

Board of Education

- Barbara Gaffuri, *President***
Melissa Mackey, *Vice President*
Judy L. Doesschate, *Secretary*
Mark J. Barth, Ph.D.
Rose Brandon
Daniel Egan
Wayne P. Morris
-
- Raymond Colucciello, Ed.D.**
Interim Superintendent



Academy Park
 Albany, New York 12207

Non-Profit Org.
 U.S. Postage
 PAID
 Permit No. 149
 Albany, NY

You can access all the information in this newsletter online at www.albanyschools.org

Communications Office, Academy Park, Albany, N.Y. 12207 | (518) 475-6065 | Fax: 475-6069 | www.albanyschools.org

Rebuilding our schools, reshaping education

With just one year left in the comprehensive facilities project for elementary and middle schools, the district is looking forward to starting the 2009-10 school year with a celebration to mark the completion of the 12th project this decade.

Giffen Memorial Elementary School, located at 274 South Pearl St., will welcome the community for a ribbon-cutting ceremony and tour on Saturday, Sept. 12 at 10 a.m. as a prelude to the annual Back-to-School Celebration that begins at 11 a.m. We invite everyone to attend.

Originally built in 1960, Giffen has been renovated in stages, beginning with a complete roof replacement on the 135,484-square-foot building during the

summer of 2006.

Projects conducted during the past two summers have included replacement of the heating system and the addition of air conditioning, window and door replacements, bathroom upgrades, painting and new building accessibility.

In January, Thomas O'Brien Academy of Science and Technology (TOAST) will return to its Lincoln Park facility.

TOAST has shared the former Schuyler Elementary School building at 141 Western Ave., with Arbor Hill Elementary School since the start of the 2008-09 school year, when the discovery of asbestos in unexpected locations led to the closure of the Lincoln

Park school for full remediation.

TOAST's return was delayed three months when the district discovered last winter that additional asbestos work needed to be done.

TOAST will return home Jan. 4 when students return from the holiday break. A special community event also will welcome the reopening of this facility.

Arbor Hill Elementary will be the final project in the sweeping \$204 million effort to newly build or renovate the district's elementary and middle schools.

Work at Arbor Hill Elementary is scheduled to be completed for the start of the 2010-11 school year.



Show your Falcon pride!

Fall games begin Sept. 3

Don't wait for the start of school Sept. 8 to start thinking about Albany High School's varsity athletic teams. Four of the seven fall teams begin their seasons before school opens.

Albany's fall sports season officially begins with two games Thursday, Sept. 3.

The girls' volleyball team is home against Holy Names for a 5:15 p.m. match, and the girls' soccer team welcomes Albany Academy to Blecker Stadium at 6:30 p.m.

The football team, under new coach Pete Porcelli, gets started the following day, Sept. 4, with a visit to Schenectady for a 7 p.m. kickoff. Coach Porcelli and the Falcons play their home opener Saturday, Sept. 12 when Shaker visits the Charles I. Leigh Sr. Football Field at Blecker Stadium.

The boys' soccer team also opens before the first day of school with a trip to Queensbury on Saturday, Sept. 5. Game time is 1 p.m.

Once classes are in session, girls' swimming and girls' tennis both begin Wednesday, Sept. 9.

The swimming team has a home meet against Troy at 4:30 p.m., and the tennis team welcomes Catholic Central to the courts at Stephen and Harriet Myers Middle School for a 4:15 p.m. match.

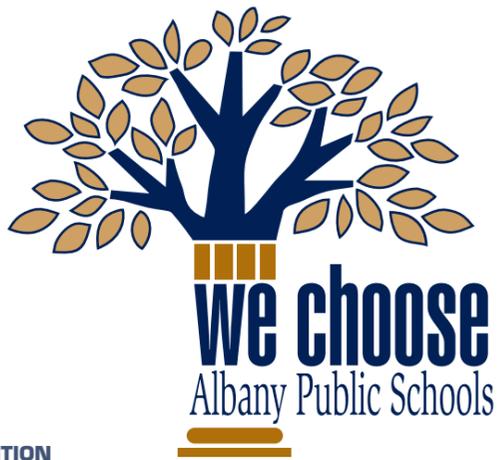
Finally, the boys' and girls' cross country teams get started Tuesday, Sept. 22 with a home meet against Bishop Gibbons and Troy at Washington Park. Start time is 4:15 p.m.

