

Falcon Report



Albany High School newsletter

Third/Fourth Quarter 2020-21

Principal's message

Albany High School continues to serve more in-person students in the fourth quarter. Starting April 19, we gradually phased in students by grade and last name, with safety and social distancing in mind, and welcomed all groups with orientations and tours.

Our staff and students were excited to be able to meet students in person and build upon relationships further.

Teachers now teach all their students at the same time, whether the students are in-person or distance learners. We are now serving about 1,250 students in-person and 1,350 distance learners.

Please continue to check your student's grades and attendance as the end of the year approaches via schooltool, our student information system. You can find it on the school district website at albanyschools.org/schooltool

Parent email: Please ensure you have provided the school your email in schooltool to receive important information and the required daily Student Covid Screener. We also send out news, event reminders, class rotation calendars and much more via parent email. In addition, this allows principals, teachers and staff to communicate with families.

Cameras On Campaign: Our teachers are working diligently to engage distance learners. They also want to build relationships with students and be able to assess their understanding of what's happening in class. This is very difficult for them to do if they cannot see a student. We urge students to join our school community by showing their faces as much as possible so they can get to know their classmates and their teachers!

Clubs and enrichment: Many of our

after-school clubs and enrichment program are also meeting in-person now. Students can join a club virtually or in-person. Get more information at albanyschools.org/schools/albanyhigh/clubs-and-enrichment

Senior Prom: Senior Prom will be held in our football stadium on Saturday, June 19 from 5-8 p.m. Please be note there will be no high heels permitted on our turf field in preparing to buy attire. Please stay tuned for more information.

Graduation: Graduation will be held in small ceremonies at school on Saturday, June 26 and Sunday, June 27 starting at 9 a.m. Ceremonies will be held by academy and alphabetically in the following order: Discovery, Innovation, Leadership and Citizenship. Please be on the lookout for more information about specific times, dates and other details.

Abrookin news

Seniors **Kymalle Blackwell-Clarke, Aaliyah Dallard, Jada Gary, Maria Loja-Cajuana, Tinyrah Martin,** and **Zakaiyah Nobles** were in the inaugural graduation class of the Girls with Impact program, a virtual entrepreneurship program held in partnership with the City of Albany Department of Youth and Workforce Services.

For 10 weeks, students attended classes three hours per week to learn the key concepts and tools needed to start

their own businesses. They also received one-to-one mentoring from business leaders in the community.

The virtual graduation ceremony was highlighted by each participant presenting their business plan to their family members, mentors, and prominent guests including New York State Assembly Member Patricia A. Fahy and City of Albany Mayor Kathy Sheehan.

News from Albany High's academies

Citizenship

Senior **Aaliyah Dallard** has over 100 community service hours stamped in her Passport for Good, earning her a Gold Honor Cord for Community Service at graduation. Many of those volunteer hours were spent at a horse farm in Brunswick. Dallard refers to the horse farm as her "happy place." She also has community service hours



for volunteering at cosmetology spa days and culinary banquets. She recently started volunteering at the school food pantry, as well.

Dallard is finishing her third year in the cosmetology program and will graduate as a licensed cosmetologist. She will continue volunteering at the horse farm and plans on lifeguarding over the summer. She is set to attend Hudson Valley Community College in the fall and major in business administration.

Discovery

Now that we are into the fourth quarter, we have invited back all of our students who wanted to return to the building for the 2020-21 school year. It has been great to see our returning students and begin to meet some of our newest Falcons!

This year's Capital Region Media Arts Festival was held as a virtual event. This year 18 school districts submitted 182 pieces. The judges selected outstanding works to receive awards in the Film, Graphic designs and Photography genres. Within these genres there

were 20 categories. This year, Albany High had five students receive awards for their submitted media art pieces. Please join us in congratulating the following students, **Mya Noe Aung, Haley Vega, Ehblue Say, Emily Farrell** and **Alexandria Reid** for their incredible art pieces and sharing their talents with the Capital Region. We would also like to celebrate their guiding art teachers who helped these artists grow their skills. Let these talented students inspire other students to engage in the arts.

Innovation

We are so excited to welcome back our Innovation Academy students into the halls of Albany High. It has been great to connect with our returning students and finally meet some of our new faces!

This is also college admission season and our counselors have been very busy over the last few months preparing our seniors for this all important decision! Although we are proud of all of our students and their acceptances, we are especially proud of our

2021 valedictorian, **Onovu Otitigbe-Dangerfield**. She will be attending Harvard University in the fall. Another Innovation Academy senior, **Danvass Gekonge**, was accepted to Cornell University's School of Engineering as a Bridges Scholar and awarded the prestigious McMullen Dean's Award. Congratulations to both of them and to all of our seniors and their many accomplishments both in and out of the classroom! Let their stories inspire our current underclassman and push all of our students to their absolute potential!

Leadership

The Career Closet is officially open!

Lindsay Simmons, our work-based learning coordinator, canvassed the community for donations of delicately used business attire. She received an overwhelming response from individuals and stores throughout the capital region - and now we have a Career Closet!

Students can "shop" for

clothing to use for job interviews, internships opportunities or any other special occasion. The store is located in the Career Resource Center (Room A05A) at Abrookin Career and Technical Center. The store will be open during student lunch hours. If you would like to visit the Career Closet, please contact Ms. Simmons at LSimmons@albany.k12.ny.

