

August 4, 2026



Dear AHS Families,

Welcome back. People often ask me why motivates me, and the honest answer is simple: I want everyone who walks into our building to see what I see. I see potential in every single student. That potential, and the chance to help each student reach it, is what is exciting and so rewarding.

As we get ready for the 2026-2027 school year, it is my deepest hope that every student who walks through our doors feels valued, supported, and inspired to become the very best version of themselves. Our staff is committed to building a school where learning, growth, and belonging go hand in hand.

None of this happens without all of us working together. We want to keep partnering with you, as parents, families, business leaders and community members because your involvement and your ideas genuinely shape what we do. Together, we can help every student reach their full potential.

We are truly honored to work with your students, and we can't wait to begin this new year together. Enjoy these final weeks of summer – we are looking forward to seeing you soon!

Matt Schmit
AHS Principal

Strategic Priorities Update

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

- Incoming 9th grade students are invited to a student only Orientation led by our AHS Link Crew Leaders on Thursday, August 13th from 8:00 AM - 12:00 PM. Report to the Gym Lobby at

Austin High School

- AHS is looking to welcoming our students and families to our Back to School Conferences on August 11th from 8:00 AM - 1:00 PM and 3:00 PM - 6:00 PM.

2. Packer Profile for all learners

- SchooLinks is our college and career readiness platform. It houses career and college exploration tools, interest inventories, an events board for college and career tours and rep visits, the ability to send transcripts, a college application manager, access to financial aid tools, and much more. Parents can also create a SchooLinks account once invited by their student. Watch this video to learn how.
- The Austin High School Career Center is here to help students discover their strengths and interests, identify a career pathway, and to obtain information on career or post secondary school information. Stop down or contact Jane Carslon with any questions (jane.carlson@austin.k12.mn.us)
- Our students involved in extracurricular activities have many opportunities to enrich their Packer Profile by shining light on the many authentic learning experiences and opportunities they have within our community.

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

- All of our 9th graders will once again be part of a BARR team. Being on a BARR team just means you'll have a small, dedicated group of teachers and classmates that you'll get to know really well. Think of it as your own team within the larger school! It's a proven way to help our 9th graders transition to high school and a great new opportunity for our 10th graders to build even stronger friendships and get extra support from their teachers.
- Packer Study Table is an after school opportunity for student-athletes who need extra support with their academics.

4. Excellence in resource management.

- Please welcome our new staff! We're excited to have new teachers, and paraeducators joining our team this year. They bring great energy and ideas to help support our students.

Know

Dates



August 11, 2026 - Back to School Conferences 8-1 & 3-6
August 11. 2026 - Picture Day during Conferences
August 13, 2026 - 9th Grade Orientation 8-12
August 17, 2026 - First day of Fall Sports
August 19, 2026 - First Day of School

September 7, 2026 - No School - Labor Day
September 18, 2026 - Homecoming Parade and Football Game
September 19, 2026 - Homecoming Dance
September 28, 2026 - No School - Staff Development

Link Crew

- Incoming 9th grade students are invited to a student only Orientation led by our AHS Link Crew Leaders on Thursday, August 13th from 8:00 AM - 12:00 PM. Report to the Gym Lobby at Austin High School.

Schedules

Student schedules are now viewable in Infinite Campus. As we continue finalizing staffing and course details, please know that schedules may still have errors or require adjustments. If your schedule is missing a class, shows a duplicate or includes an unexpected course, don't worry- we are actively reviewing and updating schedules.
We understand how important it is to start the school year with clarity. Thank you for your patience and understanding as we work to ensure that every schedule is accurate. If you plan on taking PSEO courses, please be sure that you have submitted your PSEO schedule to your alpha counselor.
Counselors for the 2026/2027 will be:
A-E: Sarah Schmit
F-Lopez G: Stephanie Emanuel
Lopez H-Reh: Farin Delaney
Rei-Z: Cassidy Hartmann

CAN I CHANGE MY SCHEDULE?

SCHEDULE CHANGE WINDOW CLOSES Wednesday, August 26th AT 3:00 PM

YES	NO
• You have an A/C Lunch Conflict • You have missing or blank hours in your schedule • You have taken and passed a class you are scheduled for • You are doing PSEO • You are scheduled twice for the same class	• You really want a different lunch hour • You really want a different teacher • You really want to switch hours • You want to completely change your schedule • Year-long electives are a full-year commitment. Schedule changes require speaking with the teacher first.

Schedules can be viewed in student portal.

