



**Albany Options
School
Greater Albany
Public School
District**

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ROCKS

- * Respect
- * Ownership
- * Courage
- * Knowledge
- * Safety

AOS Newsletter

Volume 5, Issue 1

October, 2015

A Word from the Principal

What a fantastic start to the school year! Albany Options School has been a busy place these first five weeks. The staff and students have worked together to create a positive climate and culture at AOS as we begin our new year and educational journey together.

We will be working on three main goals this year at AOS:

- #1: Increase our high school graduation rates and GED completion rates.
- #2: Continue aligning our Math and Language Arts curriculum to Common Core State Standards and Smarter Balanced State Testing.
- #3: Increase student attendance and family involvement at AOS.

We started the school year with a new schedule and more elective offerings. It is exciting to see students at school at 8:15 and 9:25 in the morning versus the old model of 10:15.

Our attendance in our high school programs thus far has been excellent and students seem to really enjoy our new elective offerings.

This 12-weeks our elective courses are as follows: Art, Leadership, Digital Media,

Foods, Computer Programming, Running, and Adventure and Survival.

On the evening of Tuesday, September 29th we had the best Open House the school has ever hosted.

Deanna Kozak, a teacher of 18 years at AOS, commented, "I believe that this is my 18th open house at AOS (previously McFarland), and I just wanted to say that I believe that this was our most successful. I think that having our support community here was a brilliant idea, and I want to praise everyone on their efforts to engage students in preparing our school as a pleasant welcoming place for parents and guardians."

We had over a 100 students, family and friends, staff, and community members in attendance. This is amazing for a small school such as AOS! Thanks to all of you for helping make our school the best place for our students.

I would like to "challenge" you, as I did my staff, and ask you to make sure your student comes to school



Mr. Hunter made the staff a pancake breakfast their first day back to work.

each and every day, to promote the importance of academics in their lives, to engage them in making positive and healthy choices, and to enlist our help to assure each of these challenges are fulfilled.


Only together can we do our best work for the students at AOS.

It must be noted we are soon approaching the end of the first 6-week grading period on October 16th. This will include final tests and final grades.




Please encourage your students to study, attend, and complete homework as we enter these final two weeks before the grading period ends. If they need help make sure they are connecting with their teachers and planning a time to get some extra academic support. They are ready and willing!

Lastly, please join me in welcoming two new teachers to AOS, Lindsay Jansen (English Language Arts) and Christy Fitzpatrick (Math and GED).

October, 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3 SERVICE SATURDAY: Riverside Cleanup 9-1 Bowman Park
4	5	6	7 Early Release	8	9 NO SCHOOL	10
11	12 Columbus Day	13	14 Early Release PSAT TESTING	15	16 BOSS DAY 17 FINALS: END OF GRADING PERIOD	
18	19 NO SCHOOL	20 FIRST DAY OF GRADING PERIOD	21 Early Release	22	23	24
25	26	27	28 Early Release	29	30 	31 Halloween

November, 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 DAYLIGHT SAVINGS 	2	3	4 Early Release	5	6	7
8	9	10	11 NO SCHOOL Veterans Day 	12	13	14
15	16	17	18 Early Release Education Support Professional Day	19	20	21
22	23 NO SCHOOL <i>Conferences</i>	24 NO SCHOOL <i>Conferences</i>	25 NO SCHOOL 	26 NO SCHOOL Thanksgiving	27 NO SCHOOL	28
29	30	December 1	2	3 <i>Finals: Last day of trimester</i>	4 NO SCHOOL	5

Important Information

SENIOR REQUIREMENTS

All seniors are required to attend the LBCC Job Fair on December 15th.

To attend you must have three resumes completed as well as three job applications.

Students in the Innovative High School program will work with Mrs. Harryman to complete the assignments.

Students in Choices and the evening program will work with Ms. Kozak to complete the assignments.

Students who do not attend this event will have alternative assignments to complete.

SOCIAL MEDIA:

"Like" us on Facebook at:

www.facebook.com/albanyoptions

"Follow" us on Instagram at:

@AlbanyOptionsSchool

and always tag us and use the hashtags:

#AlbanyOptionsSchool

#AOSrocks

#AOSknights



CHANGE IN CELL AND DRINK RULES

Students returned to changes in our drink and cell phone use policies. Be sure to review the student handbook to be sure you understand the new rules this Fall!

AOS WELCOMES NEW STAFF MEMBERS

We are excited to welcome Ms. Fitzpatrick as our new GED teacher.

In the afternoon she also teaches Math, Health, and the Adventure and Survival elective course in the afternoon.

