

Greater Albany Public Schools

Community Newsletter
June 2019

West Albany Advanced Business Leadership Students

Dani, Erica, Tristan, and Owen have been accounting program students in Joey Running's business classes for the past three years, taking courses on personal finance and wealth. Without hesitation, they rattle off their class chant for learning the 50/30/20 rule for savings, where 50% goes to needs, 30% to wants, and 20% to savings:

Who do you pay first? "Yourself!"

How much? "Twenty percent!"

These classes and friendships have enriched their lives in many ways, including providing them unique opportunities such as working with local businesses and even traveling to Disney World.

Albany Downtown Association Internships

Dani Sally took part in a mini internship for the Albany Downtown Association, a non-profit which encourages economic growth and creates a thriving heart of the city by promoting local business. The ADA had Dani gathering survey data from the downtown parade, to better understand traffic flow and parking.

Money has always fascinated Dani, who decided to be an accountant when she was only eight years old. Her biggest inspiration at that age was her dad's friend, an accountant. She was fascinated by his travels and studies hard so she can also travel to conferences all around the world.

"The hardest part," she says about studying accounting, "is tracking the money at all times." But that's also the allure, the challenge. She mentions the Rita Crundwell embezzlement case, believed to be the largest municipal fraud in US history. "It's amazing no one caught it. That's our job!"



The six advanced accounting interns and their supervisors.

Key Dates

June 3rd: School Board Meeting
June 6th: WAHS Graduation
June 10th: AOS Graduation
June 11th: SAHS Graduation

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Erica Reitmann also participated in the internship. She maintained the downtown business directory, helped with events, and interviewed the owner of a new business, Natural Sprinkles Co., for the ADA newsletter.

Disney Youth Education Series

Tristan Bailey traveled to Disney World in Orlando, Florida with his peers for a leadership workshop on Disney's strategies to promote their cast members' excellence, guest satisfaction, and phenomenal business growth.

Tristan relates how their four different styles of leadership are all essential to creating a happy, well-functioning team. "Showmanship and courtesy weren't the most important aspects of the Disney model. It's safety. After prioritizing safety for the guests and cast, everything else falls into place."

Communication is essential. "Each cast member is trained on how to do everything, and leadership has to constantly communicate the bigger vision." Branding also plays a part in the Disney model. "Every section of the park has its own specific look, down to the height of the trees!"

As a bonus to their studies, the students were taken on an exclusive tour, where they explored secret passages and the cast exposed tricks of the trade.



WAHS YES Leaders at Disney in Orlando.



Keys to the Kingdom tour.

Owen Muller didn't start out loving accounting. He was always good at math and stumbled into Joey Running's accounting program nearly by accident. He stuck with the program because, "Ms. Running is a great teacher," and now he's going for his CPA.

Include Everyone—No Boxes

Joey Running notes that business as an older CTE program often gets overlooked, but she hopes her students use what she teaches to explore something they are passionate about.

In March, Running joined ninety-nine other educators selected to attend the 2019 Changemakers Summit in San Francisco. These educators were chosen because of their commitment to personal finance and their efforts to bring change to their school communities, districts, and states. ♦

CTE at the Middle Schools

Career Technical Education helps expose students to potential career paths and provides them with the academic and technical skills necessary to succeed in future careers. It encompasses everything from welding to childcare and digital design to the culinary arts.

The Kids Love It

Each middle school has received, or is in the process of receiving, the Paxton and Patterson college and career ready labs, which are self directed hands-on labs using animation, video, and digital technologies, to build skills with STEM learning systems. They explore everything

from food science to surgery to engineering.

Ken Gilbert, principal at Memorial Middle School, says, “The kids love it.” The labs themselves, but also the independence. They readily take ownership of their own education.

Along with these labs, the middle grade students are receiving digital lab spaces with 3D printing, programs for engineering, upgraded tech, and CnC machine designs. “They’ll also have wet labs, set up with industrial sinks and proper ventilation, where they can do small welding projects and use tools.”

And each school will get a Makerspace, which is an all purpose exploration room, including an area where Memorial can hook up their twenty new sewing machines.

Needed: Dynamic Teachers

Principal Gilbert has one CTE program unique to Memorial he’d like to keep running. “We have an incredible gardening program which is student managed. They grow, learn, cultivate. Everything is done by hand, with no tillers or chemicals. The kids are incredibly proud of what they do and we use the produce in our lunch program.”

The problem with some of these unique programs is finding the right teacher for the job. Their current gardening program instructor is retiring, and with that loss they may not be able to fill that unique position.

“We need dynamic teachers who can teach core subjects and who also have a passion in CTE,” says Gilbert. “Including the liberal arts, in areas such as writing and design.”

Other educational experiences Gilbert would love to expose his kids to are banking and financial CTE occupations, shadowing opportunities with local businesses, as well as electrical engineering businesses, canning or metals places, and health care. Hospital staff could present their jobs to the students. Inventors could show the kids their creative and design process.

