

## New Superintendent Welcome



THE SEARCH for a superintendent for GAPS is finally over! It's our pleasure to welcome and introduce Superintendent Melissa Goff.

Goff has a BS from Western Oregon State College and a MEd from PSU. She began her career in teaching in Mitchell, Oregon, and has been Superintendent of Philomath School District for the past four years.

A mother of two daughters, Goff has been married for twenty-three years and has parents who live in the Willamette Valley. Besides being an avid reader, she also enjoys golf and yoga.

Goff officially begins in July--come say hello!

The process of hiring a new superintendent is determined by the Greater Albany Public Schools Board of Education. In January, there were seventeen interim superintendent positions throughout Oregon, and even more anticipated openings. In order to ensure we had as many high quality candidates as possible, and to protect competing applicants and their anonymity, the GAPS Board chose to make the entire superintendent search process confidential.

To facilitate this process, the district hired a consultant who accumulated input from the community, using fifteen focus groups and a digital public survey, netting a total of 486 participants. This information was compiled to create a profile of desired attributes, which the board utilized as they continued the search.

After six weeks the position was closed and nearly thirty applicants were narrowed to five semi-finalists, who were interviewed by the board in March. The board accepted applications for a community stakeholder committee, of which twenty people were selected, representing our community, students, and staff.

In April, the committee interviewed Superintendent Melissa Goff as a finalist, providing valuable feedback for the board's final interview. On April 8th, the board voted to enter contract negotiations with Goff and appointed two board members to perform a site visit as the final component to the selection process.

On April 22nd, the board voted on a contract and hired Goff as superintendent of Greater Albany Public Schools.

"Melissa has been impressive in every interaction I've had with her," Board Chair Ward states. "The board recognizes she has the leadership skills and personal integrity necessary to lead our district, and this understanding was reinforced at the site visit to Philomath with Director Utt."

The timeline for the superintendent search has been available on the district website, and updates have been discussed during public school board meetings. Throughout the entire process the board has been confident in their selection, and they are grateful for all those who applied and participated in the search. We as a district are thankful to Interim Superintendent, Tim Mills, EdD, for his hard work and are looking forward to resuming the solid leadership he has provided for GAPS.

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“Finding opportunities to connect with GAPS families is a priority for me,” says Superintendent Goff. “I look forward to listening to a variety of parent and community groups over the course of the summer.” ♦

## OBOB

OREGON BATTLE OF THE BOOKS is a statewide reading program, created to inspire reading and to reward students for their diligence. The staff is made up of volunteers who select sixteen books for each grade level (3-5, 6-8, and 9-12).

Small teams of students compete to correctly answer sixteen specific questions about the books they have read, using tie breakers as needed. Students are also able to issue a challenge if they feel their answer was accurate.

Meanwhile, spectators can watch this rapid fire exchange on the edge of their seats, and enjoy the general feeling of excitement for reading and books.

This year’s OBOB, GAPS teams from North Albany were configured differently than normal, due to Oak Grove’s building being under construction, so they were able to send three teams to the regional competition in Newberg High School in March.

The 5th grade/NAMS team, Hogwarts’ Heroes, made it to the ‘Sweet Sixteen’ and they placed second in the region, which allowed them to compete in the Oregon Battle of the Books’ State Competition at Chemeketa College on April 9th.

Our students played admirably--they even challenged a question--and had a fabulous time. We are proud of our 5th grade students and of all the students who participated in this year’s Battle of the Books.

We’d like to thank our staff leaders, Jen Crow, who is the team’s coach; Beth Riley, who typically acts as a moderator at battles; and our principals, Jerrie Matuszak and Kilee Sowa, who are tremendously supportive. We’d also like to thank our Hogwarts’ Heroes’ parents.

Besides OBOB, ‘Book Madness’ takes place in March, when our classrooms pit picture books against each other, with students voting for their favorites and crowning a champion book each year. This year, our North Albany/Oak Grove students chose *The Day the Crayons Quit*. ♦

## WHAT OUR KIDS ARE DOING!



Hogwarts’ Heroes, NAMS 5th grade OBOB team.

## Science Night

MAY 7th! Science Night is an event the Timber Ridge PTC has put on for the last couple of years. They work with LBCC and OSU and have different groups come in to teach the kids about their various disciplines, including the TREE group from Lebanon, who visit to explain the latest projects they are working on.

The LEGO(R) Robotics teams from OSU make an appearance, as well as high school and middle school level robotics teams, who demonstrate their prowess. There will also be a community member to discuss healthy eating, hand washing, nursing, wild life, sea life, and many other disciplines.

Science Night gives the kids an opportunity to see what technologies and ideas are out there, and how they can be applied to the real world.

Science rules. ♦

 [www.albany.k12.or.us](http://www.albany.k12.or.us)

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# Student Alum Heads Bond Project

I GREW up in Albany,” says Sterling Bristow, a project specialist for HMK Company. “And I attended Liberty, Memorial, and West.”

