



AOS Newsletter

Volume 9, Issue 4

February, 2021

Albany Options School
Greater Albany Public
School District

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ROCKS

Respect
Ownership
Courage
Knowledge
Safety

A Word from the Principal

Dear Students,

I write this newsletter to you with the exciting news of an actual date for those students wishing to return to in-person instruction!

Our first day of Hybrid instruction will begin on Monday, March 29th. This is the first Monday following Spring Break and the first day of the last trimester.

You may hear from your friends at South and West that they are starting on a different day, and that is true. They will not begin until April 19th.

The difference in start dates is to match up with our respective grading periods. Because West and South are on the quarter/semester system, our grading periods are different.

I'll bet you're thinking, "what will school look like?" Well, that's a great question and one that will evolve over time and as we work through it.

However, the things that I can share that are givens are:

- 1) You will attend two days a week in person. (either Monday/ Thursday, or Tuesday/ Friday).
- 2) You will attend the other 3 days a week virtually with Wednesday remaining asynchronous with ROCKS still at the same time.
- 3) You will have the three same teachers all week.
- 4) Masks will be required while in the building.
- 5) Class size will accommodate for social distancing.

Obviously, your safety and the safety of our staff will be at the forefront of every decision made to allow for in-person instruction.

With those parameters will come the need for patience and grace from everyone as we work through this unusual schedule. What I can assure every student that chooses to attend in-person is that we will do everything we can to make this a

valuable and memorable experience.

Lastly, I want to congratulate our recent AOS high school graduates:

Dakota Hufeld
Samantha McCormick
Jazmyn Hill
Angelic Shaw

and our recent GED completers:

Yahir Vega
Isaac Pierce
Zac Cardin
Seth Grant
Nathaniel Parks


I'm excited to meet you in person and can't wait for in-person instruction to begin!

Take care,


Mr. Hannan



February 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 NO SCHOOL: Grading Day	2 First Day of Trimester 2, Grading Period 2	3 ROCKS 9:30-10 for all students	4	5	6
7	8	9	10 ROCKS 9:30-10 for all students	11	12	13
14 Valentines' Day 	15 NO SCHOOL: President's Day	16	17 ROCKS 9:30-10 for all students	18	19	20
21	22	23	24 ROCKS 9:30-10 for all students	25	26	27
28						

March 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2 	3 Mr. Hannan's Birthday ROCKS 9:30-10 for all students	4	5	6
7	8	9	10 ROCKS 9:30-10 for all students	11	12	13
14 Daylight Saving Time Starts	15 FINALS (last day of term)	16 No School: Teacher Prep Day	17 NO ROCKS	18 No School: Teacher Prep Day	19 No School: Grading Day	20
21	22 NO SCHOOL: Spring Break	23 NO SCHOOL: Spring Break	24 NO SCHOOL: Spring Break	25 NO SCHOOL: Spring Break	26 NO SCHOOL: Spring Break	27
28	29 GREEN DAY Start of Tri 3 First day of hybrid in-person for Green	30 SILVER DAY First day of hybrid in-person for Silver	31 ROCKS 9:30-10 for all students	April 1 GREEN DAY	2 SILVER DAY	

Important Information

INCOMPLETES

If a student did not earn a passing grade in the last six-week grading period, they received an Incomplete as their grade on their transcript.

Students are able to make up their grade and bring it up to passing at any point during the following six-week grading period. Students just need to contact their teacher to create a plan to complete their work and bring up their grade.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Mr. Hannan or Mrs. Harryman.

Need more support?

Struggling with classes and need more support? Please contact Mrs. Harryman, who will connect you with more help. We always want you to be successful in your classes!

Checking Grades

Parents and guardians,

You are able to check your student's grades on Pinnacle.

You can access the gradebook at:

<https://aos.albany.k12.or.us/students-parents/pinnacle/>

Use your assigned DBN number to log in. Call the school if you need your number.

Counseling Services

Every AOS student has been invited to join Mrs. Harryman's Counseling Canvas page, where there are a variety of resources including mental health, college and career info, virtual guest speakers, family resources, academic and tech support, and more.

If you ever need anything, please reach out to Mrs. Harryman!

BUSING

Will you need a bus to and from school when we return to hybrid in-person?

You must live more than 1.5 miles from the school for the school bus.

Please let us know right away if you might need a bus as it takes some time to arrange bussing.

The city bus is also available and is free to AOS students. There is no mile requirement with them.