“ATI, plastics, metals, medicines, aerodynamics, alloys: these areas are being explored at the high school level but not the middle grade level.

“Middle schoolers sometimes struggle understanding how what they do now can impact their future, but at the same time they are fascinated in these subjects and careers. Exposing them early would help.” ♦



Our sixth graders at Outdoor School!

Outdoor School

In April and May, sixth-grade students participated in a three day outdoor school program at Camp Harlow in Eugene, funded through a Measure 99 grant using lottery funds.

Outdoor School, a collaboration between GAPS and Calapooia Watershed Council, provides hands-on science learning, allows students to explore recreational and survival skills such as archery and fire building, and promotes team building through a low-ropes course and a survival shelter.

In addition, high school students serve as cabin leaders and mentors. The entire experience fosters relationship building and engages students in learning opportunities that differ from those in the everyday classroom. ♦

Did You Know?
57% of \$25 million in construction bond contracts have been awarded to local business?

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RedHawks Rising

In 2012/13, before South Albany High School implemented its programs to better their graduation rates and post-secondary preparedness, they had a 58% Latinx graduation rate with a 76% graduation rate overall.

When Nate Munoz was hired as principal to South Albany, one of the ideas he brought with him was a way to improve graduation scores. With the help of Rose Zoellner, he created RedHawks Rising, an after school student study and support group, with a goal of creating relationships between at-risk students and SAHS staff.

Building Relationships Keeps Kids Engaged

RedHawks Rising is held for three sessions throughout the year and is completely voluntary. The first part of the program is independent study and snacks, where teachers work closely with students on their homework and core subjects.

“It gives the teachers a different environment to reach students,” says Zoellner. “This helps them build relationships and keeps kids engaged.”

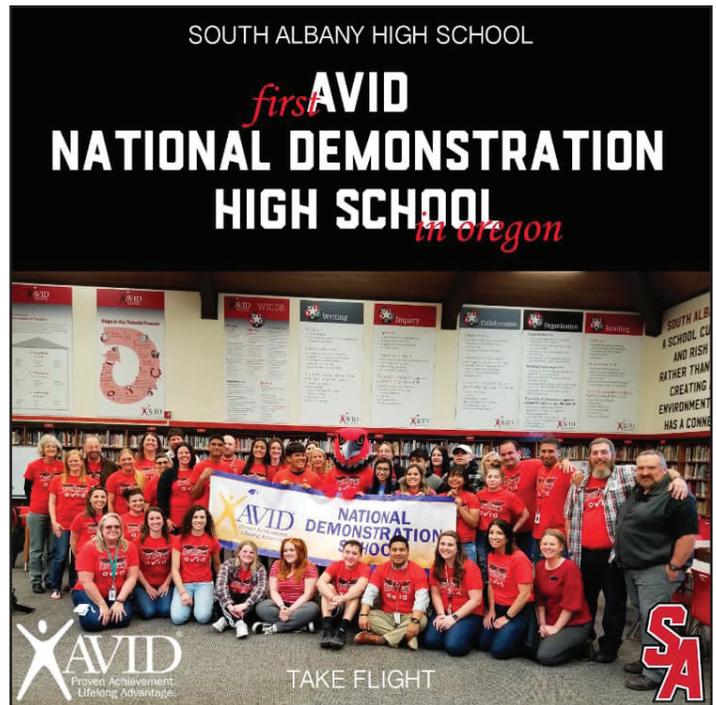
The second part of the program is free dinner participation in enrichment activities, such as knitting, painting, crafts, and culinary sessions.

Besides fostering connections between students and a mentor-teacher, the staff at SAHS also try to connect the community with the students. They have a seminar called ‘Rise’ which is composed of student leaders who promote diversity and volunteer for activities such as ocean cleanup and trail grooming.

“These volunteer activities help the students build skills and their resumes,” says Zoellner, “while connecting them to the community.”

There is also focus on post secondary preparedness with college tours and ACT prep courses, and they expose the students to CTE business partners around Albany.

RedHawks Rising has around two hundred and forty students per semester, and while everyone is welcome, they focus on at-risk youth. “This program is for kids who haven’t found their ‘why’ yet,” says Zoellner, mean-



ing they haven’t found the reason for why they should go to school and apply themselves.

Bringing families into the schools and sending students into the community builds another important aspect of South Albany life, which is family culture. Or as Zoellner says, “Prioritizing service to our students and families.”

South was recently awarded certification as a national AVID demonstration high school, the only high school in Oregon to receive this honor. AVID promotes graduation

GAPS Core Purpose

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

readiness and post-secondary excellence in at risk youth through elective credit classes.

With the implementation of AVID, RedHawks Rising, and other programs, South now has a 92% Latinx graduation rate with a 89% graduation rate overall (2017/18).

Not only have they improved their scores but they’ve closed the achievement gap! Congratulations RedHawks. May you continue to soar. ♡



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