



# AOS Newsletter

Volume 9, Issue 1

October, 2019

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

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## ROCKS

Respect  
Ownership  
Courage  
Knowledge  
Safety

## A Word from the Principal

Welcome to the new school year! This year I have been more excited than ever to return to all of you. After five years at AOS, I continue to be inspired by those around me, both the staff and students, and want to be the best principal and leader I can for all of you.

Last year we finished off the school year with 75 students graduating, and 45 receiving their GED. AOS has never experienced such high numbers, and it is truly a testament to the hard work and motivation of the students, and the wonderful things happening at this school.

Over the summer the teaching staff flew down to San Francisco for the week to attend the Quality Teaching for English Learners (QTEL) academy. Our teachers completely embraced the opportunity to learn new strategies to better serve all of our students, and continue to work hard on implementing QTEL into their classes.

We have also been very fortunate to welcome Ms. Bellando as our new English Language Arts teacher. A few weeks into the year and it is like she has always been part of the AOS family. We are very grateful to have her on our team.



Mr. Hunter with Ms. Bellando, the new English teacher.

This year we are celebrating our legacy. In 2009 AOS had just 10 graduates. Ten years later, the class of 2019 was 75. That growth is a testament to the many great principals, teachers, staff, students, families, and community partners we've had over the last decade who have continued to make AOS a better and better place to be. We want to strive to continue to build off of that legacy so that we can keep better



serving the youth of our Albany community.

September 17th we hosted our annual Fall Open House. It was wonderful to be able to meet and visit with so many of our families. I hope that you, and those of you who were unable to make it, are all able to return for Parent Conferences later this month. We love having the opportunity to share with you how great your student is doing and the progress they are making towards reaching their educational goal.


I am confident that the 2019-2020 school year is going to be a great one. Students, I hope this is the year you push yourself to have better attendance, better grades, and most positive experiences. Parents and guardians, support your student by encouraging them to come to school and do their best, and by always communicating with the school so that we can work together.

Sincerely, John Hunter

## October 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 <b>FAFSA Opens</b>	2 Early Release	3	4	5
6	7	8	9 Early Release	10 <b>FINALS:</b> Last day of term	11 <b>NO SCHOOL:</b> Professional Development	12
13	14 <b>NO SCHOOL:</b> Grading Day <b>COLUMBUS DAY</b>	15 Start of Trimester 1, Grading Period 2	16 Early Release <b>National Boss' Day</b>	17	18	19
20	21	22	23 Early Release <i>Ophelia's Place</i> <b>Conferences</b> 4pm-8pm	24 <b>NO SCHOOL:</b> Conferences 7:30am- 12pm 1pm-6pm	25 <b>NO SCHOOL</b>	26
27	28	29	30 Early Release <i>Ophelia's Place</i>	31 <b>Halloween</b>		

## November 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 <b>Dia de los Muertos</b>	2
3 Daylight Savings Time Ends 	4 <b>Academic All Stars Awards</b> WAHS 7pm	5	6 Early Release <i>Ophelia's Place</i>	7 <b>ASVAB Test:</b> 10am	8	9
10	11 <b>NO SCHOOL:</b> Veteran's Day	12	13 Early Release <i>Ophelia's Place</i>	14	15	16
17	18	19	20 Early Release <b>Classified Appreciation</b> <i>Ophelia's Place</i>	21 <b>ASVAB Interpretation:</b> 10am	22	23
24	25	26	27 <b>NO SCHOOL:</b> Grading Day	28 <b>NO SCHOOL:</b> Thanksgiving	29 <b>NO SCHOOL</b>	30 

## Important Information

### Parent Conferences

Parent Teacher Conferences do not require an appointment. Please just drop in when it is most convenient for you. We look forward to meeting you all!

Wednesday, Oct. 23rd: 4pm-8pm

Thursday, Oct. 24th: 7:30am-12pm

Thursday, Oct. 24th: 1pm-6pm

*October 24th—No School*

*Oct. 25th—No School*

### **SOCIAL MEDIA:**

“Like” us on Facebook at:

[www.facebook.com/albanyoptions](https://www.facebook.com/albanyoptions)

“Follow” us on Instagram at:

**@AlbanyOptionsSchool**

**#AlbanyOptionsSchool #AOSknights**

### **Have a job?**

Students can earn Work Experience elective credits for having a job. See Mrs. Harryman if you have questions. You could earn as much as 2.0 elective credits for work you're doing!

