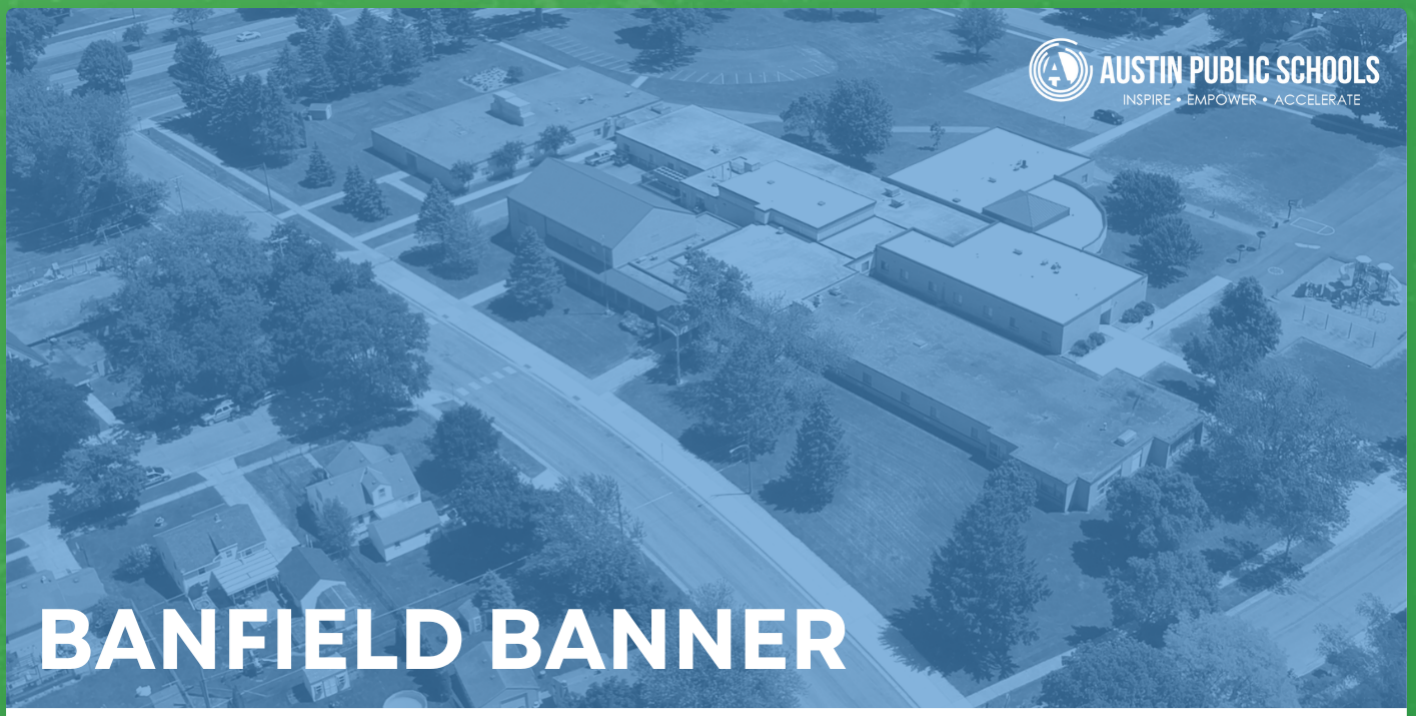


August 4th, 2026

Welcome, Bobcats!



Dear Banfield Families,

We're so excited to welcome you and your student(s) back for another great school year at Banfield Elementary! Our staff has been hard at work over the summer preparing classrooms, planning engaging lessons, and creating a warm and welcoming environment to ensure a strong and successful start for every student. From updating learning spaces to refining curriculum and supports, we are ready to kick off the year with energy and purpose.

To help start the year off right, we invite you to attend our **Back to School Parent Teacher Conferences on August 17th** from **8:00–1:00 PM** and again from **4:00–7:00 PM**.

Please see attached link to sign up for conferences
https://www.austin.k12.mn.us/district-resources/conferences

Kindergarten families, please bring your students backpack with them to the conference. This is a wonderful opportunity to connect with your child's teacher, meet staff members, and learn more about the school year ahead. School pictures **will not** be taken at this time. School pictures are scheduled for August 28th.

Our **first day of school is Wednesday, August 19th** and we can't wait to see all of our Banfield Bobcats back in the building! Thank you for your continued partnership and support—we're looking forward to a fantastic year together.

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.

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.



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**)

Know

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.

Birthday Treats

Individual classrooms will observe birthdays with special activities planned by teachers, such as allowing children to wear a "Birthday Hat" or by singing to them. If students choose to share a treat with the class on their birthday, food must be an individually wrapped and purchased treat. Examples of such treats are fruit snacks, individual packages of cookies or crackers, etc.... **Parents should contact the teacher to make them aware that they are sending a treat for the class.** Please do not distribute personal party invitations at school.



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

August 17th- 8:00AM-1:00PM & 4:00PM-7:00PM - Back to School Conferences *Banfield Elementary School*
August 19th - 8:00AM-2:30PM - First Day of School
Banfield Elementary School

August 28th - School Photos - Lockdown and Fire Drill
September 3rd - Lockdown and Fire Drill
September 7th - No School Day: Labor Day Holiday



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

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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.

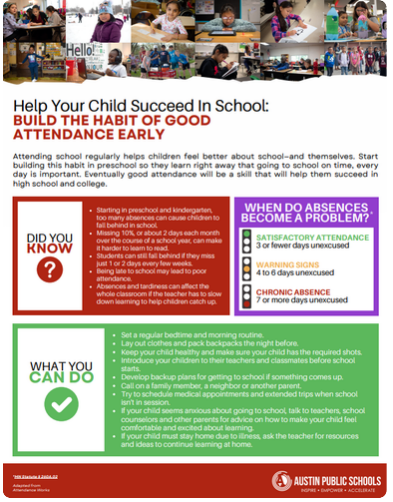
At Austin Public Schools, we know that showing up matters. Consistent attendance is one of the clearest predictors of a student's success, not only in the classroom, but in life after graduation. Students who attend school regularly are more likely to achieve academically, graduate on time, and find success in college, careers, or both.

Strong attendance also tells us something important: it reflects how connected students and families/caregivers feel to their school community. When attendance drops, whether for specific groups or across the district, it often signals challenges we can help address, including school climate and engagement, as well as social, emotional, or family barriers.

That's why we're focused on building schools where students want to be. Through strong instruction, supportive relationships, and programs that care for the whole child, Austin Public Schools is working to ensure every student feels welcome, supported, and ready to learn each day. When students feel that connection, they show up, and when they show up, they succeed.
Please watch our new video about the importance of attendance.

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

As we gear up for the 2026–2027 school year, our dedicated staff have been working hard to prepare the building and create a welcoming space for our students. Their time and effort have ensured everything is ready for a strong start. With staff beginning to return, there's a renewed sense of energy and excitement throughout the building as we get ready to kick off another amazing year.

Thank you for being an important part of our Banfield community. We're looking forward to a fantastic year ahead!

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