

November 3, 2026

Dear Austin High School families,



On Thursday, December 3, from 4 to 7 p.m., we will host our Packer Profile Event at Austin High School. Current 8th through 12th grade students and their parents and guardians are welcome.

Course registration for next year begins in December, and this evening is a wonderful way to prepare. You will have the chance to explore the pathways Austin High School offers, see the exciting programming happening in our building, and learn about the full range of courses available, including the college courses taught right here at AHS. Our teachers will be on hand to share what their classes are like, and our counselors will be glad to answer your questions about the registration process and the options ahead. Throughout the evening, you will also see work and projects created by our students, which are always a highlight.

I especially encourage families to take time to explore pathways together. When students try new things, they learn what they enjoy and what they don't, and that discovery helps guide the classes they choose and the plans they make for life after high school. It also makes school feel more meaningful. Students who understand why they are learning something tend to be more engaged in doing it.

Whether your student is just beginning high school or preparing to graduate, I hope you will come, bring your questions, and enjoy the evening with us. We look forward to seeing you there.

Strategic Priorities Update

1. Support and resources to ensure a safe and welcoming learning environment.

- On October 29th we had Mock Election Day at Austin High School. Students visited Knowlton Auditorium during their Social Studies classes to cast their (mock)votes ahead of next Tuesday's election.
- We had our first music concert of the season last week. Our Fall 8-12 Orchestra was able to perform on October 22nd . Choir and Band will be performing soon.

2. Packer Profile for all learners

- We have successful completed the September and October Profile Day. 10th-12th graders have worked in SchooLinks to include updating Portfolio Page, Find Your Path Assessment, Exploring Careers, SMART goals. Seniors will have one more lesson before the December Portfolio Presentation as part of their graduation requirements.
- Dr. Carolyn Dube presented to 9th grade students about utilizing their strengths to reach success. Students complete the Strengths Explorer in their Seminar Course allowing them to connect their strengths to learning, careers, and extracurriculars.
- A group of students attended the Mayo Clinic Career festival on October 19th to learn about the wide variety of careers within the Mayo system.
- First hour freshmen seminar classes attended the First Green Event at the Austin Country Club on October 12th, learning about careers in the golf and turf industry.
- The AHS College Fair was held on October 9th.
- October 1st Mrs. Bumgarner and Haley Bauer presented to freshmen seminar classes about the Austin Assurance Scholarship
- October is Manufacturing Month! On October 28th students attended the Construct Tomorrow event to learn about training for trades and industry, and we toured the HALCON furniture facility in Stewartville.
- Our AHS Counseling team continues to work with students and families to support career and college readiness, they have also created a Facebook group that will be sharing information on a regular cadence.

3. District-wide multi-tiered systems of support.

What it is**:** At Austin High School, MTSS means every student gets the right amount of support at the right time. In practice, that means strong teaching and caring adults for every student, plus extra help for students who need more.
Our teaming model at the ninth and tenth grad level continues to show positive results. Credits earned are on the rise, and the school's graduation rate has increased by over 5%.
A critical factor in academic success is consistent school attendance. Now more than ever, being present in the classroom is the most effective way for students to receive direct instruction and stay on track as we push through the final weeks. We urge you to continue emphasizing the importance of daily attendance, as every instructional day is a valuable opportunity for learning and growth that cannot be fully replicated.

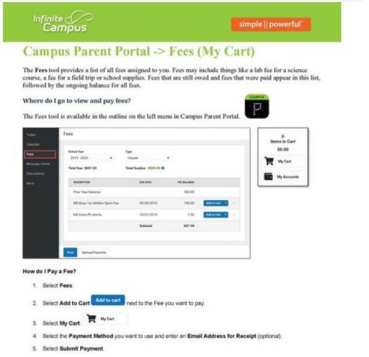
4. Excellence in resource management.

AHS Families:
As we are now settled in, finishing up the first quarter of the 26/27 school year, please use this as a friendly reminder to log in to Parent Portal and pay your school fees before fee letters are sent out

in a couple of weeks.
School fees are assigned each year at AHS.
Grades 9-12 yearly fees assigned:

- Technology Fee (Laptop use) $30.

Additional fees can be added throughout the years, such as field trips, testing sign-ups, library fines, class supply fees, laptop chargers/damage, etc. depending on each student's needs.
If you have not yet done so, please take the time to log in to Parent Portal to pay any fees/past due balances.