For complete modified, JV and varsity schedules, visit the Athletics section at www.albanyschools.org.

See you at the games!

2009-10 school schedules

School	Breakfast start	Classes start	Classes end
Elementary schools			
Albany School of Humanities (ASH)	7:40 a.m.	8 a.m.	2:30 p.m.
Arbor Hill Elementary School	8:35 a.m.	9:05 a.m.	3:35 p.m.
Delaware Community School	8:45 a.m.	9:05 a.m.	3:35 p.m.
Eagle Point Elementary School	7:40 a.m.	8 a.m.	2:30 p.m.
Giffen Memorial Elementary School	8:45 a.m.	9:05 a.m.	3:35 p.m.
Montessori Magnet School	7:40 a.m.	8 a.m.	2:30 p.m.
New Scotland Elementary School	8:25 a.m.	9:05 a.m.	3:35 p.m.
Philip J. Schuyler Achievement Academy	8:40 a.m.	9:05 a.m.	3:35 p.m.
Pine Hills Elementary School	8:45 a.m.	9:05 a.m.	3:35 p.m.
Sheridan Preparatory Academy	7:30 a.m.	8 a.m.	2:30 p.m.
Thomas O'Brien Academy of Science and Technology (TOAST)	7:40 a.m.	8 a.m.	2:30 p.m.
PK-8			
North Albany Academy	8:10 a.m.	8:30 a.m.	3 p.m.
(MS prelim begins at 7:40 a.m.)			
Middle schools			
Stephen and Harriet Myers Middle School	7:40 a.m.	8 a.m.	3 p.m.
William S. Hackett Middle School	7:40 a.m.	8 a.m.	3 p.m.
High schools			
Abrookin Vo-Tech Center	7:20 a.m.	7:50 a.m.	2:50 p.m.
Albany High School	7:20 a.m.	7:50 a.m.	2:50 p.m.
Harriet Gibbons High School	7:30 a.m.	8:13 a.m.	3:13 p.m.



2009-10
BACK-TO-SCHOOL EDITION

CAPITAL education

The FAQs about bus transportation

CDTA pass continues to provide more options

City School District of Albany middle and high school students who ride CDTA buses will continue to have more flexibility during the 2009-10 school year with a pass that is good whenever CDTA buses operate on weekdays.

Students in elementary school will continue to receive yellow bus transportation from Durham School Services. Elementary students in open enrollment and magnet programs will ride yellow buses if their school is more than 1.5 miles from their home.

Thomas O'Brien Academy of Science and Technology (TOAST) and Arbor Hill Elementary School students will receive transportation if they live more than a half-mile (0.5) from their schools' temporary location at the former Schuyler Elementary School at 141 Western Ave.

When TOAST moves back to its traditional Lincoln Park location in January the 1.5-mile eligibility again will apply. Arbor Hill Elementary will remain at the swing space building throughout the 2009-10 school year.



Special education students who live closer than 1.5 miles to their school also may be eligible for transportation on Durham buses if their Individualized Education Plan specifically requires it.

Applications for bus service are available at your child's school or Central Registration, located in the Sunshine Building in Lincoln Park, at the intersection of Morton and Delaware avenues.

The CDTA bus pass

The school district bus pass, also known as a swiper card, is accepted on all CDTA buses.

A swiper card is valid during the school year only. It will allow students to ride the bus Monday through Friday from the time CDTA service begins (most routes start between 5-6 a.m.) and provides transportation to after-school programs anywhere in the city.

This schedule allows students more travel options and provides access to dozens of routes CDTA operates.

