

NO

Limits



Summer 2011

Computers make learning fun and easy!

Dates to Remember...

July 27-August 15:
AHES closed for renovations.

You can find us at Sheridan Prep,
400 Sheridan Avenue @
475-6850 during this time.

September 5:
Labor Day (No School)

September 6:
First day of school

September 20:
"Dads Take Your Child to School"
Day

September 29:
Rosh Hashanah (No School)

October 10:
Columbus Day (No School)

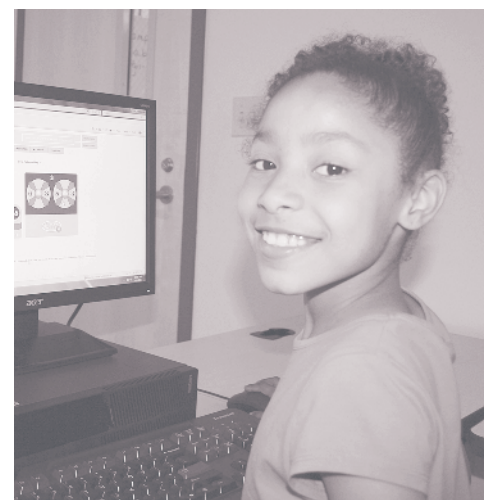
Visit the City School District of Albany Web site, www.albanschools.org for more news and information about our schools.

First In Math! and Scratch are two computer programs introduced at AHES this school year that are helping even the most reluctant students learn their lessons in fun and creative ways.

First In Math! offers students practice with math skills ranging from simple addition to complex algebra. Students are able to move through the colorful on-line exercises based on their interest and at their own pace. At each level, they receive positive feedback and "stickers" that encourage them to try more challenging activities and remember what they have learned. Students can also log in to First In Math! outside of school hours, on weekends and over the summer.

"Math is my favorite subject, so its fun to play 'First In Math' every day," said sixth grader Tierra Watson. "With this game there's no end in sight so you can just keep challenging yourself and get better and better at math."

Scratch is a computer program introduced at AHES this school year by Loretta Fantroy, one of the school's math coaches, with the help of the College of Saint Rose. Fantroy was inspired to bring the Scratch program to the students since it provides many creative ways for them to learn their lessons well. Through the games and stories they create, students practice their reading, writing and math and sharpen their problem-solving and reasoning skills. And, its playful nature has inspired even the most hesitant students to apply themselves to learning.



Two computer programs introduced at AHES this school are helping even the most reluctant students learn their lessons in fun and creative ways.

"I like learning on the computer because even though it's math, it's easy and so much fun," said third grader Maliyah Ray, pictured here in the school's new computer lab.





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2011 AHES "Just Run" participants

Grade 2:

Chyna Fourney
Journey Pierce

Grade 3:

Yvonna Hay
Maliyah Rah

Grade 4:

Diamond Hall
Devin Hill

Grade 6:

Nyasia Morris
Kiara Mills
Amir Talyor

Dinero Washington

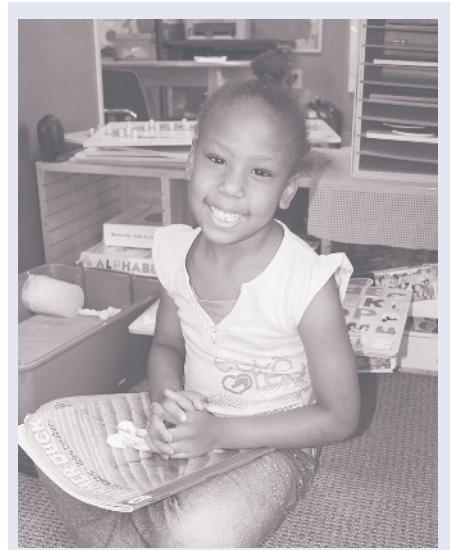
Just Run!

Club gets kids up and running

On June 9, Arbor Hill's runners attended a "Just Run" clinic and race at Union College in Schenectady. This event was the exciting conclusion to the students' running program started this March for second through sixth graders by Arbor Hill physical education teachers Tim Castle and Doug O'Brey.

Just Run is a website-based program designed to promote fitness and healthy lifestyle choices and to help combat childhood obesity and its related illnesses. Students use a computer program to log their running totals and learn how far their distance would take them if they were running across the U.S.

Since March, the AHES students have logged 611 miles—roughly the distance of two round trips between Albany and New York City—during their Monday and Wednesday runs. The teachers plan to begin the club again in September so students can run throughout the school year.



When asked what advice they'd like to offer to the preschoolers who will enter kindergarten next fall, recent kindergarten graduates Madison Allcock (pictured above) and Damarea Royal had this to say: you need to remember to STOP what you're doing, LOOK and listen to teacher and you'll LEARN to be a better kindergartner... and a better reader and writer.