All fees must be paid before graduation! Parents/Caregivers of seniors; now is a good time to start making payments if necessary. Recurring payments can be set up in the portal as well.
Fees can be paid in increments.
Payments may be paid online **or** at the Cashier's window located in the Common's area of the high school.
Cash, checks, and credit card payments are accepted.
Thank you for your time and prompt attention to this matter.
If you have any questions, you may contact the District Cashier.
Click on the link below to direct you to log in to your Parent Portal.
Campus Parent
launchaustinmn.infinitecampus.org

Know

Dates



November 3, 2026 - No School/Professional Development
November 5, 2026- Choir Concert
November 10,2026- Fall Band Concert
November 10, 2026- (10:00 AM - 2:00 PM) FASFA Help Session
November 12,2026- Senior Cap & Gown orders due
November 25 - 27, 2026 - Thanksgiving Break
November 26, 2026- Senior Baby pictures due to Mrs. Good

December 3rd, 2026- (4:00 - 7:00 PM) FASFA Help Session
Dec 01: *Grading Window OPENS - Progress Grade 2 (Gr.09-12 8:00 AM)*
Dec 5th: Progress Grades Due
Dec 14: School Board Meeting (5:30 PM Annex Recital Hall)
Dec 21: No School - Holiday Break
Dec 22: No School - Holiday Break
Dec 23: No School - Holiday Break
Dec 24: No School - Holiday Break
Dec 25: No School - Holiday Break
Dec 28: No School - Holiday Break
Dec 29: No School - Holiday Break
Dec 30: No School - Holiday Break

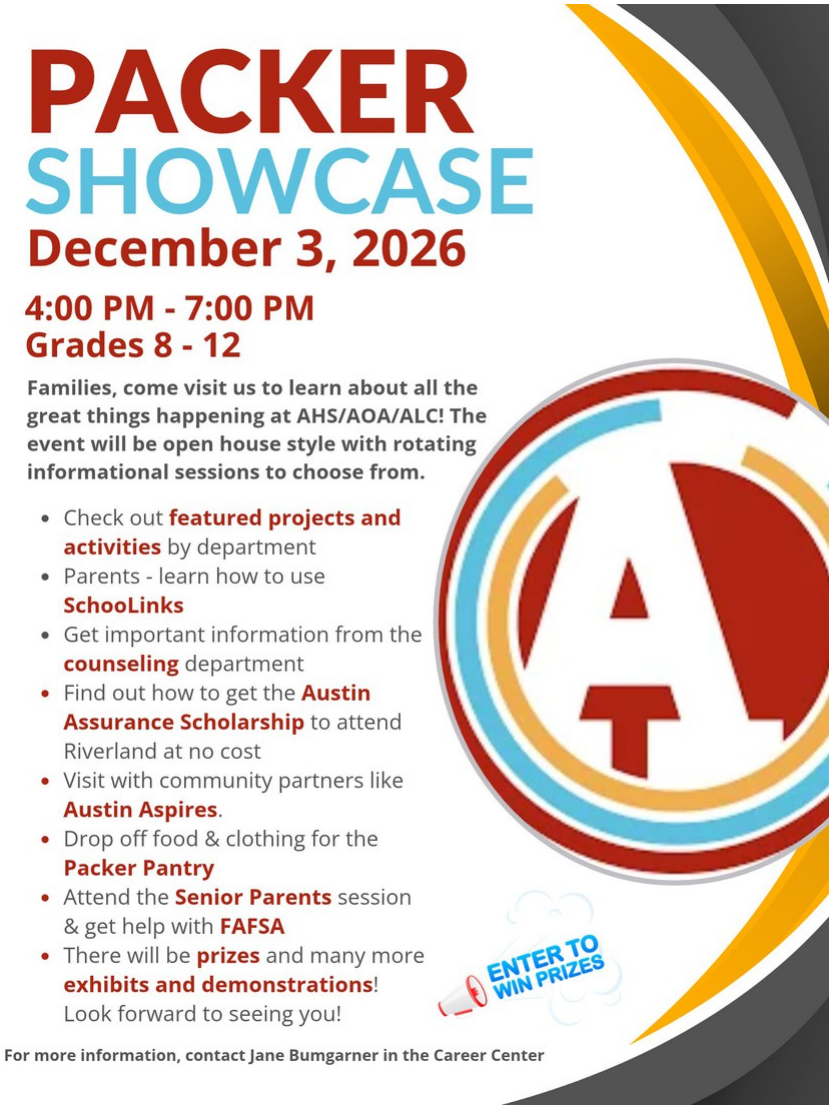
Dec 31: No School - Holiday Break
Jan 01: No School - Holiday Break

Direct Admissions Minnesota



Parents of Seniors-
Did you know that Austin Public Schools is part of Direct Admissions?
If you have a graduating senior have them show you the email from the Office of Higher Ed that went into their in box around October 1st.
In that email will be next steps to move forward in the application process to the schools they have already been granted entrance into.

