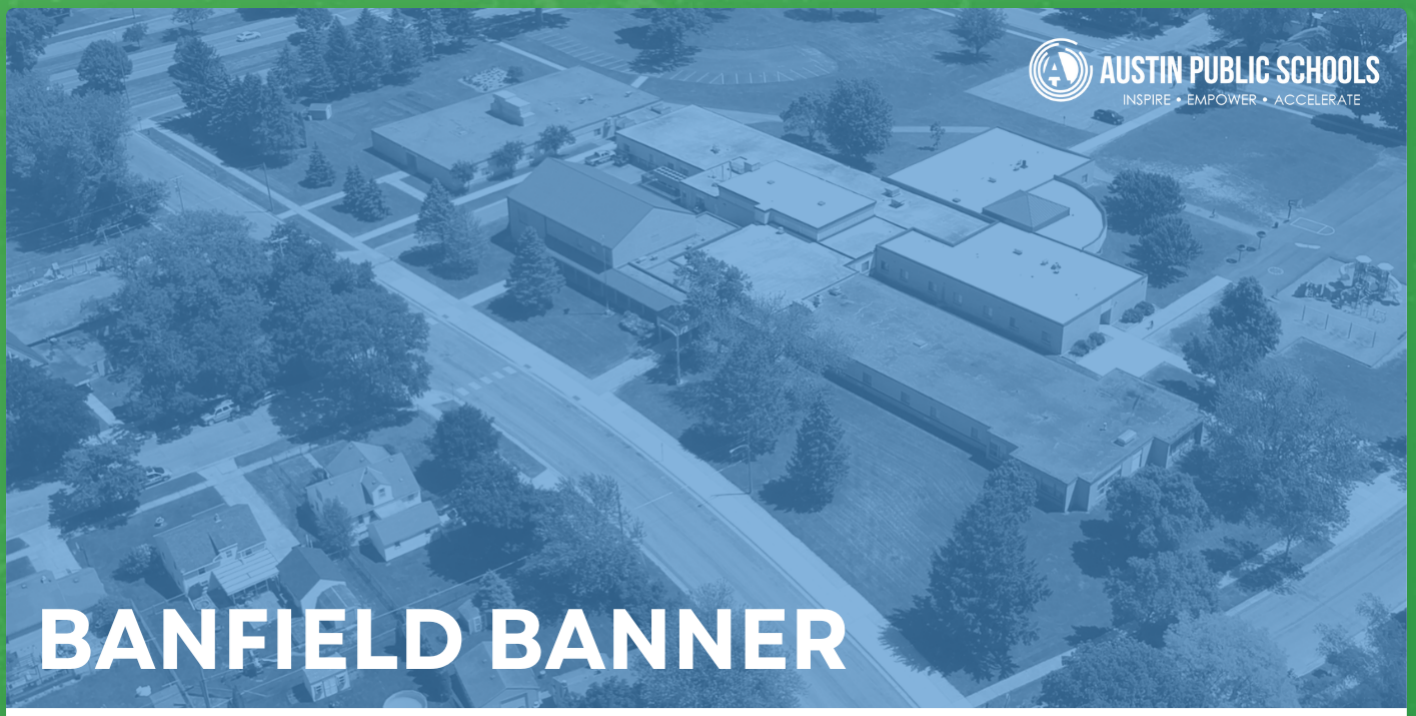



# November 4th

### Welcome, Bobcats!



Nearly 90% of families attended conferences. Thank you for meeting with our teachers. If you missed conferences, your child's classroom teacher will send home the information and handouts.

You should have received remote learning materials. Please keep them at home to use if a remote learning day is announced.

Cold weather is approaching. Please send your child with a warm coat, hat, and gloves. If you need help getting winter clothing, contact the school office.

As the weather gets colder, kindergarten recess will move to the end of the school day so students only need to put on their winter gear once. If you arrive for pickup while recess is still underway, please stay off the playground and wait for dismissal.

TalkingPoints is a helpful way to communicate with teachers. However, **please contact the school office directly for any change in your child's dismissal plans.** Teachers may be absent or unable to check messages during the school day. The office will share the change with your child's teacher or substitute so your child gets home safely.

**Mr. Henely**
Principal, Banfield Elementary

## Message From Banfield's School Social Worker

Regular school attendance plays an important role in your child's academic success, social development, and overall well-being. We understand that families may experience challenges that

make getting to school difficult. Our goal is to work together to identify barriers, provide support, and help every student attend school consistently.

Understanding Minnesota's Attendance Laws. In Minnesota, children ages 7–17 are required to attend school. Children under the age of seven who are enrolled in kindergarten or a higher grade in a public school are also subject to compulsory attendance laws, unless the school district has adopted a policy exempting children under age seven.

It is also important to understand the distinction between educational neglect and truancy: Students under age 12: Parents and guardians are responsible for ensuring their child's regular school attendance. Ongoing attendance concerns may be considered educational neglect and could result in a child's welfare response. Students aged 12 and older: Students may be considered truant when they have missed one or more class periods on seven or more school days, according to Minnesota's truancy definitions.

**Why Does Attendance Matter?**

According to the Minnesota Department of Education (MDE), chronic absenteeism can have a lasting impact on a child's educational journey. Research shows that missing school regularly, even as early as kindergarten, is associated with:

- Challenges with early reading development.
- Lower academic achievement by middle school.
- Increased risk of falling behind academically.
- A greater likelihood of dropping out of high school.