### AOS IN THE NEWS

You can find the latest articles about AOS on our website at [aos.albany.k12.or.us](https://aos.albany.k12.or.us) under the Announcements tab.

You will find an archive of all of our newsletters and articles.



## AOS Welcomes New Teacher

We are thrilled to welcome Maria Bellando to our AOS family as the new English Language Arts teacher. In addition to English, Ms. Bellando is also teaching our Film and Music electives this year.

Maria came to us from North Albany Middle School, where she was teaching 8th grade.

Prior to that she has experience both at Corvallis High School and College Hill High School, the alternative high school in Corvallis.

She graduated from West Albany High School and



earned her Bachelor's from Oregon State University.

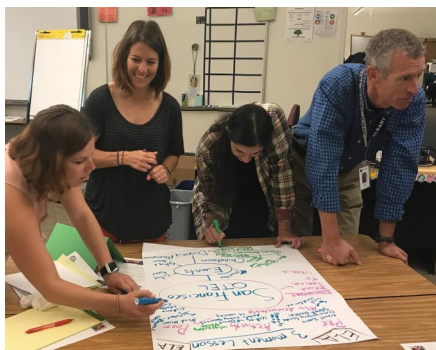
We have no doubt that she will be an excellent addition to our team and will fit right in.

Welcome, Ms. Bellando!

## Staff Implement New QTEL Strategies

The AOS staff spent their summer, investigating how to best implement culturally relevant teaching, by attending a week-long conference learning about QTEL (Quality Teaching for English Learners) strategies to use throughout the curriculum in all subject areas.

During this week, the AOS teachers were able to participate in activities



as students, engaging in the same exact learning tasks that they are now having their students participate in.

The goal is to offer multiple entry points for students to engage in, as well as to create opportunities for students to work together to develop both language and academic skills. We believe that as we adopt these strategies more and more into our cur-

riculum, the better engaged students will be, causing an increase in learning, skill development, and credits earned.



## Counselor Recognized by Rotary

In August our counselor, Anna Harryman, was awarded the prestigious Paul Harris Fellowship from the Greater Albany Rotary Club and the Rotary Foundation of Rotary International "in appreciation of tangible and significant assistance given for the furtherance of better understanding and friendly relations among peoples of the world."



Sarah Steen, the Youth Service Director for the Greater Albany Rotary Club, stated that, "Anna is not a Rotarian, but her daily contributions, guidance and support she provides for the high school youth in our community, which aligns with our club's mission statement, is why she was selected. Our club was honored to

be able to honor someone like Anna for doing exactly what our motto is Service Above Self."

Principal John Hunter and School Board Member Eric Aguinaga were also in attendance as she was recognized.

The Paul Harris Fellow recognition acknowledges individuals who contribute, or who have contributions made in their name, of \$1,000 to The Rotary Foundation.

## From Mrs. Gillispie: New Photography Class

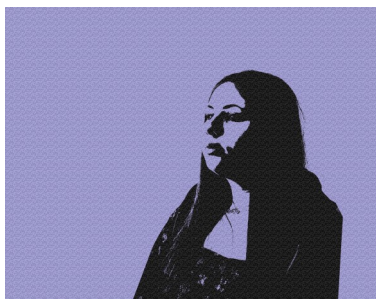
Art has taken on a new adventure this year with the purchase of cameras.

This is the first year AOS has been able to offer photography.

To kick off the year students learned some

photography basics and then took turns taking

photos of each other using light sources and position for certain effects. After this students were guided through Photoshop to create a look similar to pop art.



As we continue through our term students will continue learning how to use their camera as well as how to edit different effects in Photoshop.

Stay tuned for more photos from photography class.

## GED Completers

Congratulations to the following students who earned their GED during September:

Alexandria Townsend-Johnson

Iian Vaughan

Alyssa Lafon

Les Villa

Alejandro Hernandez

Joseph Anderson

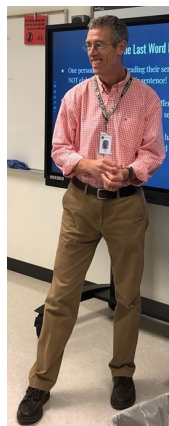
Angel Durston

## Sociology: Defining Heroes

Mr. Wolfe's Sociology classes recently studied 'Culture' and its five components.

