

Greater Albany Public Schools

Community Newsletter November 2019

Academic All-Star Awards



Nine Academic All-Stars from Timber Ridge

A total of 88 Greater Albany Public School students were recognized as Academic All Stars at an awards ceremony on Nov. 4 at South Albany High School.

High-achieving 3rd-12th grade students in the fields of English Language Arts and Math earned Academic All Star honors. Among the 88 honorees were 13 students who received awards in both English Language Arts and Math:

- Mikayla Chaffins** (Grade 5 - North Albany Elementary)
- Lily Dayton** (Grade 4 - Waverly Elementary)
- Jevan Delamarter** (Grade 6 - Timber Ridge)
- Caroline Gao** (Grade 8 - North Albany Middle)
- Cole Hanson** (Grade 5 - Liberty Elementary)
- Sophia Hanson** (Grade 8 - Memorial Middle)
- Jace Nelson** (Grade 3 - Central Elementary)
- Colby Pairan** (Grade 4 - Periwinkle Elementary)
- Dez Pappas** (Grade 4 - Oak Elementary)
- Lily Richner** (Grade 3 - Timber Ridge)
- Liliana Sanders** (Grade 11 - Albany Options)
- Rhiannon Sousa** (Grade 6 - Calapooia Middle)
- Alec Weinhold** (Grade 3 - Oak Elementary)

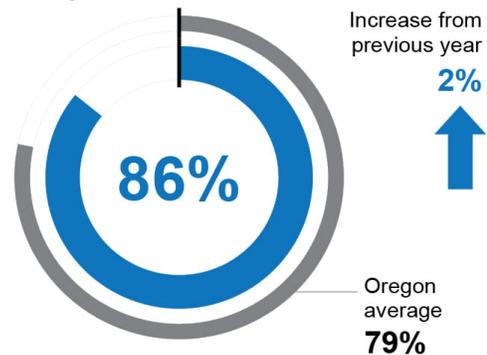
For a complete list of award winners and photos visit bit.ly/GAPSAIStars

District Report Card

School and district report cards were recently released by the Oregon Department of Education. Among the highlights for Greater Albany Public Schools was on-time graduation, in which the district had 86% of students earn a diploma within four years, a 2% increase from the previous year and 7% higher than the Oregon average.

Grade 12 ON-TIME GRADUATION

Students earning a diploma within four years. Cohort includes students who were first-time ninth graders in 2014-15.



School Success

The district also had several individual school highlights in the ODE report cards. Both South Albany and West Albany High Schools had outstanding five-year completion rates, with 99% of WAHS students and 96% of SAHS students earning a high school diploma or GED within five years, significantly higher than an 85% Oregon average. Both schools also had strong on-time graduation rates, with WAHS at 98%, and both had a higher percentage of college going students than the Oregon average.

At the primary level, five Greater Albany elementary schools (Central, Liberty, North Albany, Oak Grove, and Tangent) rated high on Individual Student Progress in English language arts and mathematics.

Strategic Planning Update



The first Strategic Plan Team Meeting on Nov. 9

Thank You for your participation in our Strategic Planning forums and surveys! More than 1,000 surveys were completed in October, with nearly half of the surveys submitted by our Greater Albany Public Schools students. In addition, we want to thank the hundreds of students and community members who took part in our four community forums and specialized focus groups for their tremendous input and feedback in this critical project.



Superintendent Goff addresses the group at the YMCA Forum on Oct. 30

District leadership and a Strategic Planning team are poring through the data to identify common themes, concerns, and suggestions from all six of the core questions presented in the survey and forums. All in-person feedback and every online and paper survey have been read and accounted for.

The Strategic Planning team, comprised of more than 20 local teachers, parents, administrators, students, and other community members, is holding four-hour work sessions every Tuesday until the December winter break.

The committee is tasked with determining a vision statement outlining what the district wants to become in the next three-five years and developing broad-based strategies to achieve the district's vision for the future in the form of strategic goals. The strategic goals will then be presented to the school board and district staff for approval and implementation.

To meet the Strategic Planning team and see documents from each meeting, visit [Bit.ly/TellGAPS](https://bit.ly/TellGAPS)

Live...From the District Office!

Did you know that all School Board meetings are now video streamed LIVE each month?

Starting in October, Greater Albany Public Schools is streaming all regular board meetings live on the district Facebook page! In addition, broadcasts are archived on Facebook to be viewed at any time following each meeting.

