterans Day (observed)

**Nov. 11:** Albany Veterans Day Parade with GAPS Marching Bands

**Nov. 23-24:** No School: Thanksgiving

**Dec. 18 - Jan. 1:** No School: Winter Break



### For More Information

For more information about Greater Albany Public Schools, please contact us:

Phone: 541-967-4501 • E-mail: [info@albany.k12.or.us](mailto:info@albany.k12.or.us) • Web: [www.albany.k12.or.us](http://www.albany.k12.or.us)

