



Albany Schools Builds Community

School is a place where students learn much more than academics. It is where children learn how to cooperate with others, social responsibility, and individual accountability. These lessons are lifelong and must be designed. Albany Schools has a long-standing tradition of making community building a priority. Programs have developed and evolved through the years and will continue to grow and change as the needs of our learning community change.

Throughout our school, we focus on citizenship, achievement, respect, and excellence (CARE) and have behavior expectations that match each area depending on the location (classrooms, hallways, cafeteria, library, and even bathrooms). For students to successfully meet expectations, staff members know they must not only set the expectations, but teach the behavior and help students practice.

At the elementary level, students participate in a morning meeting to start the day. Topics such as kindness, citizenship, and respect are covered while the skills of listening, questioning, and conflict resolution are practiced. Students also learn about character traits and are acknowledged for their demonstrations of traits by staff members.

At the middle school level, students belong to an Advisory group that meets every morning. Weekly activities include group discussions, goal setting, and competitions. This year, a new mentoring program was started where a 5th/6th grade student is paired with a 7th/8th grade student. Pairs meet to support each other through the academic and social challenges of middle school.

At the high school level, Advisory groups are also meeting daily. High school activities include goal setting, academics, and group discussions. High school students also have multiple opportunities to build community through extra-curricular activities, and the majority of high school students participate in at least one extra-curricular activity.

Building a positive, safe learning community is vital for our students to achieve to the best of their abilities. It is also a continually evolving process that must be responsive to the needs of our students. Staff meet weekly at each level to discuss the needs of students and plan activities and interventions to ensure that all students are progressing towards being positive, contributing members of our school community.

COMETS CARE: Student Behavioral Expectations

Expectations	Classroom	Hallway	Café	Bathroom	Playground/ Common areas	Library/ computer lab	Office	Assemblies/ Sporting events	Computers
Citizenship	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Listen to others *Acknowledge everyone's efforts and participation *Be polite 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Maintain your lane-keep moving *Walk *Keep hands to yourself 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Say please and thank you *Keep area neat and clean *Use inside voice 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Keep area neat and clean *Flush toilet *Wash hands 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Include others *Follow directions *Take turns 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Use inside voice *Use equipment appropriately 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Be polite *Wait your turn 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Practice good sportsmanship *Cheer on your team *Respect the <i>National Anthem</i> (stand-be silent-no hats) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Be polite *Use positive language in all interactions
Achievement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Be prepared *Be on task *Participate *Complete assignments 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Use time wisely *Use school appropriate language 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Eat a healthy lunch and feed your brain 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Do your business and get back to class 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Have fun *Be safe 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Use devices /computers appropriately (respect others' privacy) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Return to class right away 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Be in your seat and watch the event 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Use device as a tool for success
Respect	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Be courteous *Follow directions *Take care of materials 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Be respectful of posters, decorations and each others' stuff *Be welcoming and use inside voice 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Wait your turn *Use manners *Be nice to staff 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Honor others' privacy *No cell phones 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Be kind *Share 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *No food or drink *Check in and out with staff *Be nice to library staff 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Be aware and considerate of others in the office 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Recycle *Trash the trash *Pay attention to presenters 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Close device when presenters are talking *Care for device properly *Bring charged
Excellence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Do your best 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Recycle *Keep hallways clean 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Have lunch money in on time *Know and use your own lunch code 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Keep bathrooms clean-walls, floors, and anything in between 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Come in when bell rings after having a fun, safe time and be ready to learn 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Take care of and return materials on time 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Say thank you to the supportive staff that helped you 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Take pride in your school and yourself *Welcome guests 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Put only things you are proud of on the internet

All settings:

- *Use appropriate language *Follow dress code policy *Be on time *Use cell phones at approved times
 *Respect yourself, others, and property *Keep the school clean *Celebrate individuality