October's board meeting had more than 1,000 views as the live and archived streams allowed the GAPS community to easily access the meeting without having to attend.

To access the live stream simply visit facebook.com/greateralbanypublicschools



Construction Bond Updates

The brand new Meadow Ridge Elementary School is nearing completion! Todd Construction is currently working on finishing interior base work including painting, acoustic panel installation, and the installation of electrical and plumbing fixtures. The classrooms are coming along nicely with finishes being installed presently, including tack boards, white boards, and the remaining case work (cubbies, bookshelves and storage).

The exterior finishes are nearing completion and paving is progressing quickly with the student track/fire truck lane being completed on the playground. Todd has installed all curb work in the North parking area and has scheduled final paving for the project.

Over at West Albany High School, Gerding Builders are continuing work on the new theater space. They are focused on the foundation of the space and are currently utilizing geo-foam to construct the seating area. The fire lane and parking area have completed curb work and the first lift of asphalt is in place.

As is visible from the street, the new gymnasium tilt panels (concrete walls) are fully erected, with their impressive 74-foot glue laminated beams in place. The stadium work is also near completion and will be released back to the school for student use once the new HVAC system has been tested.

The new WAHS tennis courts are now paved but they will not receive the final athletic coating until next Spring, as the temperature must remain above 70 degrees while curing. The new drop-off/parking loop asphalt has been paved.

Oak Grove, in use since the start of the semester, is about to start final commissioning as one of the true final steps. Visitors to the GAPS Middle Schools may have noticed delicious smells coming from the new foods rooms as they are all now in use, as are the new digital labs and Paxton Patterson labs.

South Albany HS has students working daily in most of its new labs. Work is progressing quickly in the expanded woodshop classroom as well as the new gym and classroom spaces at building 10. The new greenhouse has been ordered and passersby should be able to see students erecting that structure soon as part of their program.

Additionally, work on critical facilities upgrades are continuing around the district.



Meadow Ridge Elementary front entrance/drop-off



Meadow Ridge Elementary along Timber Ridge Street NE



New drop-off/parking loop at West Albany HS



Exterior of the new auxiliary gym at South Albany HS

In Memorium: Pat Bedore

Former Greater Albany Public Schools Superintendent Pat Bedore died unexpectedly on Oct. 22, one week shy of her 71st birthday.

"Greater Albany Public Schools mourns the loss of Pat Bedore and our thoughts are with Pat's family and friends during this difficult time," Superintendent Melissa Goff said. "I appreciate all the hard work Pat put in building our school district during her tenure and the professional and positive manner in which she served our community."

Bedore served as Greater Albany Public Schools Superintendent for eight years, beginning as interim superintendent in 2000 before receiving the full time position in 2001 and remaining in the role through the 2007-08 academic year. While Bedore was superintendent in Albany, she successfully maneuvered the district through the challenging process of getting a \$55 Million bond passed in November of 2006. The bond led to numerous upgrades to various buildings and led to the opening of a new school in the fall of 2009.

"Pat always put students first," said Jim Haggart, who served as Executive Assistant to Bedore during her tenure. "She trusted teachers and their skills and dedicated authority to principals to do what they believed was right for their buildings. After she became superintendent, 2003 and 2004 were some lean budget years and she had to make some tough financial choices. She had very good relationships with teachers, the labor associations, and the community. She led the 2006 school bond campaign, which built Timber Ridge School and made renovations to all of the school buildings and that bond has been paid off completely by the community."

Bedore accepted the GAPS superintendent position in 2000 after having served as assistant superintendent since 1997. Prior to that, she was an administrator in the Springfield School District, where she held a variety of positions including working in human resources and serving as building principal at Brattain. She taught in Junction City for 15 years before moving into administrative roles. In total Bedore worked for 37 years as an educator before starting a private consulting firm following her retirement from Greater Albany Public Schools.

"Pat was a people person and worked at finding solutions to issues," Long-time school board member Don Bacher said. "She worked really hard at moving things forward in a positive way. She worked very well with the community and her door was always open to everybody. She just was a wonderful superintendent for the district."



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Upcoming Dates

Nov. 28–29: No school (Thanksgiving)

Dec. 23–Jan. 3: No school (Winter Break)

Jan. 20: No school (Martin Luther King Jr. Day)

Jan. 24–27: No school (End of Semester)



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