Students must have their passes with them at all times and will be required to swipe their card through the fare box to get on a CDTA bus. If a student does not have their pass when boarding a CDTA bus, they will be required to pay the appropriate fare to complete the trip.

The current one-way fare is \$1.50.

Students must report the loss of a pass to the school district immediately. Applications to replace lost passes may be found at each school.

Due to the increase in CDTA's one-way fare, the cost of a lost swiper card has increased to \$15. Damaged cards will not be accepted.

**Tuesday, Sept. 8
is the first day
of the 2009-10
school year.**

Expected behavior

Students' safety is a priority. We expect all students to conduct themselves appropriately on all school-related transportation.

When riding CDTA buses, students are expected to follow CDTA rules and regulations for using service and are subject to the CDTA Code of Conduct, which outlines expected behavior for all riders and ensures that everyone receives the best service possible.

The Code of Conduct can be found online at www.cdta.org.

Students who are disorderly on any school-related transportation may have their bus privileges suspended. Students who frequently misbehave may have their bus privileges taken away permanently.

Questions and information

The CDTA route network is extensive and easy to understand.

To plan a trip to and from school, to an after-school activity or to a special event, visit www.cdta.org and review schedules or use the automated trip planner. Copies of schedules can be obtained at school or at public libraries, shopping centers and select supermarkets.

Trip planning also is available by calling the CDTA Information Center at 482-8822.

If you have questions about your transportation needs, your eligibility for a CDTA pass or Durham yellow school bus service, please contact the school district's Transportation Office at 462-7320.

Transportation requests

The district's goal is to provide students with safe, reliable and efficient transportation. But, we need your help.

All bus routes and pick-up times are planned using the information provided in the student transportation request applications. If your child was provided transportation last year, you should have received and resubmitted a transportation request form in June.

If you did not receive or submit an application at that time, or if your residence has changed, please pick up an application at Central Registration in Lincoln Park, at the intersection of Delaware and Morton avenues.

Your child will not be assigned to a bus route until a completed application is received. Busing will be available on the first day of school – Tuesday, Sept. 8 – for any transportation requests received by Friday, Aug. 21.

Busing requests submitted after Aug. 21 will begin according to the schedule below.

Timeline for Transportation Requests

If your request is received by:	Your child's busing will begin:
Aug. 21	Sept. 8
Aug. 24 – Sept. 4	Sept. 14
Sept. 8 – 11	Sept. 21
Sept. 14 – 18	Sept. 29
Sept. 21 – 25	Oct. 5
Sept. 29 – Oct. 2	Oct. 13

We appreciate your cooperation and encourage you to contact the Transportation Department at 462-7320 if you have questions.

A healthy foundation for learning

The City School District of Albany's free and reduced-price meal program

Children need healthy meals to nourish their bodies and minds. That's why the City School District of Albany offers breakfast and lunch every day in school and has removed all trans fats from the menu.

Breakfast and lunch prices are increasing for the 2009-10 school year. Breakfast will be \$1.25 at all schools, and lunch will be \$2 at elementary schools and \$2.25 in middle school and high school.

However, if your family qualifies for

the free or reduced-price meal program, your child can receive breakfast and lunch free or for as little as 25 cents for each meal, depending on your family's eligibility level.

We encourage families to apply for the free and reduced-price meal program. Inside this newsletter you will find the 2009-10 application in English and Spanish, as well as guidelines to follow when filling out these forms.

You can mail your application or return it in person to the City School

District of Albany's Food Service Department, Philip Livingston Magnet Academy, room 125, 315 Northern Blvd., Albany, NY 12210.

If you have questions or need help completing the application, or if you are not sure if you meet the income eligibility guidelines necessary to qualify for free or reduced-priced meals, please call the Food Service Department at 462-7322.

If your child received free or reduced-price meals in 2008-09, **a new**

application still must be submitted in September to continue this program in 2009-10. Please complete and return the forms as soon as possible.

Please note that first-time applicants do not qualify until an application is approved and a letter of notification is sent to the household.

