

# Greater Albany

## Public Schools

Community Newsletter  
Spring 2021

### GAPS Celebrates Completion of Bond Projects!



[Oak Grove Elementary](#)



[Meadow Ridge Elementary](#)



[South Albany High School](#)



[West Albany High School](#)

Nearly four years after Greater Albany voters approved a \$159 million capital construction bond in May 2017, GAPS and its community and construction partners celebrated the grand openings of three major projects with three ribbon cutting ceremonies over a 29-day stretch in March and April.

The bond was passed to update and improve school facilities and construct additions to relieve crowding and improve instructional space. The bond has been a true community effort with 53% of all construction work going to local contractors, amounting to over \$84 million reinvested in our community.

The four major projects included in the bond were the construction of two new elementary schools, Oak Grove and Meadow Ridge, and major upgrades to both South Albany and West Albany High Schools. Oak Grove was completed first, in the fall of 2019, while South Albany High School projects reached

substantial completion in March 2020 and Meadow Ridge was ready for occupancy in July 2020. The COVID-19 pandemic and major wildfires slowed progress at West Albany high school but crews persevered to get the new additions ready in time for students to return to campus starting April 15, 2021.

The district has had tremendous partners throughout the bond, with HMK Company leading all of the projects and working closely with district leadership throughout the process. Additional contractors, including Todd Construction, Gerding Builders, DLR Group, Soderstrom Architects, and more have been instrumental in the design and construction of the numerous additions.

For aerials on all of the projects, photo galleries, and video of the ribbon cutting celebrations, visit [our website](#).

# 2021 Student All-Stars

Congratulations to each of our All-Star Winners! These students were nominated by their schools for going above and beyond as leaders in the classroom and community. This year's announcement was virtual and recorded, allowing families and the community the ability to view the ceremony at any time on our [YouTube channel](#).

**Central Elementary:** Madison Bartl and Jace Nelson

**Lafayette Elementary:** Hillary Leon Flores, Abigail Merrick and Scarlett Tuttle

**Liberty Elementary:** Payton Ahmad and Mara Rose

**Meadow Ridge Elementary:** Danae Monroy and Riley Wheeler

**North Albany Elementary:** Grace Cunningham and Marley Francis

**Oak Elementary:** Olivia Morris and Fletcher Shumaker

**Oak Grove Elementary:** Amelia Bates and Caden Whitney

**Periwinkle Elementary:** Elias Richins and Yaretzky Mendoza Padilla

**South Shore Elementary:** Alexis Hernandez-Neskahi and Leslie Noguera Mendoza

**Sunrise Elementary:** Danna Luis Pineda and Logan Wilson

**Takena Elementary:** Tanner Strunk

**Tangent Elementary:** Elizabeth Crittenden and Harlow Otte

**Waverly Elementary:** Ariana Lovemark and Roberto Zepeda

**Timber Ridge Elementary:** Alejandra Solis Ortiz and Lucas Savage

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**Calapooia Middle:** Parker O'Connell and Ruth Rettmann

**Memorial Middle:** Hailey Dinger and Brenden Wrigley

**North Albany Middle:** Charlie Mack and Zhaine Raymundo

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**Albany Options School:** Madison Alderin and Braeden Hadlock

**South Albany High School:** Rena Howard and Brayden McKay

**West Albany High School:** LJ Carmichael and Caroline Gao

## Student Musicians Recieve High Ratings from OSAA and OMEA

Several GAPS high school student musicians finished the year out strong by placing in the Top 2 of their distinct level contest at the Oregon School Activities Association (OSAA) State Solo and Oregon Music Education Association (OMEA) State Chamber Ensemble Festival.

Soloists Caroline Gao and Abigail DeYoung earned Superior ratings; Cadence Schueger and Sachi Wrigley earned Outstanding ratings. The Small

Woodwind Division, Small Percussion Division, and the Large Mixed Vocal Division Chamber Ensembles also earned a Superior rating.

Please congratulate our high school musicians on their outstanding performance, and check out the full story [on our website](#) for more details.