2026-2027 Schedule Change Request Form

AUSTIN PUBLIC SCHOOLS
INSPIRE • EMPOWER • ACCELERATE

AUSTIN HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC OFFERINGS

Fall Sports:


Cheer
Girls & Boys
Grades 9-12


Football
Grades 9-12


Soccer
Boys - grades 8-12
Girls - grades 7-12


Girls Volleyball
Grades 9-12


Cross Country
Girls and Boys
Grades 7-12


Girls Tennis
Grades 7-12


Girls Swim & Dive
Grades 7-12

Winter Sports:

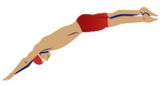

Dance
Grades 9-12


Ice Hockey
Boys - grades 9-12
Girls - grades 7-12


Basketball
Boys - grades 9-12
Girls - grades 7-12


Wrestling
Boys & Girls
Grades 7-12


Gymnastics
Grades 7-12


Boys Swim & Dive
Grades 7-12

Spring Sports:


Adapted Bowling
Grades 7-12


Softball
Grades 8-12


Baseball
Grades 9-12


Golf
Boys - grades 9-12
Girls - grades 7-12


Track & Field
Girls & Boys
Grades 9-12


Boys Volleyball
Grades 8-12


Boys Tennis
Grades 7-12

AUSTIN HIGH SCHOOL
ACTIVITIES OFFERINGS

Clubs & Activities

- African Student Association (AASA)
- Archery
- Art Club
- Asian Student Union (ASU)
- Austinaires
- Austinian (Yearbook)
- Choralaires
- Fall & Spring Clay Target
- DECA
- Debate
- Diversity Club
- Drama Club
- FFA
- FIRST Robotics
- Flag Football (girls)
- Future Teachers
- Go Green
- Jazz Band
- Knowledge Bowl
- La Fiera Chamber
- Marching Band
- National Honors Society
- One Act Play
- Pep Band
- Prom Committee
- Science Olympiad
- Speech
- Student Council
- Vocal Jazz
- Weight Training
- Youth Leadership

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!

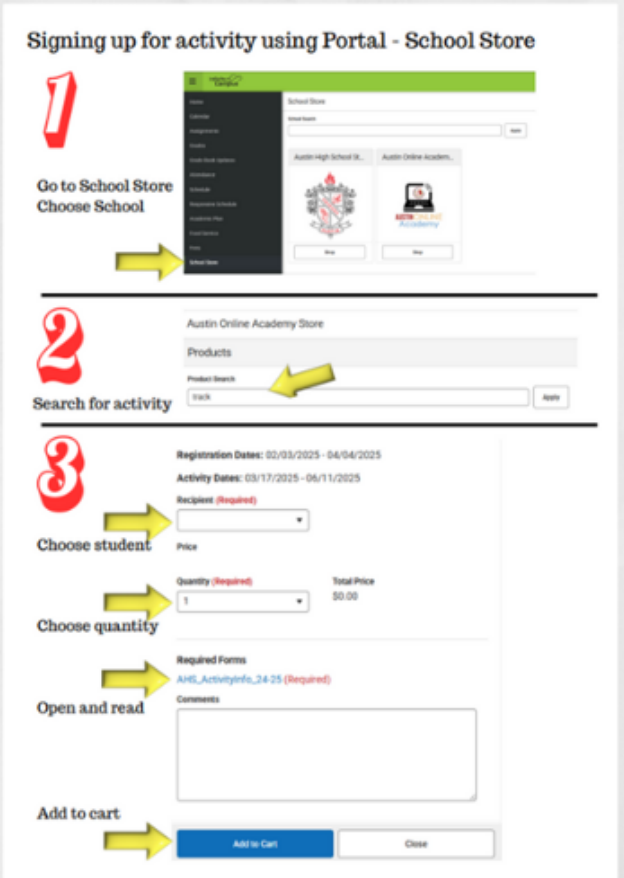
It is very important for families to complete the Application for Educational Benefits. Applications for Educational Benefits determine how much funding your child's school receives for educational as well as other programs and support. Please fill out an application!

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

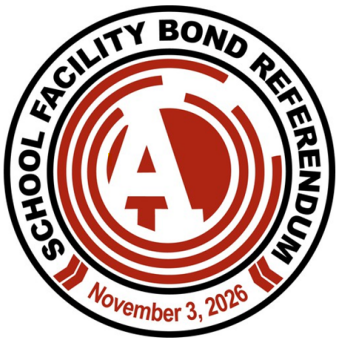
VISIT OUR WEBSITE
www.austin.k12.mn.us/district-offices/activities-office

Activities Information

Click the links for important information regarding Austin activities and Bound Calendar and ticketing.

Austin Activities SMORE (registration): https://app.smore.com/n/18dft
BOUND Scheduling: https://app.smore.com/n/fwxdz

School Bond Referendum November 3



- The school board took action Monday night to place a $24.9 million referendum on the November 3 ballot. The funding will allow the District to improve safety, increase accessibility, mitigate water infiltration, update building systems and finishes, and complete needed repairs to keep the pool at Ellis Middle School operational. Information about the referendum can be found on the District's website at www.austin.k12.mn.us.

