

Board Member Appreciation Month

IN HONOR of January being Board Member Appreciation Month, we'd like to thank our hard-working school board members.

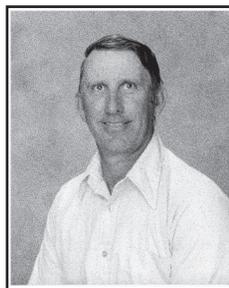


Jennifer Ward is a biologist for the Watershed Program for the City of Corvallis, and Board Chair for Greater Albany Public Schools. All three of her children are either alums of GAPS or currently enrolled.

Her favorite aspect of occupying a position on the board is the endless opportunities for educational and leadership development. She is

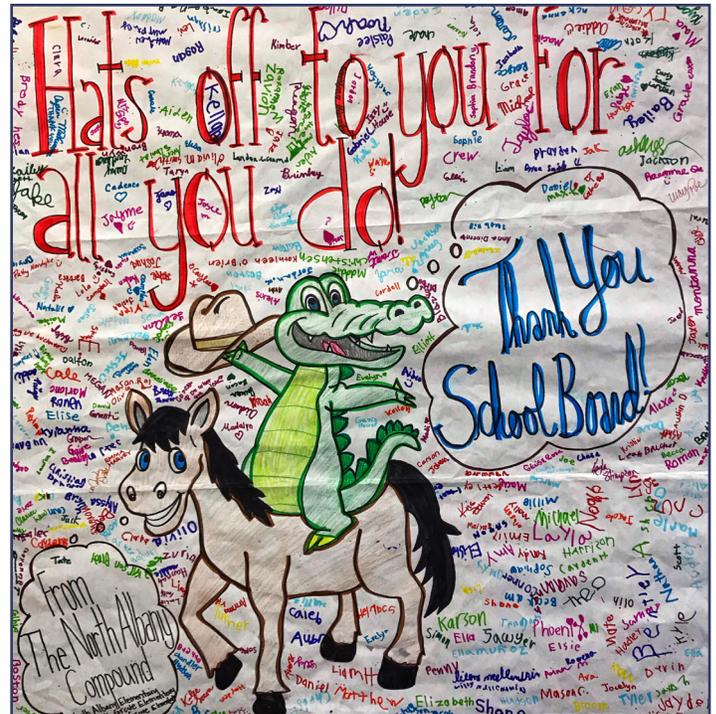
especially thankful to voters passing the bond. "Seeing the new schools, CTE spaces, and safety upgrades is exciting!"

Frank Bricker is Vice Chair and has been farming in North Albany for nearly thirty years. He and his wife, Linda, will be celebrating their fiftieth wedding anniversary in September. Two of his children pursued farming, and his daughter, Patty, teaches classes at Lafayette Elementary School.



Serving on the board provides Frank dynamic challenges where he can use his experience and practicality to help the community.

Kim Butzner is the communications manager for the Department of Justice. Albany pride runs strong in her family's veins; her husband and



A drawing by the students of North Albany Complex, of an alligator on a horse. Text reads, "Hats off to you for all you do! Thank you, School Board!"

Key Dates

Feb. 18: No school (Presidents Day)

March 25-29: No school (Spring Break)

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son are South Albany alums, and her daughter is a South Albany freshman. Her motivation for being on the board is the ability to “help make crucial educational and safety decisions for the best interest of the kids, families, and community.”

She enjoys travel, photography, and boating, and has a delightful three-year old Boxer mix named Maggie.



Micah Smith is a board member for GAPS and a Lieutenant at Linn County Sheriff's Office. He has a wife and three kids, and enjoys working on their hobby farm and playing board games. Advocacy and leadership are strong themes in Micah's work; he loves giving his time to bettering the education of youth in the Albany School District.

“Students from GAPS travel the world, attend advanced schooling, find employment, and serve in our military. They become integral members in our society. It's a privilege to play a small part in that success.”

