

JANUARY 2025: QUARTER 2 NEWSLETTER

PACKER PROFILE

PACKER PROFILE AT AHS

First semester is complete!

Our second quarter has been filled with exciting activities and new opportunities at Austin High School! Our students have been working hard in their courses and have complete semester one of their year! It is hard to believe we are through one semester, but there is still so much to come!



MEANINGFUL LEARNING EXPERIENCES

Students have experienced a number of meaningful learning experiences throughout the first quarter. There are so many connections taking place between content in courses and the community. This helps our students to take their learning to another level!

- Students took part in the mock election as a way to understand the voting process and becoming informed voters.
- AHS students served as delegates at the Global Youth Institute where they presented their research on global food security challenges.
- Minnesota State Patrol Trooper Jacob Ristau and his Narcotics dog Maty came to visit. He talked about what a day in the life is like for Maty and what his role in society is!
- Students on the AHS Yearbook Staff toured the printing facility to see what happens after they design and create the book!
- Juniors and seniors had the chance to learn hands-on about high demand careers at the Minnesota Works: Exploring Tech and Trades Day sponsored by the Minnesota State Centers of Excellence and Riverland Community College.

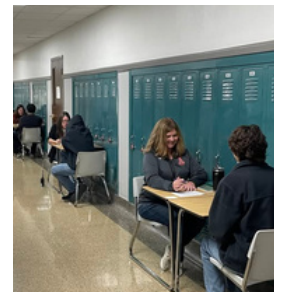


MEANINGFUL LEARNING EXPERIENCES

- Judges Christa Daily and Erin Lindhard-Felten, along with Attorneys Kristen Nelsen and Marty Helle, met with our senior students to answer questions they had about the jobs judges, lawyers, and the judicial system of Mower County as a whole.
- Students attended the 2024 Rochester STEAM Summit. It was a great way to explore careers and talk with over 90 featured businesses.
- Student leaders presented to administration about ideas for ways to continue to bring our student body together!
- Barbara Mitchell and Julie Thomsen visited to share about their careers in interior design. They shared about how they design in homes and work to really get to know the clients through this process. They shared that they not only design but have to fit the consumer needs as well as consider what they think will look good.
- Ms. Baker's Life Skills students did mock interviews. This was wrapping up our unit on College and Career Readiness in which students researched a career, learned about employability skills like communication, worked on their resume on SchoolLinks, and practiced interviewing.
- AHS and CEO alum, Emma Keenan, visited to share about The Schulze School of Entrepreneurship at The University of St. Thomas. It was great to hear from her about all of her success and about the opportunities that are out there for our students!
- AP Physics students learned about unbalanced forces by working together to build Jenga towers that would topple with the removal of just one block.



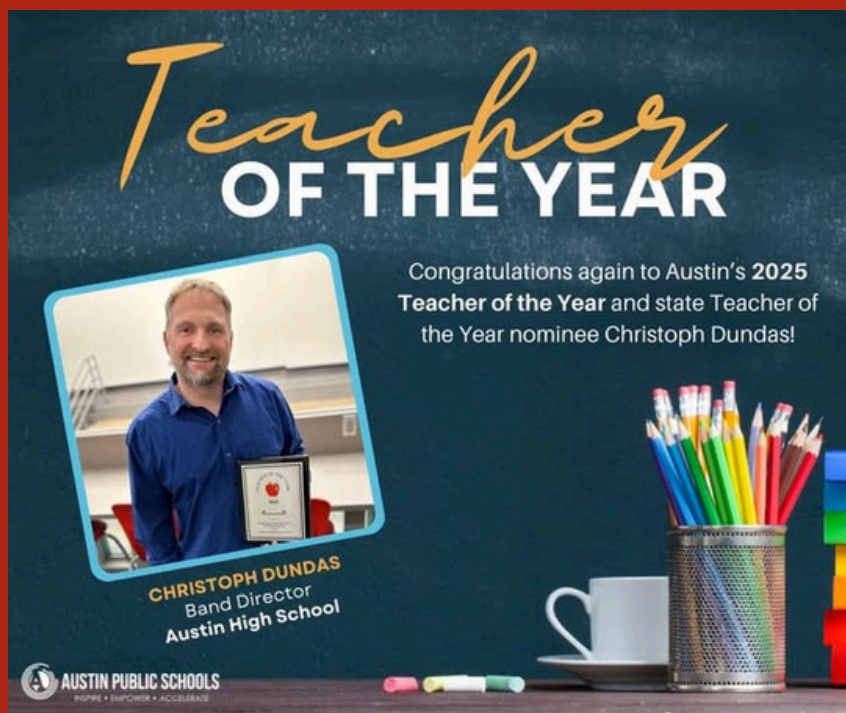
- The Exploring Computer Science class welcomed Matt Steiner and Wendy Anderson of Aurora Web Solutions. They shared about the creation of their web design business and what it takes to design a user-friendly website for clients.
- Representative from MWSCO Mississippi Welders Supply Co. stopped by Austin High School to present Mr. Stanley and the welding program with a brand new ESAB Rebel 215ic Welding machine and an ESAB Savage welding mask. Austin was chosen to receive the donation as part of the Spark Young Minds High School Equipment Grant Program, one of only three schools selected out of more than 60 applicants.
- Small Animal Care & Management class students toured the Mower County Humane Society. They learned from their staff about the work the Humane Society does, how they rescue/take care of/find new homes for cats and dogs at the Humane Society





