



From the District

Greetings from Albany Area Schools!

Wow! The onset of distance learning in mid-March was a journey all of us hoped would be short. Thankfully, for the most part, things went as well as could be expected. As we complete the 2019-20 school year and look ahead to 2020-21, things unfortunately do not appear to be any more clear for next school year.

Undoubtedly, students, parents, and staff all hope to return to our schools in September with business as close to normal as possible. Face-to-face interaction and in-person teaching and learning are needed. Like the other 500 public and charter schools in the state, we will wait patiently for guidance from the state and plan accordingly.

I cannot begin to thank our over 300 staff members enough for their hard work and dedication this spring. Our teachers did the unthinkable work of changing their delivery of instruction in just eight days. Kids Company staff and paraprofessionals have continued to support our students throughout distance learning, providing on-site childcare to 40-50 students per day. Food service staff continued to serve meals to families averaging close to 800 meals a day with delivery by our dedicated transportation team. Custodial staff have kept our buildings safe for those onsite. Also, a big thank you to our students and families for their perseverance during distance learning!

Summer will once again be busy in Albany Area Schools. We hope to soon begin offering summer programming through Community Education and will see a number of building projects in the months ahead. New roofs, parking lots, gym floors, and a track are a few of the many projects we hope to have completed by September 1.

As we have said for several years, our school district continues to grow. This fall, we anticipate K-12 enrollment to exceed 1,800 students for the first time ever. Recently, we saw our school district census exceed 10,000 residents for the first time as well.

By the end of June, we hope to have a new five-year strategic plan in place. Our prior strategic plan played an integral part in shaping our schools. There is still time to participate in the strategic planning process. Please reach out to me if you would like to be a part of a virtual planning session on June 8.

As I look to begin my seventh year in Albany Area Schools, I am proud of our school system and community. I am a bit biased, but I believe this is a wonderful place to call home.

Have an enjoyable summer!

Greg Johnson, Superintendent
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320-845-5050