Summer Reading

- Summer is a time for a well-deserved break—but not from reading! Making reading a priority during the summer months is key to helping students be most successful with their studies in all subjects once school is back in session.
- Again this fall, AHES students will participate in the school district's "100 Book Challenge." The goal of this project is to have all students read 100 books each school year. Remember that the books children read in *and* out of school, along with those you and your child read together, count toward this goal. Help your children keep a list of the books they read over the summer and have them return this, with your signature, to their teachers in the fall.
- Required summer reading assignments and fun activities to try were sent home with students at the end of this school year. This is also available at the City of Albany School District Web site at www.albanyschools.org.
- This summer, children can earn prizes for the books they read and attend fun activities at Albany's public libraries, including the Arbor Hill/West Hill branch, located at 148 Henry Johnson Boulevard.

A fond farewell to two special teachers

Two popular Arbor Hill teachers are retiring this school year. They are reading specialist Eileen Buttigieg, who has worked for the City of Albany Schools for over 30 years, and math coach and former classroom teacher Loretta Fantroy, who has been with the school district for 31 years. Both of these teachers have been an important part of our school community. We will miss them both and wish them well in their future endeavors.

Eileen Buttigieg, reading specialist

"It's been a wonderful journey teaching at Arbor Hill," said Eileen Buttigieg. "When I started, there were over 1,000 children here and we had five classes of each grade. Things have obviously changed, but the spirit and excitement of the children is definitely still here. I have been privileged to work with some of the most talented people in the field of education. I will miss my colleagues terribly and wish them strength and success in meeting their teaching goals. The world children today will face as they grow will be challenging in ways that we cannot even dream. I hope the families of Arbor Hill will see those challenges, meet them and succeed."

Buttigieg plans to spend more time with her family, in particular her husband who she describes as "the most patient and loving person I know" and her new grandson.

Loretta Fantroy, math coach

"Having had a classroom of my own for so many years, I thought that when I became a math coach for many of our elementary school I might not have as much ability to interact with and impact the students' learning," said Loretta Fantroy. "Actually, I have had more! The last two years have been the most enjoyable of the 31 years I have spent in the Albany school community."

Fantroy plans to volunteer as a math coach in Arbor Hill. True to her roots, she offered some math-inspired words of advice for the AHES students and families:

"On life's journey, you need to **add** to your knowledge, **subtract** all that is negative and holding you back, **multiply** your learning experiences and **divide** and conquer your challenges in order to succeed."



"It's been a wonderful journey teaching at Arbor Hill," said reading specialist Eileen Buttigieg.



"The last two years as a math coach have been the most enjoyable of the 31 years I have spent in the Albany school community," said Loretta Fantroy.





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Questions about immunization required for school attendance? Call Mrs. Fouhy, AHES nurse, at 475-6625.

Arbor Hill Elementary School

**1 Arbor Drive
Albany, N. Y.
12203**

(518) 475-6625

**Principal
Rosalind Gaines-Harrell**

**Home-School Coordinator
Jerome Perkins**

**School Nurse
Susan Fouhy**

**Social Workers
Tricia Brady
Sharon Overton**

**Psychologist
Michael Pelkey**

**After-School Program Director
Bridget Barth
Emily Riegel**

Back-to-School Reminders

School Supplies

There are a number of supplies students will need when they return to school on **September 6**. A list of these items was sent home with students at the end of this school year and is also available at the Wal-mart store located at 141 Washington Avenue in Albany. Please note that students in grades 3-6 will use supplies that are color-coded to help them learn the organizational skills they need now and in middle and high school.

YMCA Afterschool and Summer Programs

The Arbor Hill YMCA summer camp will be held from July 5-August 12. There are still a number of openings for this fun-filled summer program.

The YMCA afterschool program runs year-round, Monday through Friday from 3:30-6 p.m. A fall registration date for this program will be publicized during the first week of school.

To register for these programs or for more information, call Emily Riegel, site director for the Arbor Hill YMCA afterschool and summer programs, at 365-4014. For information on the Berkshire afterschool program for students pre-K - grade 2, contact Bridget Barth at 810-1020.

AHES school uniforms

Again this fall, students and teachers at Arbor Hill Elementary will wear school uniforms. Every student will receive an AHES uniform shirt. This will allow all students to start the year with appropriate attire.

Additional uniform items can be ordered through our vendor Deanalee Campbell by phone at 462-7096 or 364-2849.

Clothing items can also be purchased at stores that sell school uniforms. AHES uniform colors are light/powder blue for tops and navy blue for bottoms.



On June 6 and 7, pre-kindergarten through grade six students participated with the school's science exhibitions—an opportunity for students to teach their classmates in hands-on learning centers about the many topics they have studied in science during the school year.

Here, kindergartner Raychelle Parker displays an amazing bean plants she and her classmates grew as part of their study of the life cycle of plants.