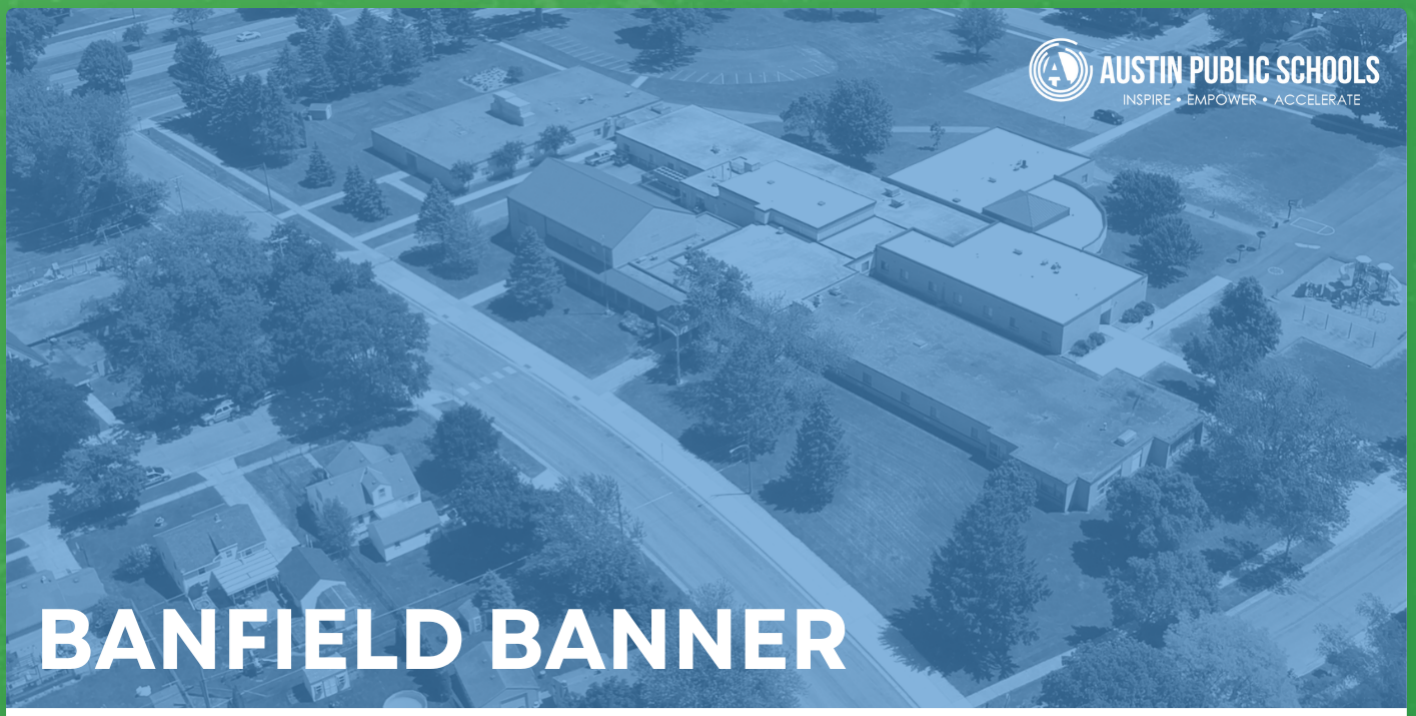


September 1st, 2026 - A Great Start to the School Year!

Welcome, Bobcats!



Dear Banfield Families,

As we wrap up the first two weeks of school, we are excited about the successful start we have had at Banfield! It has been great to welcome our students and families back and see routines, relationships, and learning taking shape throughout the building.

As we move into September, we appreciate your help with a few important arrival and attendance reminders:

Morning Drop-Off
Please use the designated student drop-off areas highlighted on the map below. We ask that families **do not pull into the staff parking lot** for student drop-off. Staff members come and go throughout the school day, so keeping this area clear helps ensure a safe and consistent traffic flow.

Arriving Late
If your child arrives after our regular morning arrival time, please have them enter through the **front entrance**. Staff are not stationed at the other entrances after arrival. Our front office has a process in place to welcome students and make sure their attendance is updated correctly.

Attendance & Absences
New this year, families will receive an **automated phone call at 8:45 a.m.** if a student has been marked absent and we have not received notification about the absence.

If your child will be absent or arriving late, please notify the school office or use the **Infinite Campus app** to report the absence. This helps us account for every student and prevents

unnecessary automated calls.

