

### Waverly Child Development Center



One of the students learning how to hammer.

**W**averly Child Development Center was established in 2016 and is Greater Albany Public School's first public preschool to be attached to an elementary school. It serves three- to five-year-olds in the Waverly attendance area and second language learners who also feed into Waverly.

The program serves up to forty children, funded through early learning hub grants from the state, and its curriculum is founded on the inquiry approach.

"The inquiry approach is based on the evidence that children are curious and wired to learn," says Katy Allaback, an instructor at Waverly. "It's our job to provide this environment."

Developed in the villages around Reggio Emilia, Italy, after World War II, the goal of the inquiry approach was to teach children how to use the innate symbolic languages they were born with, such as painting, sculpting, and drama, to express their personality. The program is based on the principles of respect, responsibility, and community through exploration and discovery, by using a self-guided curriculum.

One of the benefits of the programs Waverly Preschool has taken note of is the rare occurrence of behavioral problems. The instructors believe this is because the children experience greater social emotional growth and the ability to problem solve.

An example of their amazing problem solving skills at work occurred on a day when the kids were making rocket ships. They were all given standard paper collage supplies, but one group started asking for other materials to make the ships from their imaginations, including water bottles.

The first class of students will be second graders this year and we're excited to see what uniqueness they'll bring to their classrooms. ♦

#### First Day of School

**Sept. 3**  
Grades 1-6, 7-8 at Timber Ridge only, and grade 9 students.

**Sept. 4**  
Grades 7-8 at Calapooia, Memorial, and North Albany middle schools, and grades 10-12 at high schools.

**Sept. 3-6**  
Kindergarten interviews/ orientation.

**Sept. 9**  
Kindergarten.

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# Oak Grove Opening Events

August 29 | 3:30–4:30 p.m.

Speeches | Photos | Ribbon Cutting  
Flag Raising | Self Guided Tour



The wait is finally over and you're invited! Please join us in celebrating the opening of our replacement elementary school for Oak Grove. There will be speeches, photos, a ribbon cutting ceremony, flag raising, and a self-guided tour. Looking forward to seeing you there!

**August 29, 3:30 p.m.**

**Oak Grove Elementary:** 1500 Oak Grove Dr. NW

Online Registration opens August 1 for returning students; returning students are students who were enrolled at GAPS at the end of last school year. New students should contact the school for enrollment information.

There are 3 Steps to registration for the 2019-20 school year:

1. Complete Online Registration
2. Apply for Free & Reduced Meals, Deposit Mealtime Money, and Pay Registration Fees
3. Attend School Registration

Please see our online registration page on our website for more information on how to register and school registration times:

Parents > Information > Online Registration

## Summer School Family Night

Summer school ended with a family night celebration, consisting of an indoor picnic with all our families and a presentation by our students.

Summer school was started in 2015 as a way to help migrant and ELL students improve their core subjects. The program is five weeks long, four days a week, with students receiving breakfast and lunch. The focus this year was on reading, math, and science, along with time for art.

Family night had preschoolers singing songs in Spanish and English, elementary grades reading poems and acting out plays, and middle grades showing off the rockets and castles they made.

Thank you for coming to Family Night; it was wonderful to see everyone! ♦



Student launching one of the rockets they built.

## A Path to Run: Periwinkle

A running path was built at Periwinkle Elementary in the large lot adjacent to the school, with a circumference of ~880 ft (6 laps = 1 mile). Volunteers laid the landscaping fabric in June and bark chips earlier this month.

“The ultimate goal is to start a running program at Periwinkle where the students will have the option to run on the path during recess, log miles and win prizes when they reach certain milestones,” says Candace Reeves, one of the parents at Periwinkle Elementary. “The path would also be used for activities during PE class and for special events, such as the annual running fundraiser and Field Day.”

Many wonderful members of our community have helped with this project, including:

- Urban Floristy LLC—helped with design/planning and spread the bark chips
- Buena Vista Arbor Care—donated half the bark chips and discounted the rest.
- Lowe’s—donated landscaping fabric.
- Home Depot—donated landscaping fabric.
- U&D Nursery—donated landscaping fabric.
- And a special shout out to Seth Morvay of Urban Floristy, who brought his Bobcat, which was a huge help.

Wow, what a community effort. The path looks stunning. Thank you, everyone! ◇



The community hauled chips and worked together on the running path.

## Education Update

The following policies and administrative regulations were approved by the board:

- GBC & GBC-AR—Staff Ethics (6/27/19)
- GBNA—Hazing/Harassment/Intimidation/Bullying/Cyberbullying/Menacing-Staff (8/5/2019)
- IGDJ—Interscholastic Activities (8/5/2019)

Board policy and administrative regulations updates are sent to OSBA to update the policy section on the district website, which can take them 4-6 weeks. The updated versions can be found in the board packet from the meeting it is approved.

## School Board Update

We have a full school board! Our two newly elected school board members were sworn in on August 5, Eric Aguinaga and Michael Thomson. On August 15 a special board meeting was held to fill a board vacancy created by the resignation of Micah Smith. The meeting ended with a tie between Pat Eastman and Justin Roach.

On August 19, Pat Eastman was selected by the school board to fill the vacancy with a 3-1 vote. He was sworn in the same day. Welcome, new board members. ◇

**Did You Know?**  
**GAPS has a new Facebook group!**  
Please join the discussion by  
searching for Greater Albany Public  
Schools Group.

-  [www.albany.k12.or.us](http://www.albany.k12.or.us)
-  @GreaterAlbanyPublicSchools
-  @GreaterAlbanySD
-  @GreaterAlbanySD

**Bell Schedules have been updated with a few slight adjustments! Please see our website for details: Parents > Information > Bell Schedules**

# Bond Updates

Summer has been extremely busy for construction bond projects, with activity at eighteen school sites and two district facilities. The largest challenges for the summer has been a number of unforeseen conditions at the middle schools, but those projects should be completed for the start of school with one exception, the locker rooms at North Albany Middle School.

The major good news of the summer is the completion of Oak Grove Elementary, the replacement school for the old Oak Grove building, which will open before school starts on August 29 with a public ribbon cutting ceremony and self guided tour. Please join us at 3:30 p.m. (the invitation is on page two of this newsletter).

Meadow Ridge Elementary is a brand new school for 600 students and is about three quarters through construction, with a completion date in early 2020.

The big middle school projects are the upgrades to Memorial and North Albany's CTE spaces. Memorial received a modification of an existing science, leadership, food science, and communications classroom to create a new science lab, fabrication lab, maker space, and digital lab. North Albany Middle is having existing an art classroom and four other classrooms modified into CTE labs and a classroom.

The bond projects for South Albany High School include the development of an auxiliary gym, theater upgrades, and the renovation of career technical education (CTE) classrooms, including the addition of new CTE spaces. Completion is scheduled for 2020.

At West Albany High School, the developments will relieve crowding with the construction of an auxiliary gym, CTE spaces, a student commons, and an auditorium, which will be available for use by the entire district. Completion in Fall 2020.

Critical facility upgrades continued in Summer 2019, which included projects such as new roofing, restroom remodels, the replacement of water lines, etc.

Thank you, voters! ♦



Roofing at Memorial Middle.



North Albany Middle Maker Spaces.



South Albany High auxiliary gym.



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