Ms. Deyo's Connect was able to celebrate with a pizza party for having the highest number of responses for the Hometown Food Security Project survey from our fall food packing event! Way to go!

Right: Earlier this afternoon, Austin High School band director Christoph Dundas was named the 2025 Austin Teacher of the Year. Christoph, who has worked at AHS for the last nine years, was surprised with the award in his classroom by his children and a large group of family, district administrators, and well-wishers.

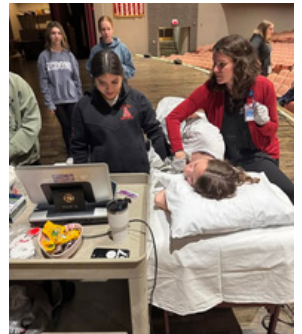


Our Asian Student Union is growing and finding many ways to connect in our schools and community! See Ms. Carter to learn more about joining!

MEANINGFUL LEARNING EXPERIENCES

Our 9th graders met with career speakers every Thursday as part of their Packer Profile Seminar. This is an excellent way for our students to be exposed to a variety of career paths, hear stories of the journey others have taken, and engage with our community members. Thank you to all who have joined us!

- A group of 9th-11th grade students attended the The Changemaker Hub through World Savvy in Rochester. Students collaborated with students and staff from other schools about ways to continue to improve schools and education. This was a great day of forward thinking, and many connections were made to the Packer Profile and how we can prepare students for the future!
- Allison Huber and Kendall Gilster, AHS alum, met with our Packer Profile students to share about echocardiography. It was great to hear all about the careers and their personal journey. They also let the students try scanning with the ultrasound probe.
- RCC Speech students spent time sharing with our 9th Grade Profile Students about the skills needed to be a successful speaker and how they can get involved with the speech team.
- 30 juniors and seniors toured St. Mary's University and Winona State yesterday to learn about programs, pathways, campus life, and scholarships. Such great opportunities being provided for our students!
- Small Animal Classes toured the Austin Vet Clinic, experiencing what it is like to work with animals each day and how they relate what they learned in the classroom to real life.
- The Austinaires performed the National Anthem at the Timberwolves Game!
- AHS students in the Health Care Pathway toured the U of M Rochester Campus to learn about their programs and opportunities.
- Minnesota State FFA Reporter Natalie Clemenson and State FFA Sentinel Torrie Gunderson presented to the Intro to Ag, Food, & Natural Resources (AFNR) students about opportunities to get involved in AFNR and FFA.
- Students attended Discover Healthcare, a collaboration between Southeast Service Cooperative, RCTC, and HOSA. We learned about medical professions, attended the career fair, and had hands-on learning experiences.



Meaningful Learning Opportunities

- For their final project, students in the Intro to Foods classes at Austin High School baked and decorated mini cupcakes and asked staff to sample and vote on their favorites. We had a full school rock, paper, scissors competition, a Fruit by the Foot eating contest, and learned about upcoming opportunities for a talent showcase and the AHS Blood Drive.
- Our Future Teachers Club met with Katie Ulwelling and Don Leathers who brought their wisdom, humor, and passion for teaching. They shared unforgettable stories and advice that left them inspired and ready to take on the world of education!



- Student have continued using SchoolLinks for career research, self-discovery, scholarships, college applications, portfolios and so much more!
- **Guardians, please have your student use the video below to find out how to add you to SchoolLinks so you can explore as well!**

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1V4Xum0kXPcVKTF8_E1WvF0V10rUYAxaH/view

INTRODUCING OUR NEW COLLEGE AND CAREER READINESS PLATFORM



SchoolLinks

- **Explore** Colleges and Careers
- **Complete** career interest surveys and help discover your pathway
- **Check** the dashboard for upcoming events (college and career tours, college rep visits, career and job fairs.)
- **Search** for scholarships, explore financial aid information, manage your college applications and send transcripts
- **Plan** a successful future with SchoolLinks!



QUESTIONS?

contact.jane.carlson@austin.k12.mn.us



Parents and guardians can join SchoolLinks right along with their student. [Watch this video](#) to learn how.