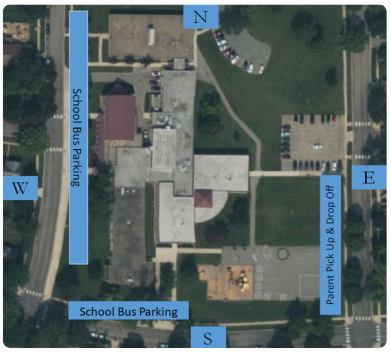
Playground Reminder
During the school day, our playground is in use for scheduled recess times across multiple grade levels. For the safety and supervision of all students, we ask that parents and visitors stay off the playground during school hours. We appreciate your understanding and cooperation in helping us keep all students safe.

1:1 Student Meetings
Throughout the upcoming weeks, our support staff; Instructional Coach, Behavior Interventionist, School Social Workers, and Administration, will be meeting 1:1 with students in order to better get to know each kid and build a relationship with them. We will be asking them about their start of the school year, what is going well at school an done way to make the school better.

Thank you for your continued partnership and support. We're looking forward to a fantastic year of learning and growth together!

Mr. Henely
Principal, Banfield Elementary

Arrival and Dismissal



As we prepare for the start of the school year, we kindly ask that you review your arrival and dismissal plans with your child's teacher during our Back-to-School Open House. Pictured is a map showing designated areas for parking, drop-off, and pick-up.

Please avoid parking in staff lots, as many staff members travel between buildings and need to be able to exit quickly at the end of the day. Additionally, we ask that families refrain from using the playground until after our 2:30 dismissal, as classes are scheduled to use that space up until the end of the school day.

Thank you for your cooperation in helping us keep arrival and dismissal safe and smooth for everyone.

Your Child's Safety is our #1 Priority: Arrival and Dismissal

Please view the video for important information regarding safe arrival and dismissal at our school. We must emphasize to **NOT** drop off your child in the bus lane upon arrival to school. Together We Can ensure our children are safe.



Looking For Inspiring Work?



Substitute teachers and paraprofessionals have the chance to inspire students every day. Great substitute opportunities in Austin Public Schools are available through our partner, Kelly Education. You don't need prior teaching experience—just a desire to help students become the best versions of themselves.

Connect with Kelly Education's Recruiting Team:
Substitute Interest Form: https://tinyurl.com/hb786x5y
Phone: 800.713.4439
Email: EDUMinnesota@kellyeducation.com

New Book Vending Machine at Banfield! 📚

Book Vending Machine

Banfield Elementary is excited to introduce a new **Book Vending Machine** in partnership with The Read Seed! This new pilot program gives students the opportunity to earn tokens throughout the school year and use them to choose brand-new books of their own to take home and keep.

The goal of the program is to build excitement around reading while helping students grow their personal home libraries. Each classroom will have the opportunity to visit the Book Vending Machine after their regularly scheduled library time, and teachers will have flexibility in how they use tokens to recognize reading, growth, positive behavior, kindness, perseverance, and other accomplishments.

Our goal is for every Banfield student to have the opportunity to earn **two books during the school year**.

Because Banfield is serving as the pilot school for this program, we are excited to learn and grow throughout the year. We would love to hear feedback from students and families about what is working well and what could make the program even better. Your input will help us evaluate the program and explore the possibility of expanding it to other elementary schools in the future.

Choose a Book. Build a Library. Inspire a Reader.



A huge thank you to The Read Seed for partnering with us.



Students will earn two tokens throughout the year.



There is a wide range of books for students to choose from.

Get Ready to WALK, MOVE & MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

AUSTIN ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

Walkathon

BANFIELD | NEVELN | SUMNER | SOUTHGATE

We are excited to kick off our **Annual Austin Elementary Schools Walk-A-Thon on Wednesday, October 7!** This fun, school-wide event brings together students and families from **Banfield, Neveln, Southgate, and Sumner Elementary Schools** as we work toward a **district-wide fundraising goal of $40,000!**

The best part? **Every dollar raised goes directly back to our elementary students** and helps provide special extras throughout the school year, including **family engagement events, PBIS supplies and celebrations, outdoor learning opportunities, spirit wear, and more.**

How Can Your Family Help?
Getting involved is easy! We are using **Get Movin' FundHub**, an online, mobile-friendly fundraising platform.

Just follow these three simple steps:

1. **Register or log in** to your parent dashboard and complete your child's student webpage at www.getmovinfundhub.com. Our school identifier is **5d52d23dd9fc5**.
2. **Make an online donation** using the red "Donate" button.
3. **Share your child's page** with friends and family! Consider sending 10–15 emails or text messages and sharing the fundraiser on social media.

Be sure to check the FundHub website for information about **prizes and incentives**!

Walk-A-Thon Day — Wednesday, October 7

Each elementary school will have an **All-School Walk**, followed by additional walking time with individual classes throughout the school day. Families are welcome and encouraged to join us for the all-school portion of the walk!