Have questions about next steps post-high school? Reach out to your scholar's counselor or Jessica Cabeen.



Food Support

If your family is in need of food or personal care items, we are here to support you. There is a list of local resources available in the counseling office; please stop by and let us know how we can best support you.

Also, we have the Packer Pantry to support our students. Please have your student fill out the link to get their order in and remind them to pick up their order on Fridays in the library. Packer Pantry

Order form 2026-2027

If you would like to make a donation to the Packer Pantry, please drop off items in the main office at AHS. We greatly appreciate the community support in helping to meet student needs.

Senior Pictures

Senior and Baby Pictures need to be emailed to Anna Good by **November 26th**! Make sure you label your picture with your last name followed by your first name (lastname, firstname). There is more information about the expectations with their senior pictures on the yearbook website https://austinhsyearbook.weebly.com/
Pictures can be emailed to anna.good@austin.k12.mn.us

SENIORS Jostens Cap and Gown orders

Cap & Gown Orders are due by Thursday, November 12th, make sure to order yours before the due date!
You can order your cap & gown and other graduation accessory items at:
https://jostens.co/austinhowto27

Under the 3 short videos that total about 8 minutes, you can click the link Order Your Graduation Items, from there you can order a package if you are interested in one of the packages or to order individually scroll past the packages to the individual items sections.

Career Pathways

FAFSA Help Sessions in the Career Center
Need help filling out the FAFSA? Parents can come in during the following times to get assistance from the Riverland Financial Aid Staff. It is helpful for parents to bring their Social Security number (if available), tax information, and financial records.

November 10th (10:00 AM - 2:00 PM)
December 3rd (4:00 - 7:00 PM)

College Reps will be in the Career Center on the following dates. Students are welcome to come down and talk with them about programs, admissions, etc. Students can come in and work with Mrs. Bumgarner at any time to submit college applications and get started with the FAFSA.
November 2 (10:00 AM) - Concordia University Rep
November 5 (7:30 - 11:30 AM) - Riverland
November 6 (8:30 AM) - Hamline University Rep
November 12 (7:30 - 11:30 AM) - Riverland
November 17 (noon - 4:00 PM) - Riverland
November 19 (7:30 - 11:30 AM) - Riverland
November 19 (12:30 PM) - St. Cloud State University

SchooLinks is an all-in-one digital platform for college and career readiness that guides students through high school to life after graduation. This is also where the student's Packer Portfolio will be housed. All guardians also have a SchooLinks account just waiting for them! Check out the short videos below to learn about the features in SchooLinks and how to activate your guardian account. Parents of seniors – you will also want to digitally sign the FERPA authorization to give permission to send your student's transcripts to colleges.

SchooLinks Capabilities

- Student goal setting and interest inventories
- Career exploration tools
- College search, comparison, and college application tracker (this is how APS sends transcripts)
- AHS Career Pathway Event Calendar & signup
- Customized Career Pathway Feed based on their “favorite” careers and colleges
- Packer Profile Curriculum and Portfolio
- Scholarship search and application
- Resume Builder
- Work Based Learning tracking
- Community business partner database
- Access for life

Visit app.schoolinks.com to access the login page. Type in the email address you have on file with the district and click "Forgot Password". This will allow you to create a password and get started!

Video Links:

Parent Overview of Features.mp4
How to access your account & sign the FERPA Authorization

If you have any questions about SchooLinks or would like help with your login, please contact jane.bumgarner@austin.k12.mn.us in the Career Center.

Save the date....December 7th is Free Money Monday in the Career Center from 8:30 AM - 1:00 PM! Stop by to search and apply for Scholarships in SchooLinks! Most of our local scholarships open on December 1st. Check out SchooLinks for details and applications.

Scholarship Sneak Peeks!
Parents of Seniors - the 4 year Wallin Scholarship opens on November 1, 2026. Check out their website to learn more about this fantastic scholarship that awards up to $16,000 over 4 years! We typically award several of these right at AHS, so your chances are good! Visit Jane Bumgarner in the Career Center for scholarship help.