Please contact Mrs. Fewless regarding bussing at:
debra.fewless@albany.k12.or.us.

SOCIAL MEDIA:

Please follow us at:

Facebook: [face-book.com/albanyoptions](https://www.facebook.com/albanyoptions)

Instagram: @AlbanyOptionsSchool

Health Occupations Class Hosts Guest Speakers

Mrs. Roundy has been teaching her Health Occupations class this year. This course focuses on introducing students to the variety of careers available in the healthcare field. "We look at different benefits, training, and salary so that students can begin to reflect on possible career options that they might be interested in pursuing," shared Mrs. Roundy. The class also focuses on learning some health content and strategies for self-care.

A variety of guest speakers from the field have visited the class to share. "The students really enjoyed being able to learn about a variety of jobs and ask questions of professionals who are working in careers that they are interested in. The students reflected on what they learned and if

they would be willing to enter that occupation after each guest speaker," said Mrs. Roundy.

The full team of GAPS school nurses discussed how they became a school nurse and how school nursing is different from other nursing fields. They also discussed the various jobs and career choices they made to become a school nurse.

Jackie Mitchell, who works in Diagnostic Imaging at Willamette Valley Medical Center in McMinville, discussed her responsibilities, benefits, and interesting stories from her career.

Mandi Irwin discussed the benefits and challenges of being an ICU nurse who works the night shift at Sacred Heart Medical Center in Spokane, Wa.

Rachel Lasselle of Samaritan Rehabilitation Specialties, introduced students to the relatively little known field of Cardiac Rehabilitation. She introduced students to what her job does and the variety of tasks she completes.

Our last guest speaker was a family nurse practitioner, Danette Nelson, who went over with students the different levels of nursing and how training can influence your career path.

Mrs. Roundy and the students learned so much about different types of opportunities from all the wonderful guests. All of the students reflected on how nice and knowledgeable all of our speakers were, and how much they appreciated the experiences.

"This I Believe" in Creative Writing with Mr. Wolfe

Ashleigh Carmona believes in patience. She came to this belief because she helps her mom raise her developmentally delayed younger sibling.

Noah Baske believes that family can overcome anything. He arrived at this belief when his family faced a cancer scare and he eventually realized that his family needed to stick together to get through the tough times. These are just two of the many "This I Believe" essay topics that students wrote about for Mr. Wolfe's Creative Writing class this past term.

The goal of the essay is to have students write what their core belief about life is, and how they arrived at that core belief. The kicker is that they have to do it in under 500 words. "At first, kids are excited because they think it will be an easy, short essay. But what they quickly realize is that to boil down their most important, fundamental belief about life into 499 words is a tremendous challenge," Mr. Wolfe said.

Wolfe has been requiring the essay for more than a dozen years in his Crea-



tive Writing classes at AOS. Over the years, students' core beliefs have ranged from, "I Believe in Graffiti" to "I Believe in the Mother/Daughter Bond" to "I Believe in Adoption".

This year, because of Covid and teaching via Zoom, Mr. Wolfe put a twist into his lesson plan. He explained, "In normal times, students finish their essays and

do a simple drawing of their belief on a regular 8.5" by 11" sheet of paper. Then I put them up in my classroom. But without a classroom due to Covid, I wanted to make this term feel extra special. So I gave each student a big banner and some finger paints. They got to finger paint their belief in big, bright, bold letters. I think the kids really enjoyed it!" Mr. Wolfe plans on making the painted banner a regular part of the "This I Believe" lesson even after students return to the classroom.

The "This I Believe" essay has been around for over 70 years. It began shortly after World War II as Americans tried to make sense of a world of Nazi atrocities and atomic bombs. Famous people were asked to

write a short essay explaining what core belief got them through their best and worst days. That first book included essays from such notable people as First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt, Anthropologist Margaret Mead and Supreme Court Justice William Douglas.

The book was so successful that in 2008, National Public Radio released a second book, titled "This I Believe II". That fall, Mr. Wolfe went to Portland to hear Jay Allison, the editor of the new books, speak about selecting essays and putting the books together. After Allison's talk, Mr. Wolfe went up to Jay Allison and had him autograph the newest book. Mr. Wolfe told Allison that he was a teacher and he made his students write their own "This I Believe" essays. So, Allison inscribed the book: "To the A.O.S. students of Mr. Wolfe's writing class. LISTEN. AND BELIEVE - Jay Allison"

Mr. Wolfe says that around that same time, the "This I Believe" website was started by National Public Radio and anyone, famous or not, could write an essay and submit it to the website. Today, over 125,000 essays have been submitted, including some former A.O.S students' and Mr. Wolfe's.