All-School Walk Times:

- **Southgate:** 8:15–8:55 a.m.
- **Banfield:** 9:10–9:50 a.m.
- **Sumner:** 10:00–10:30 a.m.
- **Neveln:** 1:40–2:10 p.m.

Few Important Reminders

- **Online donations are preferred** and can be made through your child's fundraising webpage.
- Cash and check donations should be placed in an envelope and turned in to your child's teacher by **Tuesday, October 6**. Please make checks payable to **Austin Public Schools PTC** and include your child's name and teacher on the envelope.
- Check with your employer to see whether they offer a **matching gift program**!
- Interested in volunteering on Walk-A-Thon day? Volunteer sign-up information will be available under the **"Event Updates"** section of your school's fundraising website.

We can't wait to see our students **walking, moving, and working together** to make a difference across Austin Public Schools! Thank you for helping us make this year's Walk-A-Thon a fun and successful event for all of our elementary students.

Questions? Please contact your school principal or Noelle Day at nrday11@gmail.com.



Clothing Order

Please clink on the link below to order your Banfield gear. The store closes on September 4th.

Click Here: Clothing Order

SchoolCafe

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!

Austin Community Education



Talking Points

Austin Public Schools is now using @talkingpts to communicate with families directly via text message! This tool will allow all families to receive messages in their home language instantly. 🙌 With Talking Points, families can:

- Send teachers a message via direct text message
- Communicate in over 150 home languages thanks to automated translation
- Utilize the free Talking Points app to manage communication with all of your children's teachers

FAMILIES | TalkingPoints App - App Store (**https://apps.apple.com/us/app/families-talkingpoints/id1320244591**)

FAMILIES | TalkingPoints - Apps on Google Play (**https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=org.talkingpoints.parents&hl=en-US**)

Strategic Priorities Update

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

- This year our staff have been using Talking Points to communicate with families. This has been an excellent addition to our resources to communicate with families.
- Staff completed a consistent name plate the incorporated their Clifton Strengths
- For our first staff meeting of the year, we were able to celebrate staff's personal and professional accomplishments, along with talk through any topics that came up from the first week of school.

2. Packer Profile for all Learners

- Each morning, across the building, teachers do a morning meeting from 8:00-8:25. This year we are incorporating our district's Core Values into the morning meeting once a month.
- Our specialist teachers; Art, Gym, Science, and Music, are developing a plan to incorporate the use of SeeSaw into their classes.

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

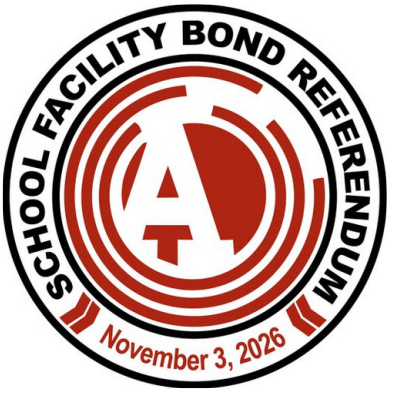
- Staff continue to explore the use of EduClimber to assist them with using data to drive instruction. This is a focus of the building on all staff development days.
- This year we are working to continue our improvement of the implementation of Professional Learning Communities.
- Our Attendance Team meets bi-weekly to review student attendance, identify obstacles in students getting to school and to align supports for them.

4. Excellence in Resource Management.

- We've been fortunate enough to have partnered with the Read Seed to bring a book vending machine. This is an exciting opportunity and partnership that will benefit the whole building, and hopefully each elementary school.
- Providing school supplies for families continues to be a success and we were able to have these delivered to classrooms prior to back-to-school conferences.

Know

The Austin Public Schools have placed a $24.9 million bond referendum on the November 3 ballot. The proposed funding would address identified facility needs across the District, including:
• Improving safety and security
• Increasing accessibility
• Addressing water infiltration
• Updating aging building systems and finishes
• Completing needed repairs to keep the Ellis Middle School pool operational



Community members are encouraged to learn more about the proposal, review project information, and submit questions through the District's referendum website. **#AustinPackers**

Learn more or submit a question:
https://www.austin.k12.mn.us/district-resources/referendum-2026



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.