New this year! The John Edward Sheedy Scholarship will provide $10,000/year for up to 8 years for a student becoming a medical doctor or a Physician Assistant. Also the Lewis Family Scholarships will provide a $2,000 one-time scholarship for the following areas: education, agriculture, and the trades. More details to come in December when these scholarships open for the year!

Wallin Scholarship Applications open on November 1. This is an incredible scholarship for seniors going directly to a 4 year college, it provides $4,000/year for 4 years. To be eligible, you must be a 2027 graduate with an unweighted cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher and the parent(s) combined adjusted gross income must be under $100,000 (up to $150,000 for a family of 6+). Applications are due January 29th. See Mrs. Bumgarner in the Career Center for all scholarship questions.

Check out the November Career Pathways Newsletter for information about upcoming college and career events, the Wallin Scholarship, how to fill out the FAFSA, and more!

Counseling

In December, students will start registering for the 2027-2028 school year. They'll meet with teachers to review recommendations and make important decisions about courses.

During registration, we review each student's progress towards graduation. Students can check their Graduation Progress report anytime from their student portal. If your student isn't on track or needs help finding their report, please contact their alpha counselor.

Students have the opportunity to consider taking college level courses either through AP courses, RCC Concurrent, or PSEO. Students qualify for PSEO or RCC Concurrent by meeting GPA, standardized test scores (MCA or ACT) or Accuplacer scores. AP Courses challenge students with college-level courses and offer the chance to earn potential college credit. Students take an AP Exam, and each college sets its own score of acceptance. Students can connect with their school counselor for further questions. In February, counselors will host a PSEO night which gives more details about our RCC course offerings and PSEO.

We will update our website soon with updated registration information. Please continue to check the Austin High School site for registration information, the course guide, and online course descriptions which can be found under the Student Support Professionals tab. School Counseling - Austin High School

If you have any questions or concerns, we encourage you to reach out to your student's alpha counselor. We are here to support your student and help navigate their journey through high school!

Sarah Schmit (last names A-E)
Stephanie Emanuel (last names F-Lopez G)
Farin Delaney (last names Lopez H-Reh)
Cassidy Hartmann (last names Rei-Z)
Sheridan Stenbeck (AOA/ALC)

WINTER SPORTS REGISTRATION

AUSTIN HIGH SCHOOL OFFERINGS:

REGISTRATION OPENS OCTOBER 5, 2026

Dance (APDT): Grades 8-12, start 10/26
Girls Hockey: Grades 7-12, start 11/1
Boys Hockey: Grades 9-12, start 11/15
Girls Basketball: Grades 9-12, start 11/15
Boys Basketball: Grades 9-12, start 11/22
Gymnastics: Grades 7-12, start 11/15
Wrestling: Grades 7-12 (boys & girls), start 11/22
Boys Swim & Dive: Grades 7-12, start 11/29

ELLIS MIDDLE SCHOOL OFFERINGS:

SEE ABOVE FOR OTHER OFFERINGS WITH AHS

Girls Basketball: Grades 6-8, start 10/26; registration opens Oct 5
Dance: Grades 6-8, start 11/16; registration opens Nov 1
Boys Basketball: grades 6-8, start 1/4; registration opens Nov 30

REGISTER IN THE PARENT PORTAL; NEED SPORTS PHYSICAL; FILL OUT ED BENEFITS APPLICATION

How to Register in Parent Portal

Please note:

- **Students MUST have a current sports physical on file to see our athletic offerings**
- **Activities and Clubs do not require a sports physical**

Educational Benefits (formerly Free & Reduced Lunch) YOU could qualify for reduced or FREE activity fees!

It is very important for families to complete the Application for Educational Benefits. Applications for Educational Benefits determine how much funding your child's school receives for educational as well as other programs and support. Please fill out an application!

Additionally, eligible families can qualify for other benefits, such as:

- WIC Benefits
- FCC Affordable Connectivity Program/Reduced price internet programs
- Some summer camps, athletics programs, preschools and/or childcare programs offer scholarships or discounts.

Paper Ed Benefits PAPER Application:
https://resources.finalsite.net/images/v1752068918/austink12mnus/fmwdknb6esahnxsc6fl7/FreeReducedLunchApp.pdf

Online Application: Found in Parent Portal under Food Service



AHS ACTIVITY DEPT.
507.460.1825

VISIT OUR WEBSITE
www.austin.k12.mn.us/district-offices/activities-office

Do



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