



# North Albany Middle School

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Hello NAMS Students and Parents,

I would like to welcome everyone back for the 2017-18 school year, and introduce myself to you. My name is Marshall Jackson, and I am the new Principal of North Albany Middle School. I have been an Oregon Educator for the past 26 years. I started my career teaching 7<sup>th</sup> grade, and then spent the next 14 years at the high school level before becoming a Middle School Administrator in Bend. Prior to moving to Albany I spent the past four years as the Principal of Sisters Middle School. I am someone who enjoys the challenge of change, and am looking forward to this new adventure in my career and working with the entire NAMS community.

The theme for NAMS this year may be “Change,” with several new people, new schedules, new hours, traffic routines, and daily practices ahead. Besides me, let’s start with our new staff members. Joining me as the Assistant Principal is Kathie Bergsma-Glenn. Katy Wills will be teaching Math, Ken Beiser will be teaching Spanish, Lisa Van Veldhuizen is teaching Language Arts, and Ryan Narce will be teaching Language Arts and Social Studies. Kari-Anne Gonzalez has also joined us as Dean of Students.

**NEW HOURS:** This year our classes run from 8:50-3:45, M/T/TH/F, and 8:50-2:45 on Early Release Wednesdays. The Main Office will be open from 8:15-4:15 daily. Our Cafeteria will be open for students at 8:15 each day. The Halls will be open to students at 8:35.

**NEW TRAFFIC PATTERNS:** With the change to the elementary school start times, both elementary and middle level students will be riding the bus together. This change mandates a change to our bus drop off/pick up area and the parent drop off/pick up area.

This year the large parking lot west of NAMS, between us and the elementary school, will now be the Bus Loading Zone. Our busses will park around the perimeter of the parking lot to drop off and pick up. Students are to use the “walking zones,” indicated by white striped areas, to either walk into NAMS, or to walk to NAES.

Our parent drop off/pick up will be along the curb at the front of the building. **Parents, please pull all the way forward to drop off/pick up your student.** This will allow more cars to pull in from the road, avoiding a traffic backup, and the students can safely walk along the sidewalk to the front entrance. Your cooperation on this will make the traffic flow easier, and help get every student to class on time. Thank you.

To avoid traffic congestion, the best option is to use the school bus. Another option is to use an optional drop zone across the street. GAPS has partnered with North Albany Community Church to allow parents to drop their student off in their parking lot. Students will then be able to use the crosswalk and sidewalks to safely walk to school, allowing parents to avoid the traffic rush in the parking lot. This option may also be used for pick up after school.

**POLICY CHANGES:** The staff of North Albany Middle School, with input from parents, has made some changes to the student conduct handbook. Some of these are minor changes. All reflect careful consideration of the educational needs of middle level students, developmental appropriateness for this age, staff ability to develop relationships with students, and the operational order needed for a large school to run well. We believe these changes will help build a positive, culture of learning for all our students.

Two changes to be aware of deal with drinks and electronic devices. This year, our school policy **will not allow any caffeinated or energy drinks in the hallways.** Only water is allowed is to go past the cafeteria. We strongly encourage our students to avoid these drinks at this time in their development. Beyond the short term “crash” that often follows drinking these types of drinks, the combination of sugar and caffeine can have negative health effects later in life.

**Cell Phones/Electronic Device use will no longer be allowed during school hours.** Students are permitted to have them in the cafeteria BEFORE school only, and only if they are being used in a school appropriate manner. **Once the bell rings to enter the halls, all phones and devices are to be turned off and put away in the locker. They are to remain in the students’ locker until the end of the day.**

**UPCOMING DATES:**

Our first day for sixth grade is September 5<sup>th</sup>, with all students returning on September 6<sup>th</sup>.

Wednesday, September 13<sup>th</sup> is our first Early Release Wednesday, with school ending at 2:45.

Back to School Night is September 21<sup>st</sup>.

I hope that you all enjoy this last bit of Summer Break, and look forward to meeting you this school year.

Sincerely,

  
Marshall Jackson

# North Albany Middle School



New parent drop off and pick up area.

Please load and unload your students **ONLY** at the curb.

Please do not block the bus loop.

New bus loop.

MAIN OFFICE

flag pole