Rotary Student of the Month

October: Ali Muzik and Ailani Thiravong

**November: Gracie Greenman and Lincoln
Rockers**

December: Snow Due

January: Felicia Thimmesch and Liz Ruiz



**AHS Boys
Basketball
Players
helped out
at the
Hometown
Turkey
Takeover!**



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QUESTIONS? CONTACT
JANE.CARLSON@AUSTIN.K12.MN.US

Get your
yearbook
orders in
and keep
getting
your
hours!



THE HORMEL FOUNDATION

**Austin Assurance
Scholarship**

FUN FACTS

- The Class of 2025 has logged 9,436 Volunteer Hours toward the Austin Assurance Scholarship
- 57 students are already eligible!
- The AHS Student Body has logged 16,824 volunteer hours!

Stop and see MS. Carlson in the Career Center or visit austinassurance.org for more information about this great opportunity!

INTERESTED IN EXPLORING A CAREER?

JOB SHADOWING

STUDENT PERSPECTIVE:

"JOB SHADOWING WAS ONE OF THE BEST DECISIONS I'VE MADE DURING MY HIGH SCHOOL YEARS. BEING ABLE TO HAVE THIS OPPORTUNITY WAS A DOORWAY TO MY CAREER PATH. I FOUND OUT EXACTLY WHAT I WANTED TO DO AND SEE A GREAT MENTOR IN ACTION OF THE CAREER. I THINK ANYONE WHO IS QUESTIONING WHAT THEY WANT TO DO SHOULD INVESTIGATE JOB SHADOWING. COMING FROM SOMEONE WHO IS INCREDIBLY INDECISIVE, THIS MADE MY DECISION EASY!"

**See Mrs. Hovland in the IMC or email
Emily.hovland@austin.k12.mn.us to
set up your experience today!**

**"JOB
SHADOWING
HELPED ME
FIND MY
FUTURE!"**



MENTOR PERSPECTIVE:

"IT IS SUCH AN HONOR WHEN SOMEONE ASKS TO COME WATCH AND SEE WHAT YOU DO IN A GIVEN DAY AT WORK. I MAKE IT MY MISSION TO HELP PROMOTE WHAT WE CAN DO IN THE FIELD OF EDUCATION AND HOW TEACHERS CAN HELP MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN THE LIVES OF OUR YOUNGEST LEARNERS. IF A HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT WANTS TO SPEND THE DAY WITH ME, IT'S MY CHANCE TO SHOW HOW YOU CAN MAKE THE SCHOOL DAY A FUN AND MEMORABLE LEARNING EXPERIENCE. BY JOB SHADOWING YOU CAN SEE WHAT IT TAKES TO PLAN FOR THE DAY, HOW TEACHERS HAVE TO BE QUICK THINKERS ON THEIR FEET, AND EXPERIENCE THE SUCCESSES AND CHALLENGES FACED BY THE STUDENTS IN THE CLASSROOM. WE GET TO HAVE SUCH A POSITIVE IMPACT ON THE LIVES OF OUR STUDENTS AND IT'S A PRIVILEGE TO SHARE THE GREAT WORK WE CAN ACCOMPLISH TOGETHER."

APS POETRY CONTEST



IT'S TIME FOR THE ANNUAL AUSTIN PUBLIC SCHOOLS POETRY CONTEST!

Contest Rules:

1. The contest is for all Austin Public School students in grades K-12.
2. A student may only submit 1 poem.
3. All poems must be original work; poems cannot be submitted that were completed with the help of a parent, teacher, etc.
4. All poems must be typed.
5. All poems must have a title.
6. Poems must be appropriate in nature - no violence, foul language, etc.
7. Poems cannot be longer than 25 lines.
8. ON THE BACK, write your full name, grade, Homeroom/Advisory/Connect teacher's name & school name. Names will be hidden during the judging process.

POEMS MUST BE SUBMITTED BY FEBRUARY 21, 2025.

Submissions are to be placed in the box located in the school's office **OR** emailed to andrea.malo@austin.k12.mn.us.

Finalists will be announced during the week of March 24, 2025.

CASH PRIZES WILL BE AWARDED TO SITE WINNERS

Kindergarten - \$25	Banfield Elementary - \$50
Neveln Elementary - \$50	Southgate Elementary - \$50
Sumner Elementary - \$50	IJ Holton Intermediate - \$50
Ellis Middle School - \$100	AHS/ALC/AOA - \$200



1st Semester Art Show

Art Show Award Winners

PowerPoint Link:

<https://bit.ly/4ftZGDe>

Please contact
our Profile and
Pathways
Coordinators if
you have any
questions or
would like to get
involved!



EMILY HOVLAND
Packer Profile
Coordinator

emily.hovland@austin.k12.mn.us



JANE CARLSON
Pathways Coordinator

jane.carlson@austin.k12.mn.us