



AOS Newsletter

Volume 10, Issue 5

March, 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 edition of the newsletter with anticipation that I have not felt in quite some time. When the decision was made to allow AOS to return to in-person, hybrid instruction, I literally shouted out loud in my office! On Saturday, it will have been an entire year since you attended school on campus. I can't imagine how difficult this past year was for every one of you. I think of all of the great experiences that come with attending school that you were not allowed to participate in, and all I can do is say, "I'm sorry." However, I want you all to know that we're committed to making the hybrid experience as worthwhile and fun as possible. The teachers and support staff will be returning next week to plan and organize what this is going to look like. Rest assured that we will be taking every precaution for your safety and the safety of our staff, but we will do so with the charge of making your experience one that you will never forget.

To the students remaining in virtual, we will continue to do everything we can to serve you and give you the best education we can, just as we have been striving to do since last Spring.

Because many of you have never met me and I'm new to the district, I thought it might be a good idea to introduce myself to you. I think it's important for you to know who I am and what I stand for. First and foremost, I am a student advocate. I want every one of you to know that your success is my number one priority. I became a teacher so I could work with kids, and I've dedicated 31 years of service doing just that. I began as a classroom teacher in a small K-8 elementary school. After 5 years, I moved up to the high school level where I worked with alternative ed. students. It was during this experience that I found my calling. That program was more geared toward credit recovery, but I found working with those students was the best!



Through that experience, I decided to go back to school to become a counselor and did so for 5 years. I then decided to take my alternative ed. and counseling experience into administration. I was an Assistant Principal in charge of curriculum and counseling for 8 years. Following that experience, I became the Principal at Silverton High School for 7 years. I then moved to a small rural K-8 school where I was the building Principal along with being in charge of special programs for the district. My alternative ed. roots were strong however, and when I saw the AOS position posted....I was all in!!

I tell you my professional history not to let you know how old I am ;) ... but to give you the picture of why I chose to be here working with you. I look at what I do as a blessing and I can't wait to meet you and get to work! Take care, and I look forward to working with each and every one of you.

Sincerely,

Mr. Hannan

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 <i>Daylight Saving Time Starts</i>	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 for Green	30 SILVER DAY First day of hybrid for Silver	31 ROCKS 9:30-10 for all students			

April 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 GREEN DAY	2 SILVER DAY APSF Scholarships Due	3
4 <i>Easter Sunday</i>	5 GREEN DAY	6 SILVER DAY	7 ROCKS 9:30-10 for all students	8 GREEN DAY	9 SILVER DAY	10
11	12 GREEN DAY	13 SILVER DAY	14 ROCKS 9:30-10 for all students	15 GREEN DAY	16 SILVER DAY	17
17	18 GREEN DAY	19 SILVER DAY	20 ROCKS 9:30-10 for all students	21 GREEN DAY	22 SILVER DAY	23
24	25 GREEN DAY	26 SILVER DAY	27 ROCKS 9:30-10 for all students	28 GREEN DAY	29 SILVER DAY	30

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.

BOOKS & TEXTBOOKS

Please bring all of your school books and textbooks to AOS when we return to hybrid. You can also turn in your books from West and South. Let us know if you have any questions.

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!

CAPS AND GOWNS

If you have not ordered your cap and gown for graduation yet, please do so immediately online at:

minersgrad.com

Select AOS as your school and order the cap and gown, which includes the tassel and is \$36 with shipping and handling. Caps and gowns will be sent to the school.

If you have any questions or are unable to cover the cost of the cap and gown, please contact Mrs. Harryman right away!

SOCIAL MEDIA:

Please follow us at:

Facebook:

facebook.com/albanyoptions

Instagram: @AlbanyOptionsSchool



Acrylic Painting in Art Class—by Mrs. Gillispie



The first 3 weeks of Art were spent learning acrylic painting. The paintings started off simple and then gradually got more complex. The students grew with the instructions and produced some amazing results for their final piece.

For their final piece, students were able to choose the subject for their painting. They didn't have to follow any of my videos or suggestions and got to make that choice on their own.



The students also participated in some abstract painting, which can often be really hard since we tend to want to make what we paint into objects. The students did really well and again produced some amazing abstract paintings.

As we finish out the rest of the term, the students are working on their watercolor paintings. You can follow our school Instagram or Facebook pages for more examples of student work.



What You Need to Know about Hybrid

With the start of the new trimester on **March 29th**, we will begin on hybrid in-person learning. Because of our small school size, hybrid will look a little different at AOS than it will at the other two high schools:

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW:

- Students will come to school two days a week for in-person instruction, will receive virtual instruction two days, and Wednesdays will continue to be asynchronous with Advisory from 9:30-10 am.
- Half of the students will come to the building on Mondays and Thursdays, which we call "Green Days," and the other half will come to school on Tuesdays and Fridays, which we call "Silver Days."
- Each student will receive an emailed copy of their schedule to their school email account, which will include their classes, teachers, classroom, and the days of the week they come to the building.
- Your teachers will have the same schedule as you, which means they will be in the building with you on the days you are here, and they will be teaching virtually on the days you are learning at home. That means you will continue to have the four days of instruction and

Sample Student Schedule:

Monday: in-person at AOS
Tuesday: virtual instruction
Wednesday: asynchronous and ROCKS
Thursday: in-person at AOS
Friday: virtual instruction

Wednesdays will remain asynchronous. Students will not lose any instruction time by the move to hybrid.

