



Albany Options
School
Greater Albany
Public School
District

AOS Newsletter

Volume 5, Issue 7

June, 2016

A Word from the Principal

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ROCKS

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

It's hard to believe it is another end to the school year with another class graduated from AOS.

This is always a very emotional and reflective time of year for me, as I think about how much each student accomplished this year, how many reached their educational goals, and how much academic, emotional, and personal growth I was fortunate enough to watch happen since September.

As we head into the summer, I want to thank all of my wonderful teachers and staff for their hard work and dedication. We all know that this school would not be the same if it were not for them and their commitment to all of the students at AOS.

I especially want to take a moment to thank Deanna Kozak, who after 18 years of service to alternative education in our district is retiring. It is hard to try to imagine what the future will look like at AOS without her.



Ms. Kozak has given so much to our students and school, having developed many programs and opportunities. It would be impossible to try to recount everything she has done for the students in our community or for the continual evolution and growth of our school.

Although she is heading into retirement, we are fortunate to share that she will help the staff and school transition next year to guarantee that our programs continue with the same success we saw under her care.

Thank you for all that you have done and given. You will always be an example to the rest of us. You have exemplified what it truly means to be an alternative teacher. Thank you.

In reflecting about the graduation ceremony, I loved getting to hear all of the personal messages from the teachers to the

graduates. We had an exceptional graduating class. Many had to go above and beyond in order to graduate on time, whether it means completing packets or online courses, while often times also having a child or a job outside of school as well.

Each of you are an inspiration to me and have demonstrated what it means to set a goal, work hard, and accomplish what you set out to do, often times while trying to overcome immense obstacles at home.

I would like to wish all of the students, graduates, family members, community partners, and staff a relaxing, fun, and safe summer vacation. I am already looking forward to the next school year in the fall.

FALL REGISTRATION INFO:

August 16th: 7-11am, 12-4pm

August 17th: 10-1pm, 3-6:30pm

August 18th: 10-1pm, 3-6:30pm

August 22nd-26th: New students only by appointment.

AOS Graduates Record Number of Students

On Monday, June 13th, Albany Options School held their graduation commencement ceremony in the Russell Tripp Performing Arts Theater at Linn-Benton Community College.

Of the 54 students who graduated, 48 participated in the ceremony, which was twenty more than the year before.

Last year AOS broke the graduation record with 38 students, but this year greatly surpassed that number with 54 diplomas being received.

In addition to our increase in our graduation rate, there was a substantial increase in the number of students who earned their GED this year.

Last year 26 students completed their GED. This year 43 students were able to earn their GED during the course of the year.

At the beginning of the 2015-2016

school year, AOS expanded their school day to include two more class periods, allowing students to earn more credits during the day.

Previously, a student could earn a maximum of 7.5 credits during the course of the school year through classes alone. This year, a student could earn anywhere from 9 to 10.5 credits through classes.

This change was huge in allowing students to meet their graduating goals on time.

In addition to the additional classes, many students took advantage of earning credits through online OdysseyWare classes, packet classes, and

through Cooperative Work Experience, where students can earn elective credit for having a job outside of school.

The graduation ceremony made for an emotional and special evening. As per AOS tradition, the teachers spoke about each student, providing insight

into their growth and talents, as well as sharing memories and challenges for the students. This is just one example of what makes the AOS graduation so personal and unique.

Taylor McGarvey was the class speaker at graduation on behalf of her classmates. She shared how she never felt connected to either of her two previous schools, but at AOS she was now part of a family where she gained maturity, confidence, and strength.

Coming to AOS as a Sophomore, Taylor worked extra hard to earn credits on top of her classes so that she could graduate as a Junior. She began classes at LBCC this year, where she will continue with her education next year.

This graduating class worked exceptionally hard to complete their high school career, and the staff are extremely proud of all of their accomplishments. Congratulations, graduates! We cannot wait to hear about the amazing things you accomplish in the years to come.

See the article about our graduating class of 2016 in the Albany Democrat-Herald from Thursday, June 16th, posted to our Facebook page or at democrat-herald.com.



Front row (left to right): Taylor Kathleen McGarvey, Cassandra A Vazquez, Lizet Martinez-Sanchez, Kyra Ginee Dickson, Mariah Shai Ann Campbell, Janel R. LaBell, Victoria Nichole Kinzer, Imelee Jo Perez, Zulema Natalie Gonzalez, Megan Marie Scalise-Harvey, Kayla Anna Watts, Hannah Kay Hagan-Morin, Shania Little Sims, Brianna Jean Randall, Rachel Michelle Hartung, Mariah Frances Downer, Ashlee Kay Davenport, Angeline Ma-

rie Navarro-Herrera, Eva Ada-Mae Barrett, Ashlee Sierra Holcomb, Guadalupe Paulina Rojas, Hannah Elizabeth Gann.

Back row (left to right): Sean M. Dohe, Colton Keenan Buck, Kole Daniel King, Gage Michael Hoover, Jacob R. Dierksen, Zackary Ray Null, Brian Joseph Welker, Elias Eduardo Burgoa Pablo, Alejandro Leon Gomora, Alexis Rojas, Alexander Eugene Vega, Jacob Zachary Lacey, Jose Christian Hernandez, Zachary Gehrdon Otto, Aaron

James Bristow, Christian David Shannon, Joel Alexis Martinez-Meza, Mario de Jesus Tucuch May, Stephen Edgar Hobbs, Anthony Tyler Courner, Shane Samuel Rivera, Johnathan Isaac Morganti, Bryce Mitchell Spowehn, Anthony James Bergener.

Graduates not pictured: Alena Alexandria Hernandez, Kayla Ann Poe, Zachary Aaron Skotko, Scott Warren Brown, Chase Hunter Devaney, Luis Alberto Garibay, Cole A VanHoosen, Eden Hiner.

Annual End-of-Year Senior BBQ

On the last day of school for the graduates, AOS held their annual Senior BBQ for all of the graduates and the whole AOS family.

We were joined by Superintendent Jim Golden amongst others from the extended AOS and district community.

Graduates rocked their Class of 2016 senior shirts, which they tie-dyed with Mrs. Gillispie and her Chemistry class.

Mrs. Harryman's Foods class prepared burgers, twice-baked potatoes, baked beans, and pasta salad, as well as all of the burger fixings, watermelon, and lemonade.

Mr. Hunter was the grill master, and cooked all of the burgers and hotdogs on the bbq.

As is the case every year, the Senior BBQ was a fun and celebratory event.



**Greater Albany Public
School District**

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This year, the Digital Media class at AOS produced a digital yearbook to commemorate the year. See it at:

www.aosknights.com



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Respect Ownership Courage Knowledge Safety

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