If you receive food stamps or Aid to Dependent Children (ADC/TANF) you qualify for free or reduced-priced meals (see page 3 for information about how to apply).

From the interim superintendent New leadership, same goal: Keeping students first



Interim Superintendent
Raymond Colucciello, Ed.D.

A transition in leadership can be a trying time for an organization. Inevitably, there are questions about how the philosophy or priorities may change, and how any changes would affect operations, priorities and goals.

Let me assure you that as the City School District of Albany's interim superintendent, I am focused on two main objectives that will seem very familiar to you: making sure that we keep our students first, and relying on the experiences of the strong leadership team already in place as we work together with the community to continue the district's progress.

This is a wonderful opportunity for me, and actually a return to Albany's public schools. I enjoyed the time I spent as interim principal of the former School 18 (now Delaware Community School) in 2002, and I am glad to be back with another opportunity to serve the students, parents, teachers, staff, community and Board of Education.

I believe my leadership experience with other districts in our area, including Schenectady, Troy, Ballston Spa and, most recently, Voorheesville, will allow me to understand the needs of the district and community in Albany.

It will be a pleasure to assist the board in maintaining our momentum as we partner with the community on a national search to find a permanent replacement for Superintendent Eva Joseph, Ed.D.

I have great respect for all those who serve our children every day. I recognize the commitment the community has to education.

The evidence of this is clear all across the district.

The Strategic Plan completed in November 2008 is an outstanding blueprint for the district's future. I will work with the board and district staff to keep our implementation schedule on track for our students and families.

I am looking forward to celebrating the completion of the renovation work at Giffen Memorial Elementary School in September. I also will do my part to make sure the projects at Arbor Hill Elementary School and Thomas O'Brien Academy of Science and Technology (TOAST) stay on track.

Albany's significant academic progress in recent years is a source of pride for the district and community as well. I will do all I can to support the outstanding people and programs already at work in Albany so that the gains achieved during Dr. Joseph's tenure will continue into the future.

I have seen and been part of many changes in education during my more than four decades as an educator. What has remained constant is our mission – to provide the best resources and support available to help our students succeed in school and in life.

I look forward to meeting and working with you so that together we can continue building a bright future for the city's children. My door is always open.

Raymond Colucciello, Ed.D.
Interim Superintendent of Schools

Important information about your child's bus stop

The City School District of Albany's Transportation Department sends a letter to families in late August informing them of their child's route number, pick-up and drop-off times, and the location of the neighborhood bus stop for the 2009-10 school year. If you have any questions concerning this information, contact the Transportation Department immediately at 462-7320.

Please have your child at the bus stop at least 10 minutes before the designated pick-up time. If your child receives curb-to-curb pick-up, he/she must be outside of your home when the bus arrives.

Please note that pick-up times, bus stops and bus routes are subject to change during the school year.

Sample bus stop information

Approximate Pick-up

Route Number: A101	Time: 7:30 a.m.
---------------------------	------------------------

Bus Stop Location: Lancaster St. & N. Main Ave.
--

Approximate Drop-off

Route Number: P101	Time: 2:51 p.m.
---------------------------	------------------------

Bus Stop Location: Lancaster St. & N. Main Ave.
--

**Please Note; the "A" preceding the route number stands for "AM," and the "P" stands for "PM."*

Attention parents of first-graders:

Curb-to-curb bus pick-up and drop-off service typically is not provided to students once they begin first grade. Please pay particular attention to the location of your child's new bus stop. If you have any questions about your child's bus stop, contact the Transportation Department at 462-7320.

Important transportation information

In case of bad weather

Check out the following local Web sites and TV and radio stations for school closings and delay announcements: CBS6Albany (Ch. 6), CapitalNews 9, WTEN (Ch. 10), WNYT (Ch. 13), WXXA (Ch. 23), WROW-AM 590, WGY-AM 810, WFLY-FM 92.3, WYJB-FM 95.5, WTRY-FM 98.3, WRVE-FM 99.5, WPYX-FM 106.5, WGNA-FM 107.7 and www.timesunion.com.

