

# OCTOBER 2025: QUARTER 1 NEWSLETTER

## PACKER PROFILE

### PACKER PROFILE AT AHS

#### Welcome back and completion of quarter 1!

Our first quarter has been filled with exciting activities and new opportunities at Austin High School! Our students were welcomed back to the building on August 20th and the first two months of school flew by. It is hard to believe we are through one quarter, but there is still so much to come!



### EXCITED TO START ANOTHER YEAR AT AHS!



### MEANINGFUL LEARNING EXPERIENCES

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

- Mrs. Huff and Ms. Leffers welcomed Austin Daily Herald editor and photographer Eric Johnson to talk to their senior Language Arts classes about writing journalistic articles. Johnson shared his journey of developing his journalism skills, his process of creating a good news story, and his challenges of getting an event just right to interest the readers.
- Distinguished Alumni, Dr. Sharon Adams (Class of 1972) and Thomas Herrera (Class of 2011). Were honored at our Distinguished Alumni ceremony where they got the chance to address the student body sharing their experiences and advice.



## MEANINGFUL LEARNING EXPERIENCES

- Our 10th graders attended Career Quest at Riverland. They learned about many careers and had lots of fun! There were so many positive comments from our students. Career exploration is so important!
- Mrs. Thompson's EL World History classes visited the Austin Public Library to see a piece of a mammoth tooth found over 100 years ago right here in Austin!
- The Exploring Languages and Cultures classes just wrapped up a unit on American Sign Language (ASL). Students got to listen to Katie Ulwelling, retired APS ASL interpreter and also got a video visit from a recent college graduate who is a full time ASL interpreter in the Twin Cities.
- Mower County CEO students met at Rooted Flower Company which is run by Alex (Southgate teacher) and Mackenzie Weis (former AHS teacher and AHS grad!)
- Matthew Tate, Data Scientist from Hormel, was back for a visit in Mrs. Winter's Exploring Computer Science class. He shared about different roles in data analytics including data scientist, data engineer, and data analyst.
- Our students have opportunities to have their voices heard in many ways one of the ways is through the Superintendent's Advisory Council.





Mower County CEO started year seven! The students have completed the badge business and are learning so much about the Austin community.

Right: Congratulations to Noah and Lexi for being the Rotary Student of the Month

Below: We welcomed the newest inductees of National Honor Society for the year! The pillars of NHS focus on encouraging scholarship, leadership, service, and character.



## PACKER PROFILE SEMINAR COURSE

Our 9th graders meet with career speakers regularly 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!

- Students met with Ms. Carlson and Ms. Flugge to hear about Get Connected, our volunteer database, and the Austin Assurance Scholarship.
- Students learned about speaker etiquette and questioning strategies with Mrs. Hovland. It has been amazing to see their growth in this area and to hear the questions they are developing!
- School board members, Dr. Carolyn Dube and Peggy Young joined our students for a day. They shared their expertise in the area of understanding your personal strengths. Our 9th graders all complete the Strengths Explorer which helps them to understand how they work and how they can work with those around them.



## MEANINGFUL LEARNING EXPERIENCES

- Dr. Jesse Jacobson with the Austin Vet Clinic led both sections of Small Animals through a hands-on activity involving using restraints on dogs, reading proper dog body language and behavior, and showed examples of proper grooming supplies.
- Shout out to Southeast Service Cooperative for organizing a great Construct Tomorrow Event today, which included Manufacturing Month Tours of the Plumbers & Pipefitters Union #6 Training Center and Akkerman Manufacturing! Students loved learning about apprenticeship options and seeing the engineering and manufacturing process at work!
- around them.
- The Ag, Food, & Natural Resources (AFNR) class has been learning about trade in the Agriculture industry. Students were asked to form into different groups representing different “countries” and they had to try to trade for clothes, food, and shelter in order to take care of their country.



## SCHOOLINKS

- Students learned about the many supports available at AHS: counselors, success coaches, administrative assistants, building security, nurses office staff, IMC and career center staff, and our social workers.
- Students played a variety of games with their Connect during Battle of Connect!. The seniors came in first this year closely followed by freshmen, then sophomores, and finally juniors!
- Students in all grades were introduced to our SchoolLinks platform. They completed their onboarding, set SMART goals, investigated their learning styles, and learned about how they best focus in school and life.
- Students were able to explore SchoolLinks further in areas of interest in careers, colleges, scholarships, and skills development.
- We will have our next building Profile Day in November. Students are able to continue utilizing the platform in classes and individually throughout the year.
- This resource is incredibly helpful and their account continues after high school!

**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](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1V4Xum0kXPcVKTF8_E1WvF0V10rUYAxaH/view)



SchoolLinks

# INTRODUCING OUR NEW COLLEGE AND CAREER READINESS PLATFORM

- **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](mailto:contact.jane.carlson@austin.k12.mn.us) 

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



# AHS COLLEGE FAIR





Direct   
Admissions  
*Every student is college material.*



**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!"**

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

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

## **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."**

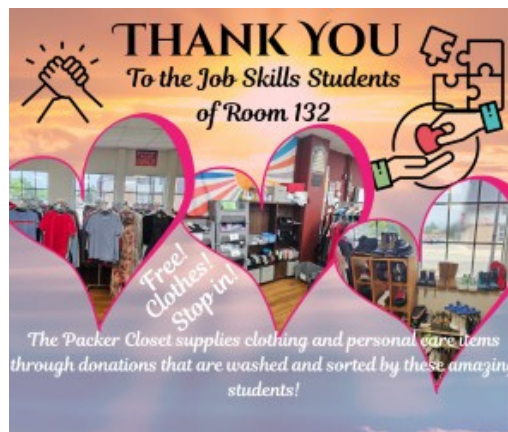
## Student Support

CEO 2 is in full swing and working on our pantry. We have a new system that allows for pick up orders and it is going great! If you are interested in donating, please contact [emily.hovland@austin.k12.mn.us](mailto:emily.hovland@austin.k12.mn.us)

We loved having Maria Frank join to brainstorm and promote Pantry work in general!

### ORDER FORM:

<https://forms.office.com/r/5K9UB17Z9H>



Shout out to our Job Skills Students who help to wash and sort all of the amazing clothing and personal care items in the Packer Closet. Stop by room 132 if you are needing items!

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



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