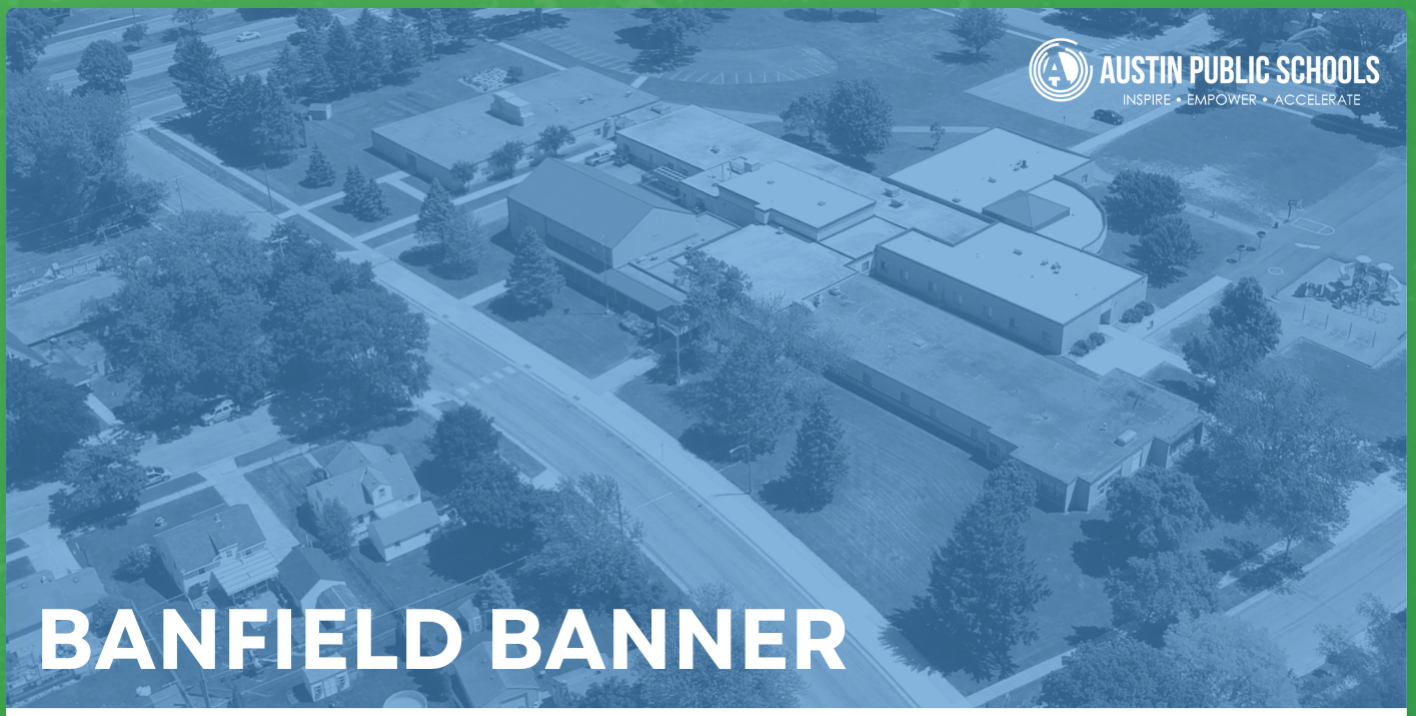


October 6th

Welcome, Bobcats!



Dear Banfield Families,

October is here, and we look forward to another month of learning and connecting with our school community. As cooler weather arrives, please remember that students will continue going outside for recess. Sending your child with a coat or jacket appropriate for the weather will help them stay comfortable and enjoy their time outdoors.

Parent-teacher conferences will take place on **October 22 and 27**. Conferences are an opportunity to celebrate your child's growth, discuss their progress, and work together to support their learning. We look forward to visiting with you! Please also remember that there will be **no school October 14–16 for MEA break**.

At conferences, you will receive information about remote learning activities so your family can be prepared if a remote learning day is needed. These activity sheets will also be sent home in students' backpacks at the end of the month. Please keep them in a safe, accessible place.

Thank you for your continued support and partnership. We appreciate all you do to help our Banfield Bobcats learn and grow!