Lyle Utt is a programmer analyst for Marion County. He has a wife and three children, plus two wonderful grandchildren. As a genealogy hobbyist, he can trace five generations of his family back to the Willamette Valley. Helping GAPS kids succeed motivates him to keep working hard. ♦



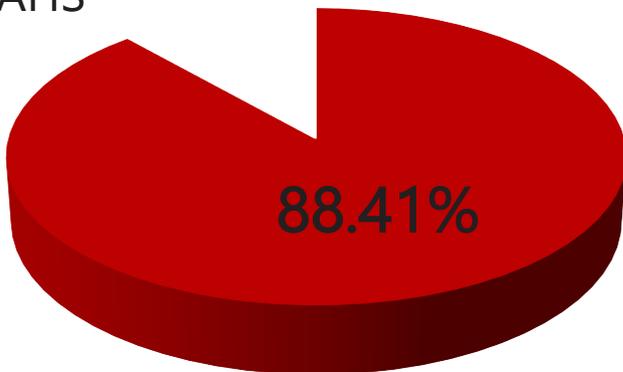
Thank You, Board Members!

Graduation Rates

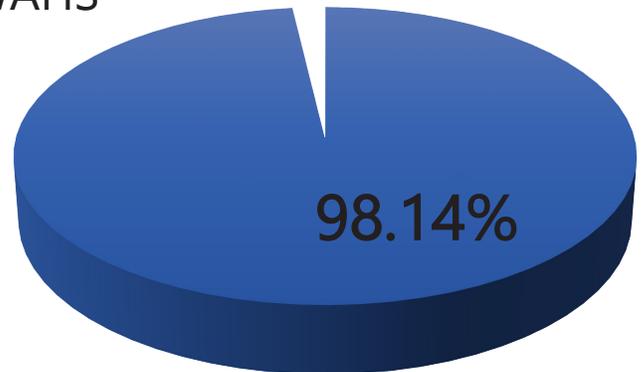
THE 2017-2018 graduation data for Greater Albany Public Schools shows gains across all three high schools in four-year cohort graduation rates, with a total of 2.3% growth from last year, and a 4.6% growth from five years ago. The percentage of overall growth in GAPS is greater than the state average, including graduation rates in underserved student populations, such as Hispanic/Latino, economically disadvantaged, and students with disabilities populations.