Call the Transportation Department at 462-7320

- To determine if your child is eligible for transportation
- If you have a temporary transportation need (i.e., your child has a broken leg or other injury)
- Contact your school principal and nurse for details of how to obtain temporary transportation.

Transportation requests

To request a change in your child's pick-up or drop-off site, contact the main office of your child's school. If you change addresses during the school year, please notify Central Registration immediately, 462-7207.

Call Durham School Services at 598-0600

- If you have routing questions like pick-up and drop-off places and times for your child
- To alert us when your child will not be riding the bus for a period of time and to let us know when he/she will be returning
- With any questions about transportation cancellations or late route times due to inclement weather.

Notice of pesticide use

The City School District of Albany practices Integrated Pest Management (IPM), which is a process for managing, preventing and suppressing pests with minimal impact on human health and the environment. The district hires outside contractors for pest control who are required to follow IPM procedures.

IPM is most successful when teachers, students, employees and contractors work together.

A pesticide application occurred during the summer of 2008 at Philip Livingston Magnet Academy in a floor drain, and that summer the district also applied a combination fertilizer/weed control to the athletic fields at Albany High School and Stephen and Harriet Myers Middle School.

Pesticides also were used during the 2009 spring recess at the former Schuyler Elementary School (April 14), home to Arbor Hill Elementary School and Thomas O'Brien Academy of Science and Technology, and Giffen Memorial Elementary School (April 17).

Pesticides are only used as a last resort. Schools are required to maintain a list of parents, guardians and staff who want to receive advance notice from the district if pesticides are used.

If you would like to have your name added to this list, please contact the Buildings and Grounds Office at 462-7324 to request a form, or download the form online at www.albanyschools.org/district/atoz/Pesticide.html.

Asbestos plan notification

In accordance with the EPA Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act of 1987 (40 CFR Part 763), the City School District of Albany put in place a management plan to identify and manage asbestos building materials.

Periodic surveillances are done every six months. In addition, abatement projects have been conducted in conjunction with district's facilities project. Specific

notifications are posted in the buildings where projects are done prior to the start of the abatement work.

The Triennial Re-inspection was completed in June 2007, reviewing and updating the management plan for all district buildings.

The Asbestos Management Plan for the district is kept on file at Academy Park. These records are available for review. For more information, contact Director of Buildings and Grounds Anthony Catalfamo at 462-7324.



**CAPITAL
education**

Capital Education is published by the
City School District of Albany.

Please direct comments about the newsletter,
story ideas and questions to
Ron Lesko at (518) 475-6065
or rlesko@albany.k12.ny.us.

City School District of Albany
Academy Park
Albany, New York 12207

Four easy steps for free and reduced meal applications

1-2-3-4

Follow these easy steps to submit an application for free and reduced-price meals in 2009-10. Only one family application is required per household.

1. List ALL students in your household.
2. List ALL adults and their income and/or Social Services information.
3. An ADULT must sign the application and note his or her Social Security number.

4. Submit a complete application to:

School Lunch Director
Philip Livingston Magnet Academy, room 125
315 Northern Blvd.
Albany, NY 12210

Students without an approved application as of Oct. 1 will have to pay full price for their meals.

How to apply for free and reduced-price meals

To get free or reduced-price meals for your children you may do one of the following:

- Submit a Direct Certification letter received from the NYS Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance, OR
- Carefully complete one application for your household

**Return either form to:
School Lunch Director
Philip Livingston Magnet
Academy, room 125
315 Northern Blvd.
Albany, NY 12210**

If you now receive food stamps or Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) for any children, or if you participate in the Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR), the application must include the children's names, the household food stamp, TANF or FDPIR case number and the signature of an adult household member.

All children with the same case number may be listed on the same application. Separate applications are required for children with different case numbers.

If you do not list a food stamp, TANF or FDPIR case number for all the children for whom you are applying, the application must include the names of everyone in the household, the amount of income for each household member, and how often it is received and where it comes from.