Painting in Virtual Art Class with Mrs. Gillispie

During Trimester 2, Mrs. Gillispie's art class was given a unique opportunity. She received a grant to purchase painting materials to send home with each student in the class. Each student received a tray of acrylic paints, watercolors, and a painting journal full of paper.



Bob Ross painting by Gage Pearson.

Throughout the term, students were given videos to help them practice in addition to teacher-led instruction. Students were also given the opportunity to choose their own projects.

For the student choice project, Gage Pearson chose to take on a Bob Ross painting. "For having hardly any painting experience, Gage's

painting came out great! Mountains are not an easy thing to paint," shared Mrs. Gillispie.

Isaac Middleton was another student who came into art with little painting experience. Toward the end of class, he commented, "painting is actually relaxing, I thought it was going to be stressful." Isaac also ended up with a beautiful painting he called a "Foggy Day."

Academic Awards for Trimester 2, Grading Period 1

Congratulations to the following students who earned academic awards in Trimester 2, Grading Period 1:

Ms. Bellando:

Chyra Carillo—American Literature
Kylie Durham—Contemporary Lit
Braeden hadlock—Film

Mr. Corliss:

Corina Spence—Algebra 1B
Braeden Hadlock—Financial Algebra
Natalya Sajovic—Financial Algebra
Jr Torres-Aguilera—Computer Prog.

Ms. Fitzpatrick:

Brisa Tecpile—Fitness & Condition
Hunter Webster—Fitness & Cond.
Tyra Kawaihalau—Geometry B
Zoe Wallace—Geometry B
Alejandro Gonzalez—GED
Aaron Anaya-Garcia—GED

Mr. Wolfe:

Cordel Adam—Sociology II
Braeden Hadlock—Psychology II
Ashleigh Carmona—Creative Writing

Mrs. Mitchell:

Kalea Guyette—US History
Kylie Durham—US History
Luis Reyes—Cultural Literature
Emma Hernandez—Cultural Lit.

Mr. Kenny:

Nolan Wogomon—Hawaiian History
Justinnia Ruiz—Hawaiian History

Mrs. Gillispie:

Natalya Sajovic—Observational Sci
Madison Alderin—Observational Sci
Oliver Lee—Astronomy
Abigail Fournier—Astronomy
Gage Pearson—Art II
Isaac Middleton—Art II

Mrs. Glass:

Kaydence Coats—Choices Program

Mrs. Roundy:

Mayah Lesser—British Literature
Riley Rutland—Cold War History
Mariah Hunt—Cold War History
Heidi Cortez-Gonzalez—Health Occs

HONOR ROLL

Congratulations to the following students who earned Honor Roll:

4.0 GPA:

Madison Aldering
Kalea Guyette
Braeden Hadlock
Dakota Hufeld
Oliver Lee
Luis Reyes
Jyssame Ridders
Natalya Sajovic

3.5-3.99 GPA:

Kameron Burford
Kaydence Coats
Ashleigh Carmona
Chyra Carrillo
Tiffany Farver
Garin Jochimsen
Liliana Lorenzana



Graduates

Congratulations to the following students who completed their high school graduation requirements in the past month:

Dakota Hufeld
Samantha McCormick
Jazmyn Hill
Angelic Shaw



GED Completers

Congratulations to the following students who completed the GED:

Yahir Vega
Isaac Pierce
Zac Cardin
Seth Grant
Nathaniel Parks



Pic of the Month



Yahir received his GED this past month! Congratulations!!

**Greater Albany Public
School District**

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www.aos.albany.k12.or.us

Albany Options School Newsletter: February 2021
Respect Ownership Courage Knowledge Safety

Albany Options School
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MENTAL HEALTH

RESOURCES

MRS. HARRYMAN EMAIL (email to talk)
anna.harryman@albany.k12.or.us

NATIONAL SUICIDE HOTLINE:
1-800-273-8255

**LINEA DE AYUDA NACIONAL DE
PREVENCION DEL SUICIDIO:**
1-888-628-9454

LINN COUNTY CRISIS
1-800-304-7468

OREGONYOUTHLINE.ORG
1-877-968-8491
Text "TEEN2TEEN" to 839863

JACKSON STREET YOUTH SERVICES
Mental health and outreach
541-220-2955

CALL: 211 - INFORMATION HELPLINE
Connect to health and human services

EMERGENCY- 911