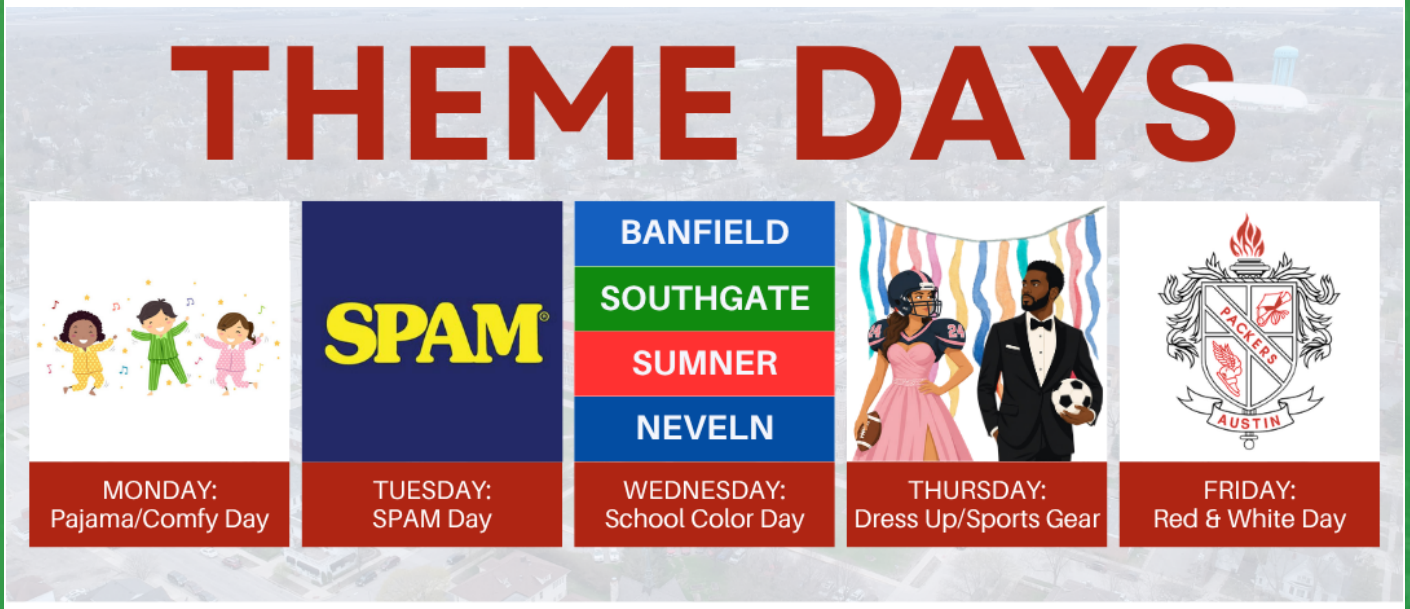


Call Us With Questions

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.

Homecoming Dress Up Days

Pictured below are the dress up days for Homecoming this year. We will also plan to walk in the parade. As we get more information about that event, we will communicate it out to parents.



HOMECOMING
September 14-19, 2026

AUSTIN PUBLIC SCHOOLS
INSPIRE • EMPOWER • ACCELERATE

Important Dates to Remember

September 4th - Lockdown and Fire Drill
September 7th - No School Day: Labor Day Holiday
September 17th - Flu Shot Clinic
October 9th - Picture Retakes
October 22nd - Conferences
October 29th - Conferences



Lockdown Drills

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 ***507-460-1200*** at least 24 hours before the scheduled drill.

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

Immunizations

Under Minnesota law, all students are required to provide documentation of immunizations or submit an exemption.

Exemptions include:
A medical exemption, signed by the child's healthcare provider
A non-medical exemption, which must be notarized

High vaccination rates help protect vulnerable students, prevent disruptions such as quarantines or school closures during outbreaks, and support a healthier school community overall.

Parents can view their child's immunization records through the Infinite Campus Parent Portal or by contacting their healthcare provider. Clinic appointments fill up quickly as the school year approaches, so we encourage you to schedule your child's immunization visit as soon as possible. Students who do not have completed immunization records or a valid exemption on file may be excluded from school.

To learn more about the vaccines required for school or to access the necessary forms, visit the Minnesota School Immunization Requirements page.

Thank you for helping us maintain a healthy and safe school community!

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

Do
Austin Public Schools Background Check Form link

ONLINE APPLICATION

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

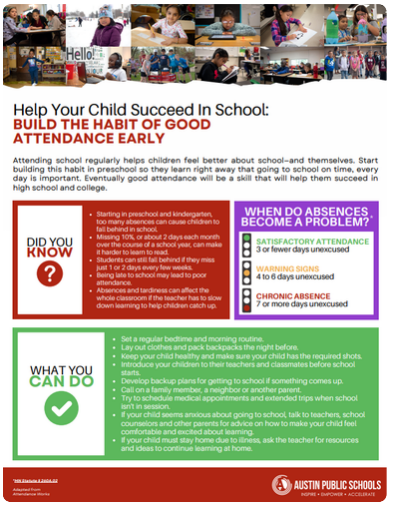
rhris.com

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

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