Built in 1949, the bricks of Liberty Elementary School gleam bright. Though it has been well taken care of throughout the years, the building is aging and it sits on a large block, sharing the space with Memorial Middle and West Albany High School, which can cause crowding.



Sterling at Liberty Elementary School.

## Students Take SAHS Tour

ON FRIDAY, April 12th, HMK Company and Gerding Builders hosted a tour at South Albany High School for three SAHS metals/construction program students and a handful of construction bond overseers and GAPS staff.

Construction workers led the students to the existing structure where the auxiliary gym will be attached, and to the two CTE classrooms being added to what used to be the old auto shop.

The students, a sophomore, junior, and senior, have interests in construction and manufacturing and take two to three classes a day in the SAHS metals program. As they study framing and welding, their projects include creating high quality sheds and dog houses, which they sell for a great value.

On Friday, the project managers for HMK Company and Gerding Builders patiently answered the students’ keen questions and showed them how the projects they were working on in class applied on a greater scale to what the construction bond was building for the district. ♦

Sterling is heading the critical facility upgrades to Liberty, which is using part of the construction bond funds for the district.

“A company out of Salem won the bid for the work being done,” he explains. “We’re going to increase the number of parking spaces and add a parent loop to divert traffic, which is clogging the street. They’ll excavate, tear up the old lot, and then pave it. There’ll also be landscaping to make it look nice.”

Sterling graduated West Albany in 2012. After high school, he took classes at LBCC and then transferred to OSU for business. He interned for HMK Company last May and started full-time in January.

“I’m excited to have a role in a project where I grew up. It’s great to be able to give back.” He grins. “I wouldn’t trade it for anything.” ♦

### Key Dates

- May 6th: All Star Awards
- May 13th: School Board Meeting
- May 17th: Dinner & Art Auction @ NAES
- May 27th: No School (Memorial Day)

### GAPS Core Purpose

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



Going over the details of construction with the metals program students.

# New Schools Grade Reorganization & Boundary Shifts

## The Opening of Oak Grove

ON APRIL 8th, 2019, the Greater Albany School Board approved the following recommendations for the future of Oak Grove, North Albany, and Fir Grove elementary schools upon the opening of the Oak Grove replacement school:

1. North Albany Elementary will remain a K-5 school.
2. Fir Grove Elementary will be closed and repurposed for future use.
3. The new Oak Grove Elementary will open as a K-5 school.

Because of these changes:

- The current Oak Grove school boundary will shift, assigning additional students into North Albany Elementary.
- Current third and fourth graders (fourth and fifth graders for the 2019-2020 school year) who are within the boundary change area will have the option of being grandfathered in and remaining at Oak Grove.
- The transfer request window within the North Albany, Fir Grove, Oak Grove Boundary Area will be reopened for a short period of time for K-3 students.

## Grandfather Option

The option to be grandfathered in and remain at Oak Grove Elementary School is only applicable to current third and fourth grade students who are within the boundary change area. The boundary change area roughly includes a few blocks East and West of Crocker Lane. To view the boundary changes, see this map:

[https://albany.k12.or.us/media/2019/04/Updated\\_North\\_Albania\\_Boundary\\_Change.pdf](https://albany.k12.or.us/media/2019/04/Updated_North_Albania_Boundary_Change.pdf)

Parents who wish to exercise this grandfathering option for their children should make sure to complete the 'Request to Grandfather In' that is available through your school office. Please return your completed form to your school Office Manager.

## K-3 Transfer Request

For K-3 students, we have reopened the online transfer window for those within the North Albany, Fir Grove, Oak Grove home boundary area. Please visit our transfer request site and fill out the '2019-20 School Year: For Families that Currently Reside in the Boundaries for Fir Grove, Oak Grove, and North Albany Elementary Schools' online form. Transfer window will close April 30, 2019.

<https://albany.k12.or.us/parents/transfer-requests>

Both the 'Request to Grandfather In' and the online K-3 transfer request form are due by **April 30th, 2019**.

If you have questions, call Oak Grove Elementary, North Albany Elementary, or the district office.

## The Opening of Meadow Ridge

The Greater Albany School Board also approved the following recommendations for the future of Clover Ridge and Timber Ridge Elementary schools upon the opening of the new Meadow Ridge Elementary school.

1. Meadow Ridge will be opened January 2020 as a K-2 school.
2. Clover Ridge will be closed and repurposed for future use.

Because of these changes:

- All K-2 students attending Clover Ridge Elementary in January 2020 will be moved to Meadow Ridge Elementary.
- In Fall 2020, Timber Ridge will become a 4-8 school.
- In Fall 2020, Meadow Ridge will become a K-3 school. All students who resided in the Clover Ridge home boundary area will now be in the Meadow Ridge home boundary area.

If you have any questions, please contact Clover Ridge Elementary, Timber Ridge Elementary, or the district office. ♦



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