Sincerely,
Blake Henely
Mr. Henely
Principal, Banfield Elementary

How the Proposed Referendum Would Impact Banfield Elementary

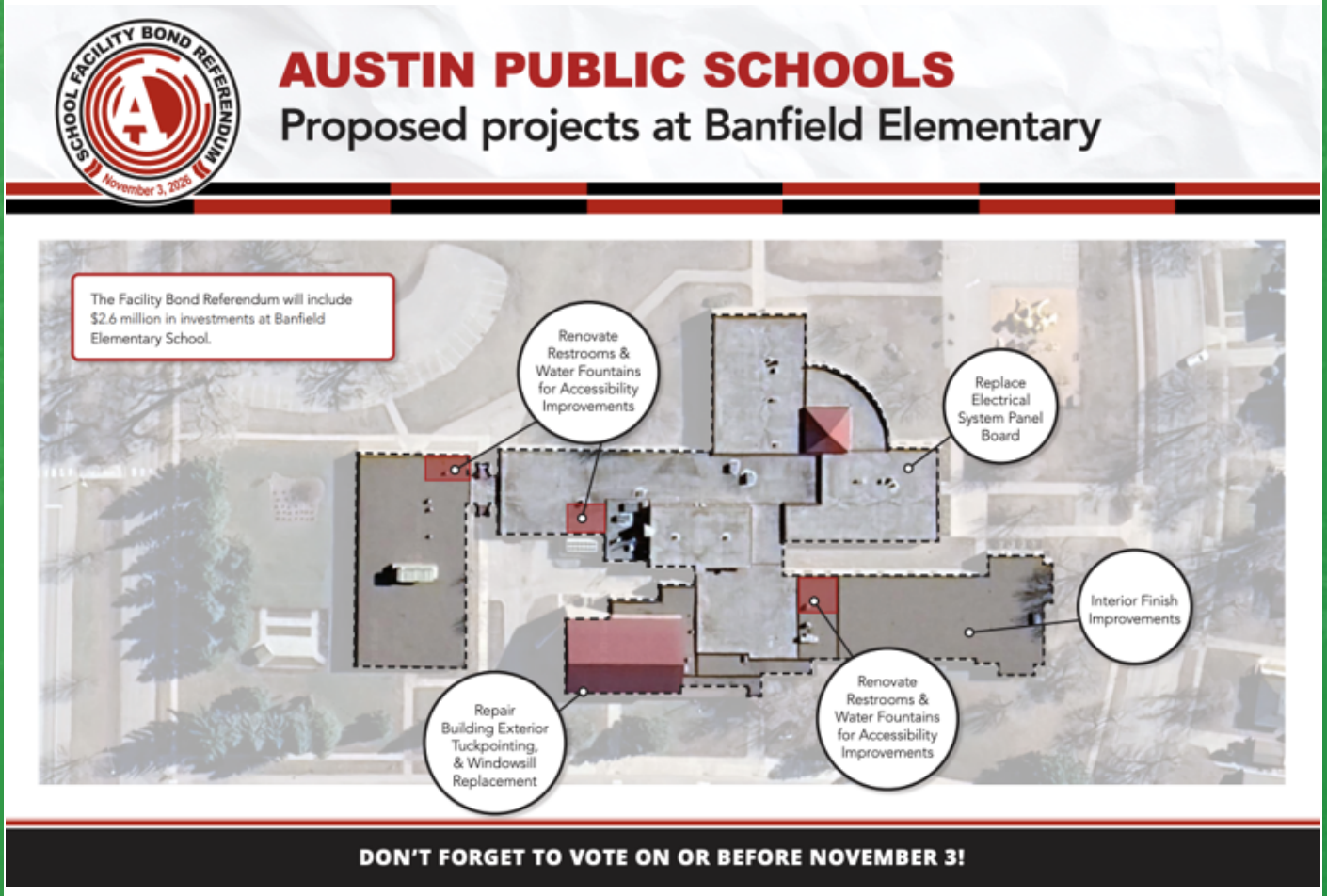
On November 3, Austin voters will decide on a proposed school facilities referendum. If approved, the referendum would fund improvements across the district, including several projects at Banfield Elementary.