Lockdown Drill Dates

As part of our commitment to student safety, our school will be conducting lockdown drills on the following dates:

- ***August 27***
- ***September 25***
- ***October 27***
- ***December 7***
- ***February 5***

This is a safety exercise that helps students and staff learn how to respond calmly and quickly in the unlikely event of a potential danger inside or near the school. In accordance with state guidelines, we are notifying all families in advance. Parents and guardians have the right to opt their child out of participating in these drills. If you prefer your child not participate, please contact the school office at ***(507)460-1805*** at least 24 hours before the scheduled drill.

Thank you.

AHS Admin

Congratulations to our Summer Graduates!

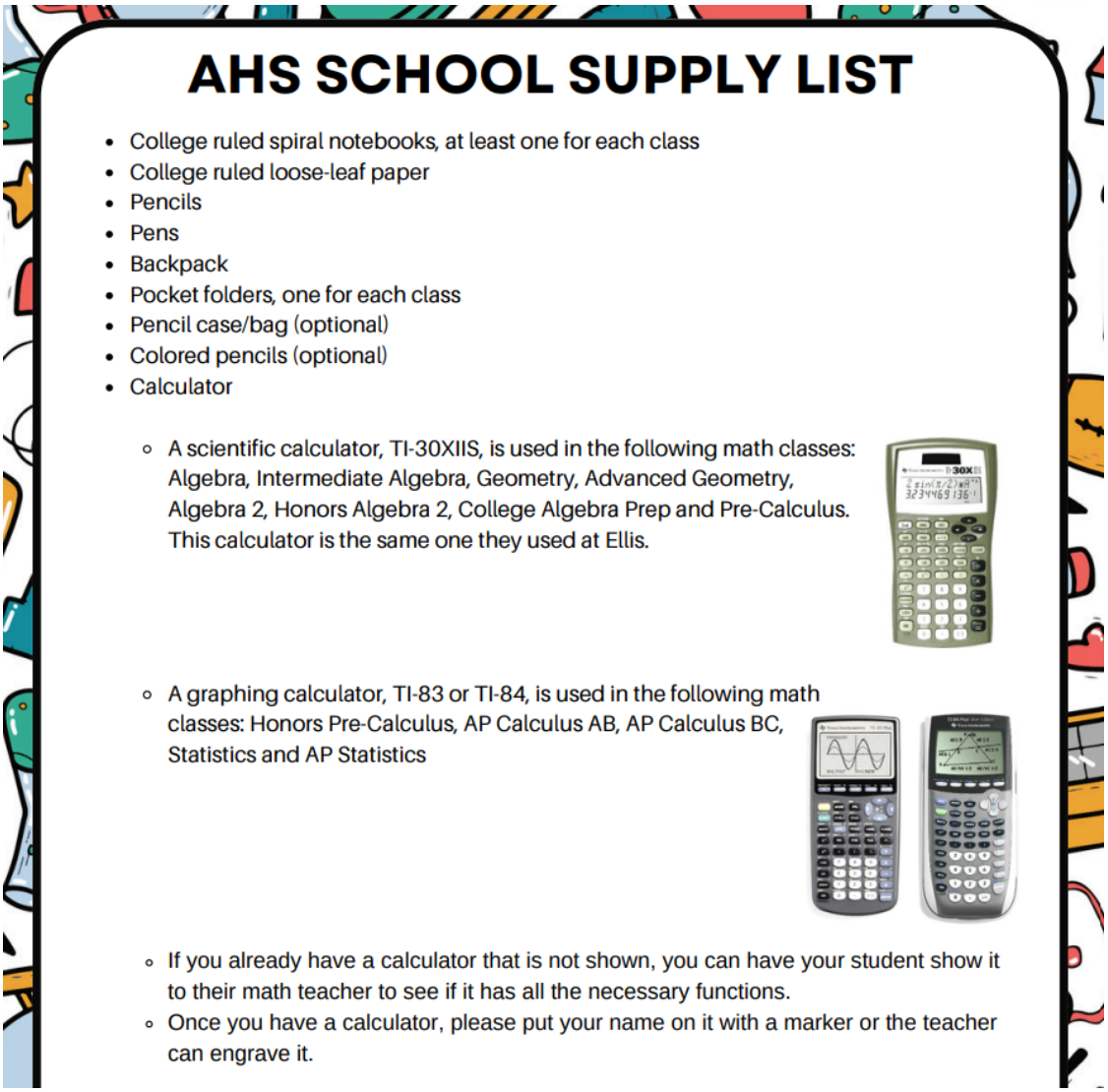
This year we had 27 students complete their diploma during 6 weeks of summer school.



Do

Back to School Conferences

Back to school conferences are coming up soon! Please enter door 7 or door 13 and check in at our information desk. We can't wait to see all of our families again soon!





Share



Austin Coaches Leadership Retreat focuses on building one co...

More than 20 Austin middle and high school coaches launched a new leadership retreat aimed at building one unified coaching culture to better support every stud...

austindailyherald.com

Click on the image below for our Facebook link to see the latest updates from Austin High School



Austin High School

Austin High School

301 3rd St NW
Austin, MN 55912
507-460-1800