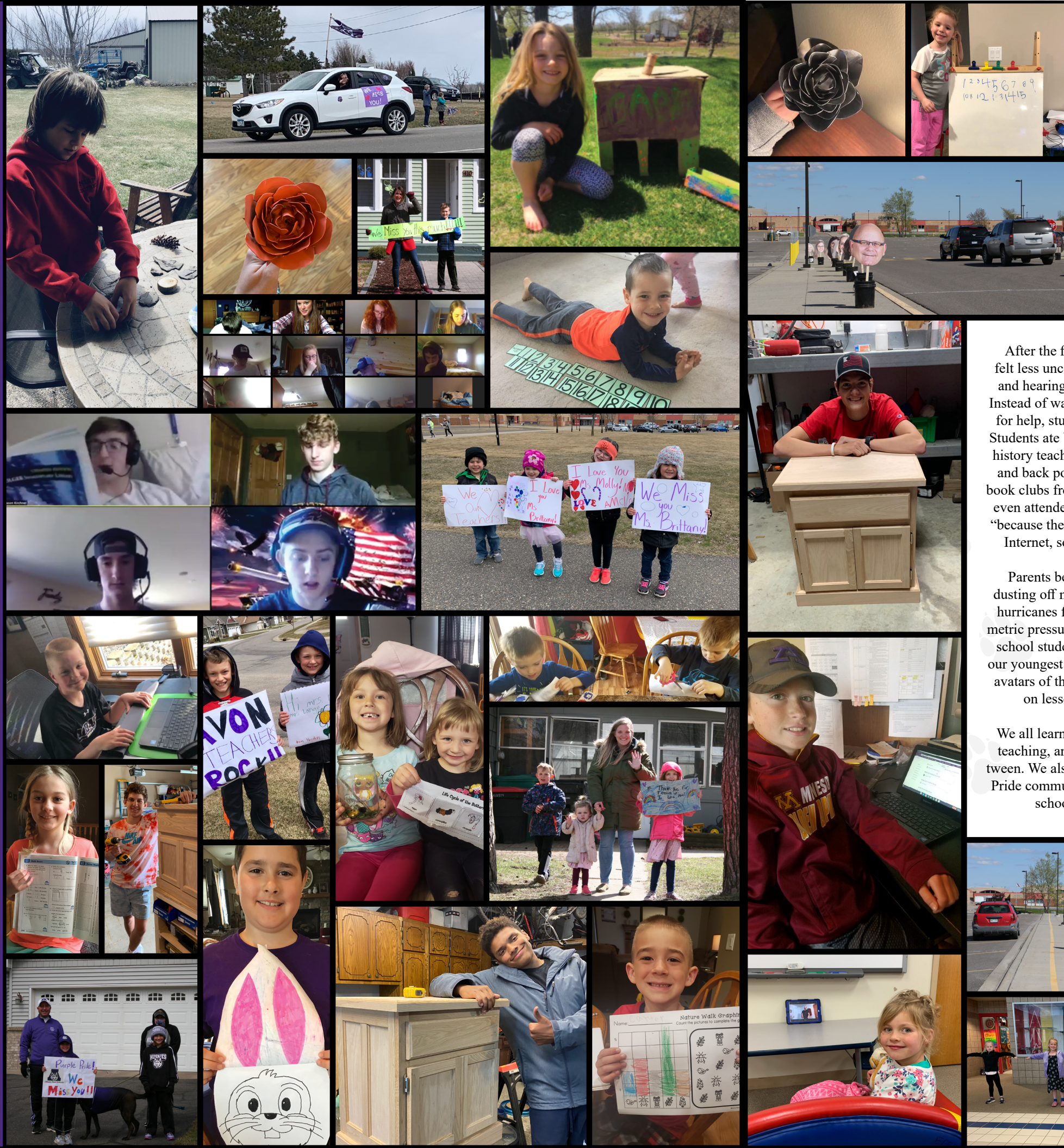


Albany Area Schools
INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT 745

Huskie Howl

June 2020

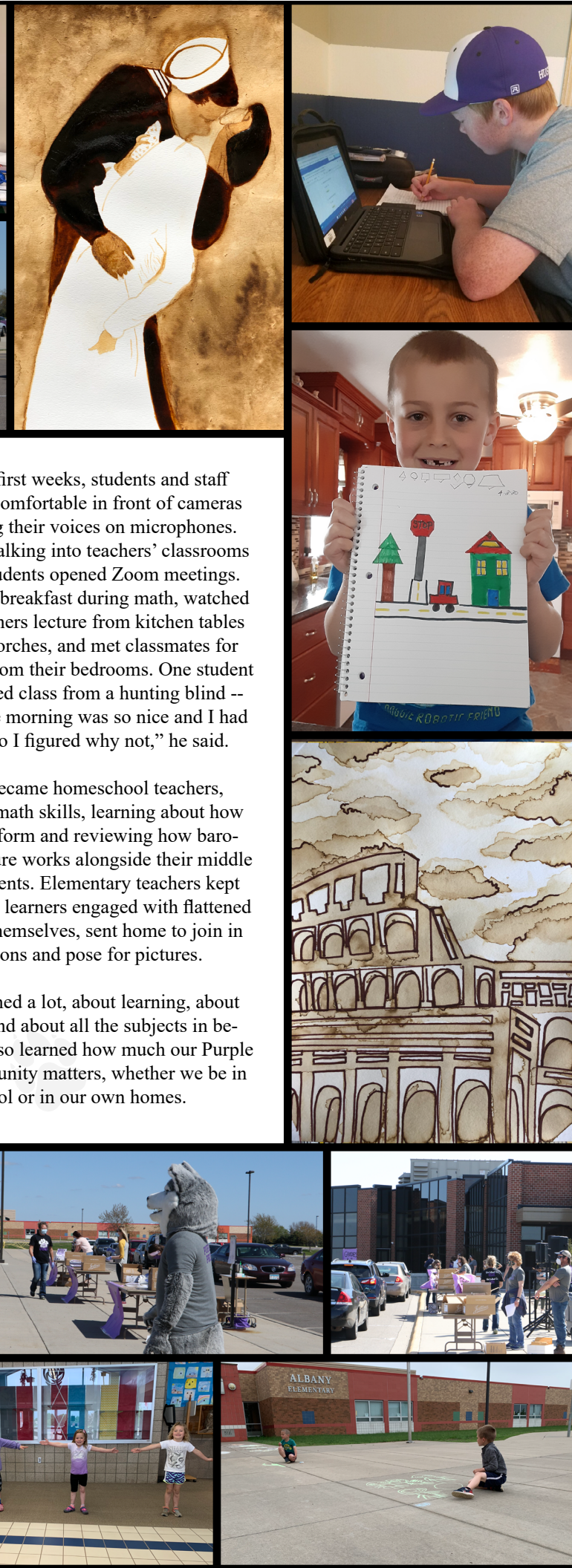
Albany Area Schools
Community Newsletter



After the first weeks, students and staff felt less uncomfortable in front of cameras and hearing their voices on microphones. Instead of walking into teachers' classrooms for help, students opened Zoom meetings. Students ate breakfast during math, watched history teachers lecture from kitchen tables and back porches, and met classmates for book clubs from their bedrooms. One student even attended class from a hunting blind -- "because the morning was so nice and I had Internet, so I figured why not," he said.