4-Year Cohort Graduation Rates

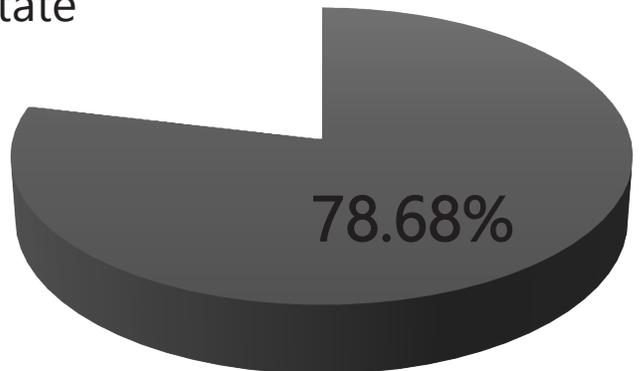
SAHS



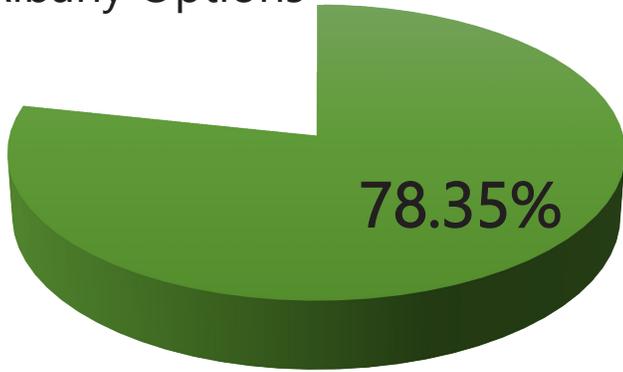
WAHS



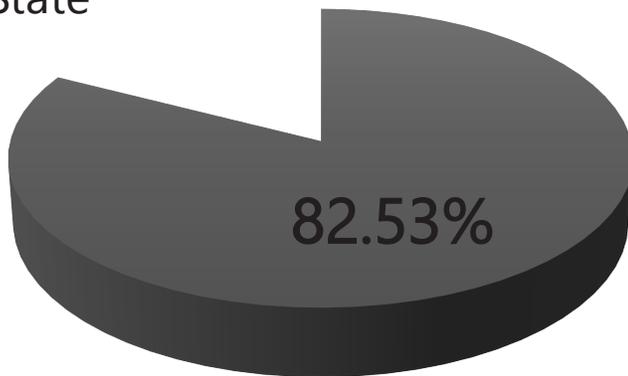
State



4-Year Completer Rates Albany Options



State



South Albany High School had a cohort-graduation rate of 88.4% in the 2017-2018 school year. They continue to close the achievement gap, with 86.9% of underserved races and ethnicities graduating, a 1.5% variance.

West Albany High School had a graduation rate of 98.4%, with 2.3% growth from the year before. Underserved races and ethnicities graduated at 95.2%, students with disabilities graduated at 84.9%, and economically disadvantaged students graduated at 97.4%.

Albany Options, the alternative high school for GAPS, had nearly 5% in growth of their graduation rates from the year before. Their four-year cohort completer rate was 78.4%, a growth of 1.6%. A completer rate is the percentage of students who received a diploma or a GED, which gives a more holistic view of measuring student success in alternative high school programs.

“Every child matters and our staff go above and beyond to see their students succeed.” That’s how Assistant Superintendent Lisa Harlan explains how the Greater

Albany Public School District increased their overall high school graduation rates.

Albany Online, AVID, Red Hawks Rising, Albany Options School—these programs have an individualized approach for students to make up credits and demonstrate their abilities. They are time intensive but create necessary relationships between teachers and students, and the numbers speak for themselves.

“Having served in other districts, I’ve been impressed with the focus our district has given to the importance of high school graduation,” Interim Superintendent Tim Mills, EdD, said. “Graduation rates are a reflection of the entire k-12 system, and the result of a supportive community. The community should be proud of the work of teachers and administrators in our district. We’re committed to continuing the trend of increasing graduation rates.”

Thank you, teachers! And thank you, students, for your perseverance. Without a community effort, none of this would have been possible. ♡

GAPS Core Purpose

To educate and inspire all students to reach their full potential, equipped to be positive, contributing members to society.

Superintendent Search

THE SEARCH for a new superintendent has begun! Initial interviews will start in March, and in April a selection will be made. The Superintendent search webpage was updated after winter break, and will be updated as the search moves forward. There will be monthly newsletters, calendar items, and highlights to come.

Please go to:

<https://albany.k12.or.us/district/superintendent-search-information>



www.albany.k12.or.us



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Bond Updates

IN THE May 2017 election, voters approved a construction bond to update and improve facilities and security, to relieve crowding and improve instructional space in Greater Albany Public Schools.

The major projects include two new schools, Meadow Ridge and Oak Grove. Oak Grove is a 500 student replacement elementary school, well into construction, opening Fall 2019.

Meadow Ridge is also under construction, a brand new school for 600 students, which will help relieve overcrowding in both Clover Ridge and Timber Ridge schools. It's completion is scheduled for January 2020.

The possible reorganization for the schools, including other details, are being discussed by a focus group, which consists of parents, staff, and community members. They meet every every other week and expect to have a plan to submit to the interim superintendent by March, who will then make a recommendation to the school board.



Meadow Ridge construction site (24 Jan 2019).

Improvements and new Career Technical Education (CTE) classrooms are planned for all middle and high schools. Both South and West Albany High School are building new spaces for students. West Albany is building a 107,000 ft space for a commons, auditorium, gym, and CTE classrooms (Phase 1 replacement), opening Fall 2020.



Oak Grove construction site (24 Jan 2019).

Construction of South Albany has already begun. There will be a new gym, auditorium, and new CTE spaces in addition they will be upgrading security with fencing, cameras, and door security. The new building will be opening in January 2020.

All bond projects are expected to be finished by Fall 2021. A community newsletter will be available every month for updates. More information can also be found here:

<https://albany.k12.or.us/district/bond>

**Thank you,
voters!**



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PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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