Christy Fitzpatrick is originally from Orlando, Florida, home of Disney World (where she used to go a lot as a kid).

She earned her Bachelor's degree at University of Central Florida and is current earning her Master's at Western Oregon University.

She loves hiking, backpacking, trail running, playing the mandolin in Celtic and Folk groups, and is also in a dodgeball league with Mr. Corliss.

Her father is a blimp pilot!



Ms. Fitzpatrick

It is with great joy that we welcome Ms.

Jansen as our newest English Language Arts teacher.

In addition to English during the day, she is also teaching the Digital Media elective class in the mornings.

Originally from Hillsboro, Lindsay Jansen came to AOS from the Philomath School District, where she worked as a substitute teacher. She received her Bachelor of Arts degree in English from Oregon State in 2008, and completed her Master's in Teaching via Western Oregon in 2013. In her spare time, she enjoys reading, cooking, gardening, and watching sports of all kinds with her husband of 5 years.



Ms. Jansen

A warm welcome to Ms. Glass, who is our new Special Education teacher.

Diane Glass is from Albany. She earned her degree in Psychology from the University of Phoenix and her Masters in Special Ed from Western Oregon University.

She taught at Linus Pauling in Corvallis and Timber Ridge.

She enjoys hiking, rock climbing, Zumba, yoga, and weight training.



Ms. Glass



Mr. DeCoster

A hearty welcome to Mr. DeCoster, who is our new school counselor! Mr. DeCoster is joining us after having retired from West Albany High School where he was the Counseling Department Head and Dean of Students.

Before that Kevin DeCoster was the counselor at WAHS, AOS, and spent time in the FACT program and Corvallis School District.

DeCoster spent time in the Peace Corps in the Philippines. He enjoys gardening, cooking, hiking, and bird watching.

Service Saturday: SOLV Riverside Cleanup



On Saturday, October 3rd, a group of six students attended the Riverside Cleanup event in Bowman Park for the first Service Saturday of the year.

Service Saturdays are an opportunity for students to build up their resumes, volunteer in the community, and po-

tentially even earn Cooperative Work Experience credit through an accumulation of hours during the course of the year.

The Riverside Cleanup event was hosted by SOLV and the City of Albany as part of the state-wide beach and riverside cleanup day.

The students participated by removing invasive vines from the trees, which are suffocating and killing the trees.

Using a variety of tools, the students hacked the vines up and tore them off of the trees, which proved to be a lot of fun.



Perfect Attendance Award—Trail Blazers Game!

Want to attend an evening of dinner out and free Portland Trail Blazers game tickets?

It's yours! All you have to do is earn a perfect attendance award during any term.



To earn the perfect attendance award you must attend all of your classes for a whole six-week grading period without ever being tardy or having an unexcused absence.

For more information about your attendance see Mrs.

Fewless.

For more information about the Trail Blazers game and dinner evening see Mrs. Harryman.



Journalism Class with Ms. Jansen

Everyone has a story, and the Journalism class at Albany Options is dedicated to telling them. In the class, students learn the basics of news reporting, from writing an effective lead to editing their work for content and conventions. They study news from a variety of sources. More importantly, they learn to recognize the stories present in our everyday lives here at school. Even small things can be news.

Recently, the Journalism



class took on a daunting task: producing a newsletter for the school's open house. Students had the opportunity to write about what they knew: their school environment, the classes they enjoy, and the events important to the life of Albany Options. They worked hard to get these stories done by the deadline, and they produced a quality product that provides a picture of life here at school.

Pic of the Month



Students in Horticulture class have been sanding and staining all of the benches to prepare them for the upcoming rainy weather.

Students Attend Pipeline Manufacturing Day Event

On October 2, LBCC participated in the first Manufacturing Day event and hosted schools from Albany, Corvallis, Lebanon and Sweet Home. Students were given tours of the programs of interest.

Mrs. Burton took a group of six students for the day to attend the event. Students had the opportunity to sign up if they were interested in learning more about the industry.

Students could choose from Mechatronics, Welding, Computer Aided Design and Drafting, Machine Tool Technology, and Heavy Machine/Diesel. Each department explained the program and gave the students a chance to interact in the class room.

Josephine Fleetwood from the Cham-



ber of Commerce gave a presentation on the Pipeline program.

Pipeline was developed by the Albany Area Chamber of Commerce to help local businesses and industry develop a plan to combine their efforts and work

with local educators to provide more comprehensive training options for local students.

Fleetwood stated that, "as a result of their efforts, Pipeline was developed to

provide a single source for students, educators, parents and industry to access information and opportunity."