- Students will be assigned a classroom and a table at school, where they will spend all of their classes. The teachers will rotate, which eliminates passing periods and added opportunities for potential contamination.
- Classrooms will not be used by any other group. That means your student's classroom and seat will never be used by anyone else. Classrooms will always be sanitized between use.
- There will only be 30-40 students in the building on any day, and class sizes will be kept around 10 each (class size variation depends on the classroom space they are assigned to).
- Students will be asked to follow social distancing guidelines such as remaining six-feet apart. They will also have to wear a mask at all times while at school.
- Students will be screened at the door before entering the building. If you have any symptoms or have been exposed, we ask that you remain at home and contact the school.

WHAT TO BRING:

- Students should bring their own mask to school every day. We have disposable masks if a student does not have one.
- Drinking fountains are only to be used for water bottles, so please bring your own.
- Students are asked to bring their fully-charged chromebooks or laptops with them to school. If your student does not have a device they can bring, please notify the school immediately so that we can arrange for your student to have a chromebook the remainder of the year. Email Mrs. Barker at gwen.barker@albany.k12.or.us to arrange for your own chromebook.
- Weather permitting, we will have windows open to assist with ventilation. We will also have outdoor spaces for lunch, and classes may utilize our outdoor space for instruction, so bring layers to school.

As always, AOS strives to provide students with creative and innovative learning opportunities, which will continue in hybrid as well.

If you have any questions about hybrid or virtual instruction, please do not hesitate to contact Principal Mr. Hannan at mark.hannan@albany.k12.or.us or the counselor Mrs. Harryman at anna.harryman@albany.k12.or.us.

What You Need to Know about Virtual

For families that have chosen to remain virtual the rest of the year, we will continue to offer that option, but it will look a little different beginning with the new term on March 29th.

- Students will have one or two classes a day with Mrs. Roundy in Eng-

lish and/or Social Studies.

- Students will also be enrolled in our Choices program, where they will work on credits through OdysseyWare and/or Khan Academy at their own pace with assistance from Mrs. Glass.

- Wednesdays will continue to be asynchronous with ROCKS Advisory period from 9:30-10 am.
- Students will have attendance taken for their classes with Mrs. Roundy and for their daily work on their Choices online classes.

Reflecting on a Year in Virtual—by Ms. Fitzpatrick

This past year has been challenging for so many of us, teachers, students, and families....all trying to navigate through something none of us were prepared for just a year ago.

When things all came to an abrupt stop in March, 2020, I was unsure of what the days ahead were going to be like. What I wasn't prepared for was the amazing way our school, staff and students would all quickly adapt to the situation.

We went from in-person learning to virtual learning by the drop of a hat. Chromebooks were passed out, snack packs were distributed, learning continued, and the determination and love that teachers have for students was not halted because of the pandemic, it just started to look different.

There is a quote I would keep thinking about as our virtual teaching continued into the fall, "look for something positive in each day, even if some days you have to look a little harder." Everyday I would choose to see the amazing work that AOS was doing for our students. I would hear about teachers making sweet connections with students through Zoom, or students would tell me about the funny things their dogs were doing at

home, or little siblings' faces would pop up into the Zoom screen while I was teaching math.

These were the special little moments I treasured every day with my students. These were the silver linings to teaching in a virtual world. The small glimmer of connections to students and where they are. This is why I teach and why so many of us at AOS teach.

There were other things I saw the students learn that I would not have been able to fully develop in the classroom. Students learned 21st Century skills that are so crucial in today's society. They learned how to use Zoom, the importance of checking their emails, even learning to be brave and using their cameras and microphones with me.

Because of this unfortunate situation we're all in, our students gained incredible digital literacy skills unlike ever before, which will make them all so much prepared for the modern world when they graduate!

I am very proud to be an AOS Knight, I am proud of

my fellow co-teachers who challenge me to become a better teacher every day. I am proud of our fearless leaders at AOS who do everything from balancing our budget to checking in on my emotional needs. I am proud of our students who have overcome challenges and choose to rise above them everyday to do great things, especially on the days it would be easier to just crawl back into bed. I am proud of all of us for taking the time to see the positive in each day, even on those days we have to work a little bit harder.

This past year has been incredibly challenging, but there have been so many positives and things to be grateful for and excited about, most of all each and every one of the wonderful students at Albany Options School.

Sincerely,

Ms. Fitzpatrick "Fitz"

Ms. Fitzpatrick teaches Mathematics, GED, Health, and Physical Education at AOS



Graduates

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

Kaydence Coats



GED Completers

Congratulations to the following students who completed the GED:

Jonathan Kollaer

Peter H

Trevor Lien

Elaina Pike

Aiden Lee



Pic of the Month



Congratulations to Mason, who enlisted with the Army and will begin his service in June after graduation!

**Greater Albany Public
School District**

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Visit us online at:
www.aos.albany.k12.or.us

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

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Respect Ownership Courage Knowledge Safety

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