## Registration Information

Registration is now open for the 2021-2022 school year for all grade levels including kindergarten.

Visit our [online registration page](#) to get started!

## Vaccine Clinics

Greater Albany Public Schools and Samaritan Health Services have teamed up to provide the Pfizer vaccine to students and the community at each of the three high school campuses. Anyone age 12 and up can receive the vaccine for free!

The [Clinics Flyer](#) contains details, dates, and locations for each available clinic.

# THINK BIG SUMMER

## Think Big Summer is Almost Here!

**T**hink Big Summer is a huge opportunity for GAPS students to enjoy FREE summer activities at multiple partnering locations. All GAPS students, K-12, can attend select summer camps, courses, and activities with no registration cost. Transportation and lunch will be provided for each child.

Greater Albany Public Schools wants our students to get out and enjoy the sunshine this summer and learn. Funds are coming from summer learning grants from ODE, which has designated

over \$200 million statewide for summer enrichment programs and academic support grants. These funds can be used to support K-12 student academic, social and emotional enrichment programs over the summer.

We are partnering with our community agencies to assist in providing these programs by providing funding support for our students. Check out our community partners, and go to the [Think Big Summer landing page](#) for more information and registration.



## GAPS is Hiring!

**W**e are looking for motivated individuals who want to be a part of our team! Our district motto, building bridges to lifelong learning and brighter futures, represents our commitment to student success and staff development. If you are interested in being a part of building a future for our students, please [visit our website](#) for job postings and our online application process.

### Available Opportunities Include:

- |                            |                             |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Adminstrator               | Maintenance                 |
| Elementary School Teaching | Secretarial/Clerical        |
| Middle School Teaching     | Transportation              |
| High School Teaching       | Student Support Staff       |
| Substitute Teaching        | Instructional Support Staff |

### Meet our new Community Engagement Administrative Assistant, Emily Elliott!



Emily is from Kansas City, Missouri, and she is excited for all the outdoor activities Oregon has to offer. Emily enjoys walking her dogs, volunteering, and farmers markets. Please give a warm welcome to Emily as she gets to know our community!

# Rachelle Bell named LBL ESD Regional Teacher of the Year

The critical role of teachers has become especially evident as schools have responded to the global COVID-19 pandemic. Teachers have stepped up in countless, innovative ways to ensure students are safe, healthy and engaged to reach their full potential, making this a fitting opportunity to recognize the excellence of Regional Teachers of Year throughout the state!



Central Elementary 3rd Grade teacher Rachelle Bell was named Linn Benton Lincoln's 2022 Regional Teacher of the Year! Ms. Bell wins a \$500 cash prize and is in the running for [Oregon's 2022 Teacher of the Year](#), to be announced this fall, as one of 16 regional winners.

"Ms. Bell is an exemplary educator who recognizes the immense learning potential of all students regardless of their ability or diverse backgrounds," Central Elementary Principal Julia Bradley said. "She builds relationships with students while engaging them in tasks that are rigorous, engaging,

creative, interactive and motivating. Her passion for teaching and dedication to students and their families is unmeasurable. Ms. Bell is truly a candle that sparks life into every student's heart."

The rest of this story can be found on [our website](#), and a [video of Bell](#) receiving her award is located on our YouTube channel.

## Graduation Schedule

- South Albany High School:  
**June 8 at 7p.m.**
- West Albany High School:  
**June 10 at 7p.m**
- Albany Options School:  
**June 14 at 7p.m.**

## School Board Election

On May 18th, Brad Wilson, Peter Morse, and Roger Nyquist were elected to join the GAPS School Board. We welcome our new members, who will officially start their new positions on July 1st.

We thank Chair Kim Butzner, Director Jennifer Ward, and Director Justin Roach for their service on the GAPS School Board.

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2021

**Congratulations!**  
**GRADUATES!**

WE WISH YOU GREAT SUCCESS IN EVERY BUILDING BLOCK  
TOWARDS YOUR DREAMS!