Our students had the opportunity to visit a local manufacturing business Viper NW. There they learned about

machine tool technology and the many different departments they have.

Brian Welker, who is a senior at AOS and who also attended the trip shared, "we learned some basic skills on the tour and how to use some tools. They told us how they are looking for qualities such as dedication, good attendance, and safety. I'm really glad I went on the tour."



It was

stressed there, and from the speakers at the Pipeline presentation, to be on time and have a good attitude. Those are some of the qualities the employers are looking for. It was also stressed that there is a shortage of workers in the Manufacturing field and the pay is a good working wage.

To access this service log on to: pipelinetojobs.com or call [541-926-1517](tel:541-926-1517).

Open House Success!

Tuesday, September 29th, AOS opened their doors for the annual Fall Open House.

Students in the Foods class prepared an amazing dinner, the Leadership students decorated, and the Horticulture students helped clean and prepare the building both inside and out.

After the dinner the families had the opportunity to meet the teachers, staff, and community organizations and resources including Jackson



Street Youth Shelter, FACT, Boys and Girls Club, the Welcome Center, and more.

There was an amazing turnout of almost twice as many families and students than ever before. As always, it was a pleasure meeting the families of our students.



GED Completer

Congratulations to:

Micah Ray

Who completed all of the tests for the GED!

Micah also set a school record with the highest scores our GED program has ever experienced.

Congratulations!!



STUDENT ARTICLES—by students in Journalism Class

What We Do at AOS—by Mariah Campbell

Albany Options School's alternative environment gives its students, especially those who have trouble in regular school, a great chance to graduate.

Students come to Albany Options School for many different reasons. No matter what they come for, most of them need help catching up on credits. Albany Options can really help with credits in a lot of ways. One way is the fact that AOS offers students a chance to earn more credits in a year. At South or West Albany High School, a student can earn 7-7.5 credits a year on average, where at AOS a student can earn 9. Albany Options also has a smaller school population; therefore, students can develop better relationships with their teachers. As cited on EducationWorld.com, a recent study done by Harvard University showed that when students have better relationships with their teachers, it can lead to better grade outcomes for students. Getting and staying on track doesn't just end with Albany Options,

though. A lot of the weight still remains on the shoulders of students and parents.

For a student coming to Albany Options School to catch up on credits, Mr. DeCoster, the school's counselor, says it's important for them to not get sidetracked or distracted. The teenage years can be a tough time for students in school. There are a lot of stressors in student lives. DeCoster explains that it's key for students to focus on school work and not "fall in love 6 times." Mr. DeCoster also states that being on time and showing up to school has a lot to do with student success. If students don't show up, they can't expect to pass their classes. Studies have also shown that a student that becomes involved in clubs and sports have higher grades and GPAs. Parents have a big role in student success as well.

NEA.org states that when a parent becomes involved in their child's

schooling, the child is more likely to earn higher grades, attend school regularly, have better social skills and their behavior will improve. They are also more likely to graduate and move to education beyond high school, such as community college or university.

Mr. DeCoster says that a parent should be sure to keep track of their child's assignments and grades. Pinnacle makes grades and student information easily accessible to a parent. School principal John Hunter says that if parents could give an hour or so of household time, where all the electronics are shut down and everybody works together on homework, it would reflect in the student's grades.



Mariah is a senior at AOS. Since joining last year, she has earned her place on the Honor Roll each term. She is looking to graduate early this year.

Why I Came to AOS

I came to A.O.S. because it's smaller, and when I visited, I liked it a lot better than South Albany. South has a lot of students, and the teachers can't help each individual. A.O.S. doesn't have as many people, and the teachers can help out more. A.O.S. also has really nice teachers and a great principal, Mr. Hunter. They all joke around with each other and make it a really friendly environment, which is easier to do with not as many students. I've found that if you want to be social and have a big group of friends to hang out with, then you go to South or West. If you want to hang out, but want to get your work done more, then you go to A.O.S. I skipped a lot last year at South. I have social anxiety and don't like being in crowds of people and at South, that's how it was everyday, because A.O.S. is smaller and has fewer people. I think it would be a perfect school for a lot of other kids too.

—by student Matthew Cleveland



Matt came to AOS this year from SAHS.

He is a junior and is earning high grades in all of his classes.

My Favorite Class

The best class at this school is financial Algebra. It's one of the few core classes that I've taken in a long time where I actually feel like I'll use the information in the future. We learn things like how much money we get in interest from a bank, how much each of the interest checks per year actually affect the amount you earn in the end, even though it's only a miniscule amount. The classroom environment in itself feels very warm and welcoming. Also, Mr. Corliss teaches the class at a pace that everyone can keep up with.