It must include the signature of an adult household member and that adult's Social Security number, or the word "none" if the adult does not have a Social Security number. **An application that is not complete cannot be approved.**

Contact your local Department of Social Services for your food-stamp or TANF case number, or complete the income portion of the application.

Verification

The school may ask you at any time during the school year to verify your eligibility. You will be notified, in writing, if you have been selected for verification. School officials may ask

you to send papers showing that your child should receive free or reduced-price meals.

Reporting changes

The benefits that you are approved for at the time of application are effective for the entire school year. You no longer need to report changes for an increase in income or decrease in household size, or if you no longer receive food stamps.

Foster child

Your foster child may be eligible for free milk. An application for a foster child must have the child's name, the child's "personal use" income and an adult signature. If you have questions contact the school for help with the application.

Nondiscrimination statement

This explains what to do if you believe you have been treated unfairly.

In accordance with federal law and U.S. Department of Agriculture policy, the school is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age or disability.

To file a complaint of discrimination, write: *USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410 or call (800) 795-3272 or (202) 720-6382 (TTY). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.*

Fair hearing

If you do not agree with the school's decision on your application or the result of verification, you may wish to discuss it with the school. You also have the right to a fair hearing. This can be done by calling or writing the following official:

Assistant Superintendent for Business Affairs, City School District of Albany, Academy Park, Albany, NY 12207, or by calling (518) 475-6020.

Meal service to children with disabilities

Federal regulations require schools and institutions to serve meals at no extra charge to children with a disability that may restrict their diet. A student with a disability is defined in 7CFR Part 15b.3 of federal regulations as one who has a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one major life activity or more.

Major life activities are defined to include functions such as caring for one's self, performing manual tasks, walking, seeing, hearing, speaking, breathing,

learning and working. You must request the special meals from the school and provide the school with medical certification from a medical doctor.

If you believe your child needs substitutions because of a disability, please get in touch with us for further information, as there is specific information that the medical certification must contain.

Confidentiality

The U.S. Department of Agriculture has approved the release of student names and eligibility status, without parent/guardian consent, to persons directly connected with the administration or enforcement of federal education programs such as Title I and the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), which are U.S. Department of Education programs used to determine areas such as the allocation of funds to schools, to evaluate socioeconomic status of the school's attendance area and to assess educational progress.

Information also may be released to state health or state education programs administered by the state agency or local education agency, provided the state or

local education agency administers the program, and federal, state or local nutrition programs similar to the National School Lunch Program.

Additionally, all information contained in the free and reduced-price application may be released to persons directly connected with the administration or enforcement of programs authorized under the National School Lunch Act (NSLA) or Child Nutrition Act (CNA).

This includes the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs, the Special Milk Program, the Child and Adult Care Food Program, Summer Food Service Program and the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women Infants and Children (WIC); the Comptroller General of the United States for audit purposes; and federal, state or local law enforcement officials investigating alleged violation of the programs under the NSLA or CNA.

The disclosure of eligibility information not specifically authorized by the NSLA requires a written consent statement from the parent/guardian.

Reduced-price meal income eligibility chart

(Effective July 1, 2009, to June 30, 2010)

This chart lists income levels according to household size and income levels yearly, monthly or weekly. If your total household income is the same or less than the amounts on the income chart, your child(ren) can receive reduced-price meals and may be eligible to receive free meals.

Household size	Annual	Month	Week
1	\$ 20,036	\$ 1,670	\$ 386
2	\$ 26,955	\$ 2,247	\$ 519
3	\$ 33,874	\$ 2,823	\$ 652
4	\$ 40,793	\$ 3,400	\$ 785
5	\$ 47,712	\$ 3,976	\$ 918
6	\$ 54,631	\$ 4,553	\$ 1,051
7	\$ 61,550	\$ 5,130	\$ 1,184
8	\$ 68,469	\$ 5,706	\$ 1,317
For each additional family member	\$ 6,919	\$ 577	\$ 134