Parents became homeschool teachers, dusting off math skills, learning about how hurricanes form and reviewing how barometric pressure works alongside their middle school students. Elementary teachers kept our youngest learners engaged with flattened avatars of themselves, sent home to join in on lessons and pose for pictures.

We all learned a lot, about learning, about teaching, and about all the subjects in between. We also learned how much our Purple Pride community matters, whether we be in school or in our own homes.





HERGES STADIUM

AN HONOR FOR PETE HERGES

Former Albany athletic director and coach Pete Herges will receive a well deserved honor from the Albany Area Schools community this coming fall when the track and football field complex at Albany High School receives a new name.

The football field will remain Michael Field, but the entire complex will now come under the name of Herges Stadium. The Albany School Board convened a committee to review a naming proposal presented to them from community members during which the recommendation for Herges Stadium was brought forth and approved.

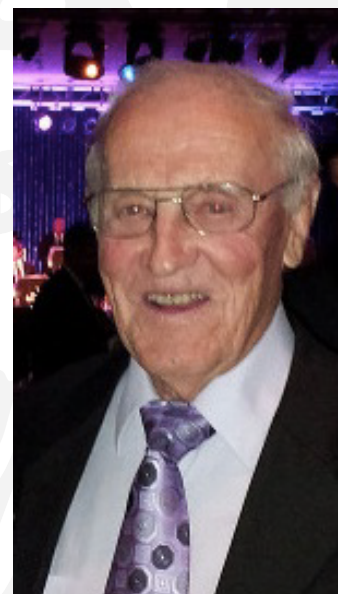
Pete served many roles at Albany High School during his career in education and touched countless lives as a teacher, athletic director and coach. He is a member of five different Halls of Fame - Minnesota Athletic Administrators, Minnesota Coaches Association, Minnesota Football Coaches, Minnesota Golf Coaches, and Albany High School.

Pete's success is very well known, but his leadership transcends the sports he was coaching. Pete is the embodiment of Purple Pride still today and his influence can still be seen in many ways.

Pete was also an active member of the Albany community and organizations from his service promulgating and supporting the development of the Albany Golf Course and serving several terms as president as a board director. He is a long-time member of the Albany Legion Club and Lions Club as well.

The unveiling of Herges Stadium and the celebration will be on Thursday, September 3, 2020, when the Albany Huskies open the 2020 football season at home versus Glencoe-Silver Lake.

We look forward to a celebration that evening of Pete and his wife Joan and their many, many contributions to our school and community!



CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR RETIRING TEACHERS

With heavy hearts, gratitude, and best wishes, join us in wishing these teachers a retirement that is worth every bit of the hard work and dedication with which they have served our district and our students. The influence of a great teacher can never be erased. Our community is grateful.



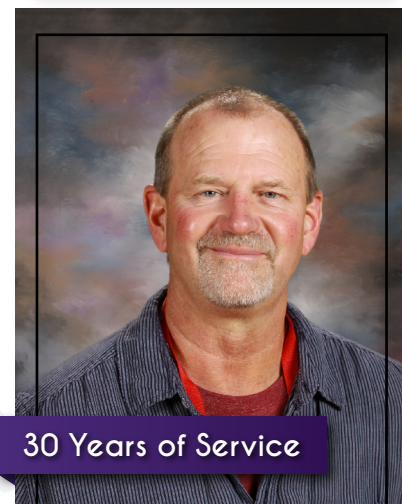
29 Years of Service

MONICA COFELL
High School / Middle School
World Languages



35 Years of Service

DENISE CROATT
Second Grade



30 Years of Service

SCOTT DANINGER
High School Science &
Work Based Learning



25 Years of Service

WENDY HANSON
High School
Special Education



31 Years of Service

VICKI PFEFFER
Fourth Grade



27 Years of Service

JAN SHAVER
High School / Middle School
Physical Education

THE CLASS OF 2020: by Principal Tim Wege

Each year I spend some time reflecting on the accomplishments of our senior class. This year's class, although small with 113 members, has done an amazing job of leading our school this year to many successes and valued memories.

