

# A long-term solution for Albany Area Schools

With our senior class graduating this week, we wish them luck in the next season of their lives outside our walls. Congratulations, class of 2022. As we look beyond graduation, we also look towards our future graduates, no matter their age.

The fact we need greater space at our educational facilities has long been in conversation in our district. When we started preparing for additional elementary growth, the Albany community helped us in adding seven classrooms to Albany Elementary. Since then, we've continued to plan



**Albany Area Schools  
superintendent**  
By Grea Johnson

ious breakout and collaborative learning areas, specialist spaces and support spaces for physical, occupational and speech therapy, an office, kitchen and serving area and an addition which would serve as a multi-purpose and large motor space for students, staff and our community

The proposed plan would reduce crowding in our elementary schools and give our students the opportunity to learn in smaller-sized classes. As our enrollment continues to grow, this plan would provide programs like our Preschool Camp & Wrap Around Care, preschool, special

for the future of our Huskies, including searching for a long-term solution to address current space constraints at Avon and Albany Elementary schools.

After exploring potential options, the school district decided to propose turning the former Albany hospital into an Early Learning Center. On Aug. 9, residents will vote on a single-ballot question that, if approved, would allow the district to complete the renovation.

The former hospital building is adjacent to the city park and playground, and is already equipped with infrastructure like parking lots, utilities and green space that can be leveraged by the district and put to good use to serve our students and visitors. The proposed plan includes 16 classrooms, var-

education and intervention support, with the additional space they need.

We've created a dedicated website, [OurHuskiesOurFuture.org](http://OurHuskiesOurFuture.org), that dives into the details of the plan and what it would mean for residents.

Albany area residents will make the ultimate call on whether this investment is the right one, and we hope that the website will help voters make an informed decision.

The website is also a great go-to location for frequently asked questions, but if you have further questions or suggestions, I would be happy to hear from you. I can be reached by email at [gregjohnson@district745.org](mailto:gregjohnson@district745.org) or by phone at 320-845-5050.