- By student Jacob Lacey

STUDENT ARTICLES—by students in Journalism Class

Programming: Tech in Action—by Cole VanHoosen

Our computer programming class is based on the language called Python, which is a simple command and response system. However, this is an extremely base system, meaning that they would have to input both what they want the player/user to say and also what the computer program itself will respond with.

It could be a somewhat simple game of rock, paper, or scissors, or it would be something that will actually perform math problems for them after the program has an idea of what it is expected to do with the inputted variables.

While the inputs themselves are somewhat self explanatory, there are an

absolute ton of them. It would be extremely difficult, if not almost impossible to memorize them all. However it is a fun class either way.

While it can be an absolute blast, and is definitely more fun with friends, is not for the weak-willed. I say this completely sarcastically, anyone can learn it,

however it does take quite a bit of effort. It's not a class that someone can just sleep through unless they have prior programming and command knowledge.

Once a basic grasp of some of the interactions is gained, it becomes easier to be able to find the correct inputs and know what command will cause the pro-

gram to do that. It is not really a class that would be a top priority for someone who wants to learn the 'inner workings of a computer.' It also very much depends on the person themselves and their willingness to put in the required time and effort.

Most of the basics covered, there is still the fact that this class can be quite confusing at times, and other times a simple mistake can easily lead to the entire program refusing to work at all. However, this is what can make the class fun, because it is not easy and it's pretty cool learning how to manipulate a computer program.

This isn't a class that would interest anyone, they do have to have an interest in computers and a certain amount of patience.



Cole came from WAHS for the smaller environment and plans to graduate this year.

Welcoming Autumn Day at AOS

On the morning of Monday, September 21st, Albany Options decided to celebrate the first day of fall. During breakfast, students got a tasty surprise. On a table in the front lobby, there was hot chocolate with whipped cream or just regular cartons of chocolate milk for everyone. Also, there was a station where students could write their wishes on paper leaves to hang them up on a decorated wall.

During lunch, they brought out two carts that had apple and pumpkin pie on them. There was a selfie wall, with colored leaves around the border where the school would take pictures for students. There were cute accessories that students could use during the pictures, such as little hats, mustaches, and signs. A wall in front of Mrs. Harryman's room had little paper ghosts, pumpkins and trees were put up, and the leaves that students wrote on were scattered all over it.

"Leadership did most of the decorating, and cutting out of the leaves. I decorated the selfie wall," explained Mrs. Mitchell, the leadership teacher.

"Mrs. Gillispie and I came up with the idea in a staff meeting," Mrs. Harryman stated. "We thought about how much fun stuff we did at the end of the year."

- by Vic Kinzer & Jessica deMontigny



Adventure & Survival

This year at AOS they have tried to add new electives for student one of them being Adventure class just the name alone intrigued me a first year student at AOS. Being a senior this year I have never been in a class that's made me want to come to school and Adventure/Survival class has done just that.

The goal of the class is to teach students how to learn survival skills such as reading topographic maps and tying knots. It's rare that anyone is absent for survival class. There's always 100% participation and lots of excitement in the class. Ms. Fitzpatrick, the teacher of the class, has done a great job of teaching teamwork to her students and shown everyone school can be so much fun!

- by Christian Shan-

Greater Albany Public School District

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Visit us online at:
www.albany.k12.or.us/AOS/

AOS encourages students and families to take advantage of the many resources our community has to offer. Below is a list of services and organizations available throughout Linn County that are available to the public.

- **Family Connections:** The people to call for child care, parenting information, family activities and more.....(541)917-4899 or 1-800-845-1363
- **Comcast Internet Essentials:** Affordable internet may be available for families with a child receiving free school lunches.....1-855-846-8376
- **Oregon Health Plan (OHP):** Provides health insurance to qualified citizens, includes dental services.....1-800-359-9517
- **Families and Agencies Coming Together (FACT):** Community resources for families with children in the Albany School District541-924-3720
- **Jackson Street Youth Shelter, Cornerstone Youth Outreach Center:** Overnight and drop-in resources for youth in Albany, Corvallis.....541-207-2958
- **FISH Clothes Closet:** Free clothing available; must bring name with current address. 1880 Hill St. SE. Albany.....928-4460
- Call **211** for free and confidential information regarding help with food, housing, employment, health care, counseling and more.

**For more community resources please visit the Albany Option School webpage:
www.albany.k12.or.us/AOS/

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