First, this is the first class to see six students tied for valedictorian. The class of 2020 outscored the state on all MCA assessments by a large margin including MCA reading scores that were 19% points above the state average. (Math was 10% points higher and science was 14% points higher.) The class of 2020 accumulated 1102 college credits through College in the Schools options, which calculates to over \$300,000.00 in value. The academic accomplishments don't stop there.

Our seniors led our economics team to a 2nd place finish in state, our financial decathlon team to a 3rd place state finish, back-to-back state tournament appearances in mock trial, the Granite Ridge Championship in knowledge bowl, and the highest ever overall ranking for our robotics team at one of the largest double regional robotics competitions in the world. We were anticipating more successes in knowledge bowl and speech before their seasons were cut short.

CELEBRATING OUR SENIORS



In fine arts our students continued to earn Superior Ratings at large group band and choir contests with other amazing performances throughout the year, our one-act play made it to the section finals for the second year in a row, and we were all looking forward to another sell-out musical performance this year.

In all, our school had 26 fine arts performances this year in the BEAT with several being canceled this spring.

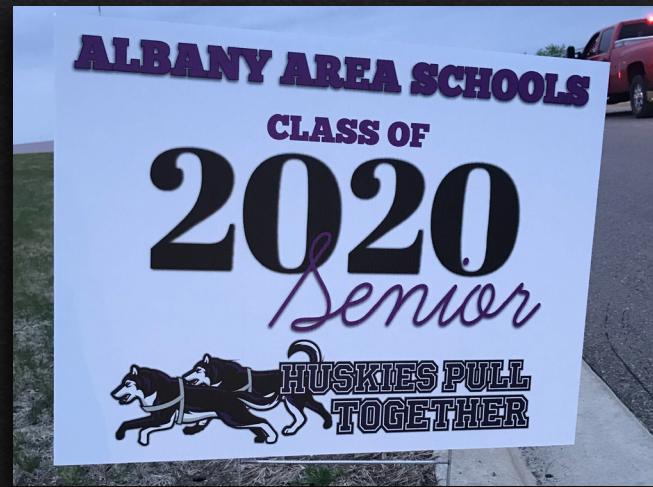
In athletics, our students excelled again with an overall record of 92 wins and 25 losses. In the Granite Ridge Conference our teams were 43-2 according to Minnesota-scores.net and that doesn't include the many successes our teams would have had in spring activities. Albany was the Granite Ridge Conference champions in volleyball, girls cross-country, boys basketball, and girls basketball. Albany was also the conference champions in the East Central District in football. We saw our wrestling team record a school record number of dual meet wins, the girls cross-country team go to state, and several

championship games because of the success. One senior was able to make state 5 times in her high school career with several students looking to repeat qualifying for state in track and field and girls golf.

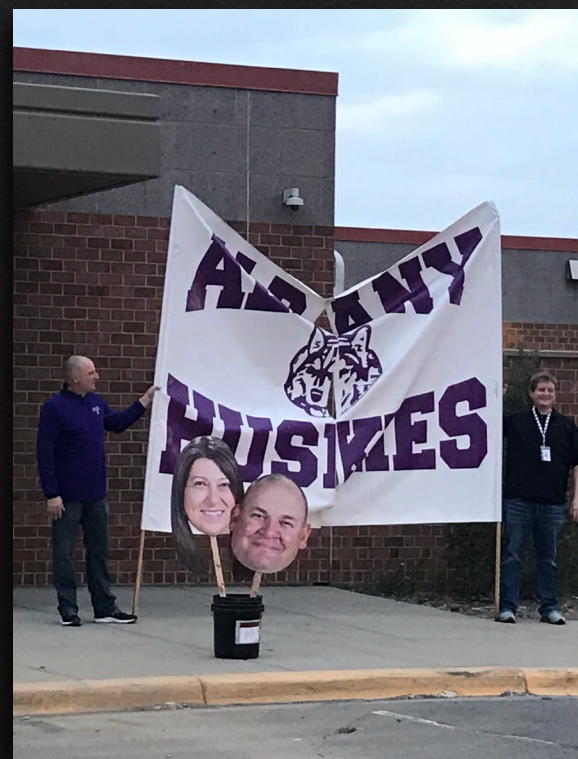
I didn't catch all of the successes this year, but as you can see the class of 2020 has much to be proud of, and as a community we have been able to enjoy a lot of quality competitions and performances. As we move to the end of the 2020-21 school year, I would like to wish all of our graduates good luck in their future endeavors and thank them for the wonderful memories they have left in the Albany Area School District.



to the class of 2020



CONGRATULATIONS
TO THE CLASS OF 2020



to the class of 2020



CONGRATULATIONS MRS. STODOLKA

On May 18th Clare Stodolka (6th Grade) won Spirit 92.9's daily "High Fives for Heroes" contest. She was nominated by one of her students, Maddie, who had this to say.