**What is chronic absenteeism?**

Chronic absenteeism occurs when a student misses 10% or more of the school year, regardless of whether absences are excused or unexcused. For a typical 180-day school year, this equals approximately 18 days of missed school. Chronic absenteeism can sometimes go unnoticed because students may miss a day here and there rather than several consecutive days. However, those individual absences add up quickly!

**How Banfield Can Help**

Our attendance team meets regularly to review student attendance and identify students and families who may need additional support. We communicate with families through attendance notifications, including 3-day, 7-day, and medical letters, to help bring awareness to attendance patterns and address concerns before they become larger barriers to learning.

We recognize that every family's circumstances are different. If your child is experiencing any of the following, we encourage you to reach out: School-related anxiety, transportation, access to resources challenges, Medical, mental health, or other personal and Family circumstances that are affecting school attendance. Julia Kranz – Banfield School Social Worker or Deysy Hernandez – Banfield Success Coach are able to support.

Thank you,

Julia Kranz, MSW, LICSW
School Social Worker
507-460-1200 ex 5400 ; julia.kranz@austin.k12.mn.us

We are excited to introduce our new menus and menu planning & analysis software, SchoolCafe. As part of this transition, we will no longer be using Nutrislice for our menus. Please visit https://app.smore.com/n/c8rw3 for more information on this exciting new menu solution!

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## Strategic Priorities Update

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

- More than 90% of Banfield families attended fall conferences. Staff connected with families and shared students' early successes.
- Next week, we'll begin our third round of highlighting the Packer Core Values during morning announcements and Morning Meeting.

### 2. Packer Profile for all Learners

- Staff continue to explore how EduClimber can help them identify and address students' individual learning needs.
- During the recent professional development day, staff developed a consistent set of learning artifacts for students to upload to Seesaw throughout the school year.

### 3. District Wide Multi-Tiered Systems of support for all learners

- Professional learning communities (PLCs) remain central to staff learning. Teams have improved how they use student data to identify instructional needs and plan next steps.
- The attendance team meets every two weeks to review attendance, share concerns with families, and work with them to address barriers. The Attendance Task Force guides this work by identifying monthly topics for staff to address.
- Student use of Freckle and Lalilo is up nearly 30% compared with last year. These tools use benchmark assessment results to tailor practice to each student's learning needs.

### 4. Excellence in Resource Management.

- Staff and students participated in the walkathon, raising funds for our PBIS program and other school initiatives in partnership with the BPTC.

## Know

# Are you dressed for the weather?

| | |
|---|---|
| **29° and Below**<br>**Jacket, headwear, mittens, boots & snow pants** |  |
| **30° - 40°**<br>**Jacket, headwear, & mittens** |  |
| **41° to 59°**<br>**Jacket only** |  |
| **60° and Above**<br>**No jackets** |  |




### Example of a Snack That Meets Our Policy

Individually wrapped snacks that do not come from a shared package.



### Example That Does Not Meet Our Policy

Package of cupcakes, cookies, or other food that is from a shared container.

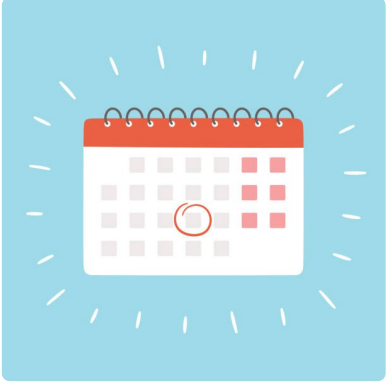


### Call Us With Questions

If you aren't sure whether or not a snack will meet the policy, please feel free to call our office at 507-460-1200.

### Important Dates to Remember

November 3rd: No School
November 11th: Student Council Pizza Ranch Fundraiser
November 16th-20th: American Education Week
November 25-27th: No School Holiday Break



### Backpack Program-United Way of Mower County

The Backpack program enrollment site is now live for families to enroll Here is the link to enroll https://www.uwmower.org/backpackprogram.html

PDF **Should My Child Be In School Today** Download 1.8 MB

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# Do
# Austin Public Schools Background Check Form link

**ONLINE APPLICATION**

Welcome to the Austin Public Schools, ISD 492 online Release Authorization.

rhris.com

## Student Handbooks

Please review the student handbooks as there were changes made from last year.

https://www.austin.k12.mn.us/district-resources/student-handbooks

## Attendance




Please join us in committing to good attendance and arriving to school on time. Making attendance a priority is critical to your child's success. If your child is unable to attend school, please contact the Banfield office at (507)460-1200.

**Every Day Counts**

Attendance Matters. Every day a student is in school is another opportunity to learn, build friendships, and prepare for the future.
Did you know?

- 3 or fewer unexcused absences: Satisfactory attendance
- 4 to 6 unexcused absences: Warning signs
- 7 or more unexcused absences: Chronic absence

Showing up every day makes a difference. Let's help every student succeed.

English: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p6QScFl1yD0

Spanish: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UN2NBvMfdZw

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# Share

## Facebook Page

Please feel free to follow us on our Facebook Page! We often post daily events, upcoming activities and general information on this page.

Banfield Facebook Page - Link


**Banfield Elementary School**
https://banfield.austin.k12.mn.us

301 17th Street SW
Austin, MN 55912
507-460-1200


**School Hours:**
8:00AM - 2:30PM