One of those components is 'Values/Beliefs'. As a part of the unit, Mr. Wolfe gets students to think about how a culture's heroes reflect the values of that particular culture.

The students in the classes defined a 'Hero' as someone who values: "Self-lessness, kindness, taking care of others, and challenging others to be a better person."



When Mr. Wolfe asked students who their heroes were that fit this definition, nearly every girl said their mother, grandmother or sister.

Nearly all of the males said their father or grandfather, except for one who chose AOS's very own Mr. Kenny Roundy.

From doing this activity, Mr. Wolfe shared how he was reminded of what thoughtful, empathetic students attend AOS and how lucky he is to work with them.



## Student Article: Elyese Schaaf



Before coming to AOS, high school was really rough. I was constantly anxious about whether or not I was going to pass my classes and graduate. It

was really hard for me to try and pay attention and focus on what the teacher was teaching. I was scared to ask my teachers for help. I didn't really feel like they cared if I passed or failed. Eventually, I just gave up. I couldn't keep up with the rest of the class so I couldn't do my homework. I got so depressed that I couldn't even learn, so I thought, "why even go to class if I was just going to sit there and be anxious and depressed?"

I skipped every day. My mom got fed up with my actions and asked me if I wanted to drop out and get my GED. I almost considered it because I just didn't care anymore.

I was told that I wouldn't graduate because I didn't have enough credits. They told me I had two options, to take online classes, which I tried and hated, or I could get a referral to go to AOS. I was nervous about going to AOS because there were so many rumors about the "bad kids." I'll admit that I was intimidated by the thought and I wasn't excited to be known as dumb if I went to AOS. I really needed those credits though, so I decided to go to AOS.

When I got there I was really nervous. Little did I know it was going to be the best school I have ever been to. All of the staff are really nice, helpful, and funny. They have no problem helping you with anything. The students are friendly and welcoming, and honestly, we all have similar reasons as to why we are here, we just need a little extra help. The school is honestly one of the best things that has happened to me. I am finally comfortable going to school. I don't dread waking up everyday and I am not worried about falling behind or asking for help. It is very comfortable and I agree with what many other students would say. It is like a small little family here at this tiny, but mighty, school. - Elyese is a Junior at AOS

## Measure 98 in Action in Digital Media Class

This year, our Digital Media class is getting a revamp and a new teacher. The 12-week course is taking students through a variety of animation and video production techniques, including stop-motion photography, film, and 3D modeling.

The first big project of the term is a unit on Claymation. Using playdough, the Digital Media students are starting to see their ideas come to life in

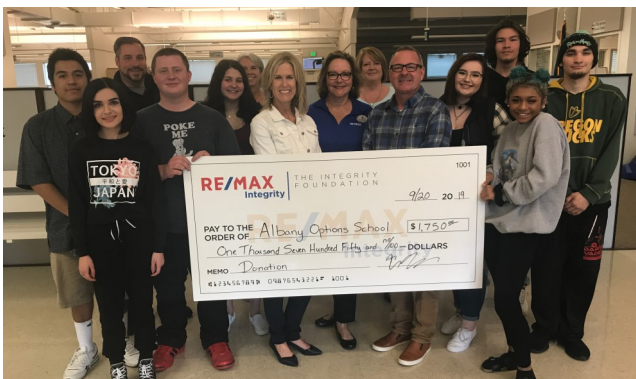
physical form as they create their own shapes and figures to photograph!

Danny Corliss picked up the class this year and is utilizing the software and equipment provided by Measure 98 funding to give students an introduction to these topics.



The goal for the class is to make some fun and interesting videos, while hopefully also instilling an interest that could potentially lead to future hobbies or even careers for the students.

## In Appreciation: RE/MAX



We would like to express our sincerest gratitude to RE/MAX Integrity of Oregon for their generosity.

On Friday, September 20th, they presented AOS with a check for \$1,750.

The donation will go towards the expansion of our Coffee Cart program, which provides

students with practical work skills and experience.

In addition, the funds will pay for the student body t-shirts for the 2019-2020 school year, allowing every high school student to have a free t-shirt.

From all of us at AOS, thank you so much to RE/MAX Integrity for your support.

**Greater Albany Public  
Schools District**

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**Student Artwork Showcase**



Photo taken by Kendra Deleon of Miley Parmele in the Photography art class being offered this term. You can read about the new course on page 4 of the newsletter.

Albany Options School Newsletter: October 2019  
Respect Ownership Courage Knowledge Safety

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