"Mrs. Stodolka goes out of her way to be there for her students in every way...she is always caring and available to them"

Thank you, Clare, and all our teachers for your hard work!



THE DEFINITION OF "STEPPING UP"

By the end of the school year our food service staff has served over 30,913 bagged meals (each bag containing a breakfast and a lunch meal).

An average of 750 bags/day!

These numbers include both delivered meals and pick ups from our 13 pickup locations across the district.

Thank you so much to our food service staff for going above and beyond to get families the meals they need.



WELCOME TO THE TEAM!

Craig Waldvogel - Director of Technology and Network Systems

Albany Area Schools is pleased to announce the recent hiring of Craig Waldvogel as the Director of Technology and Network Systems. After graduating from Osakis High School, Craig earned his associate's degree from Alexandria Technical College and his bachelor's degree from Rasmussen College, both in computer science.

Craig comes to Albany from Staples-Motley Schools, where he focused on giving staff and students a great customer service experience, especially in his work integrating one-to-one technology in classrooms.

Craig has always enjoyed working with technology and finds helping teachers with their technology needs the most rewarding aspect of his position.

As Director of Technology and Network Systems, Craig ensures optimal technology integration, design, and systems and supports staff and students with their technology needs. If there's a problem, Craig will solve it. Researching future technology needs and innovations is also part of his duties.

Often working behind the scenes, Craig oversees all facets of the district's technology, from ensuring technology systems in the district are talking to each other, maintaining network traffic, and managing the Internet filter.

Newly married to his wife Kaylie, Craig enjoys walks, bike rides, the outdoors, and time with family, especially at the lake up north. He finds spare time to help his grandparents on the family farm too.

Craig is pleased to be part of the Huskie team. Welcome aboard!



A MESSAGE FROM NURSE ASHA

Due to limitations brought on by Covid 19, it is very important that you consult with your medical provider as soon as possible to schedule well-child checks and immunizations. Immunizations, well child checks, sports physicals, and kindergarten physicals are deemed essential medical appointments to minimize serious health impacts for your child and ensure the safety of others in the Albany Area Schools community. The MN Department of Health cautions that slowing or stopping access to vaccinations increases our risk of other disease outbreaks. Some clinics are doing drive up immunizations to eliminate the need to enter a medical building. Please contact your child's clinic to find out more. Please send updated immunization records to the nurse in your child's school building. Thank you for your help in keeping our students and community safe!



Despite over \$30 million in construction just a few years ago, Albany Area Schools will once again see activity at each of its sites this spring and summer. In 2015, the MN Legislature created a program to support facilities maintenance needs for school districts. The program, Long Term Facility Maintenance (LTFM), is based on a formula that takes into account the number of students in a school district as well as the average age of all facilities. The revenue comes from state aid and local levy.

For Albany Area Schools, our annual LTFM general fund revenue ranges from \$525,000 in 2019 to approximately \$620,000 in 2024. In the past few years, we have used LTFM revenue to replace flooring, make minor roof repairs, renovate restrooms, replace bleachers, asbestos abatement, parking lot repairs, and various other deferred maintenance items. LTFM revenue is a valuable resource for school districts and allows us to maintain facilities at a level impossible in the past.

Districts may also sell and issue general obligation bonds to fund qualifying LTFM projects.

Issuing bonds and completing these major projects will not impact taxes as local levy amounts will remain the same.

The Albany Area School Board recently approved selling and issuing bonds for several major LTFM projects. In doing so, half of our LTFM revenue will be used to repay the bonds under this program. The bond revenue will allow us to make major improvements to existing roofs at all three of our locations. Our outdoor track that surrounds the football field is also in dire need of replacement. Other projects include repairing and resurfacing elementary parking lots, resurfacing the secondary school gym floor, and new flooring in the Avon Elementary kitchen.

For a long time, long-term facility maintenance funding was an unmet need for most school districts. Thank you to legislators and other state leaders for helping school districts across the state meet facility maintenance challenges.