At Banfield, planned improvements include repairs to the building exterior and windows, updates to interior finishes such as flooring, ceilings and paint, electrical upgrades, and renovations to improve accessibility. These projects would help preserve a school that has served generations of Austin families while ensuring students continue learning in a safe, welcoming, and well-maintained environment.

Referendum Resources to Learn More:

· **Watch Superintendent Dr. Joey Page's Presentation**
· **View the Districtwide Project Budget Breakdown**
· **Visit the Referendum Informational Webpage**

Make a plan to vote on or before November 3, 2026.

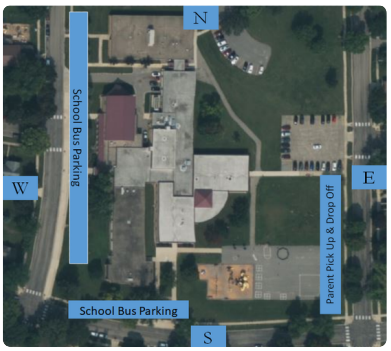


Every School Has A Story

From the first days of kindergarten to graduation day, Austin Public Schools have helped shape generations of students and families. This video reflects on those stories and looks ahead to our schools' future. As the community considers the upcoming referendum, we encourage everyone to learn more, ask questions, and stay informed.

Learn more here: www.austin.k12.mn.us/referendum

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.

Message From Banfield's School Social Worker

Dear Banfield Caregivers,

We would like to introduce ourselves as a resource for members of the Banfield community. We are the school social workers at Banfield, Julia Kranz, MSW, LICSW, and Becky Gullickson, MSW, LGSW.

School social workers are trained mental health professionals who support students' social, emotional, behavioral, and academic success. Our role includes assisting with mental health concerns, behavioral challenges, positive behavior supports, classroom and academic collaboration with teachers, families, and administrators.

As we begin a new school year, we recognize that the transition back to school affects each student differently. Reestablishing routines, adjusting to new expectations, and navigating change can be challenging. We also know that navigating new needs is part of raising children. Therefore, we thought providing a few of the most used community resources would be helpful to families.

Parenting Resource Center: Parenting classes; Sibel Center (family visitation and exchange location; Prevention around drugs and alcohol; The Welcome Center (resources to support newcomers). Ph: 507-437-8330 Address: 105 1st Street SE Austin, MN 55912

SPERO: Mental Health Mobile Crisis Service (for adults and children experiencing mental health crisis) Ph: 844-CRISIS2 (844-274-7472)

Austin Aspires: Bridging educational gaps for families from birth to adulthood (mentoring; tutoring; childcare openings) Ph: 507-437-0920

Mower County Housing Authority: Subsidized housing and section 8 housing for all of Mower County with vacancies list and financial assistance. Ph: 507-434-5556

Families to access the whole mower county resource guide please go to www.uwmower.org and click on the resource guide. This will provide an in-depth resource guide for our area. Please reach out for Support. If you notice that your child is having difficulty adjusting to the school year, please do not hesitate to reach out. As school social workers, our role is to connect, and coordinate support between home, school, and community resources. We are committed to helping every Banfield student feel safe, accepted, connected, and supported.

Thank you,

Julia Kranz, MSW, LICSW
School Social Worker

507-460-1200 ex 5400 ; julia.kranz@austin.k12.mn.us

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.



Get Ready to WALK, MOVE & MAKE A DIFFERENCE!



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.



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!

Strategic Priorities Update

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

- The support staff completed their first round of 1:1 meetings with every student in the building. These interviews help support our MTSS process, build relationships with students, but also identify areas that we could improve on.
- TalkingPoints has been a great addition to our resources. We have over 90% of staff using this tool to connect with families.

2. Packer Profile for all Learners

- This year we are incorporating our Packer Core Values into our morning announcements and also into our Morning Meeting.
- Staff will continue to use SeeSaw to upload student work for families to see. New this year will be our specialists staff uploading work examples as well.

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

- Professional Learning Communities (PLCs) occur every Wednesday across the whole building. We have made some adjustments to our process based on feedback from staff.
- Staff have done an excellent job of incorporating Freckle and Lalilo into their small group. Our usage of these tools is up over 20% compared to last year.

4. Excellence in Resource Management.

- We've been fortunate enough to have added lunchroom supervisors to our staff. We are now up to four supervisors this year.
- New this year is a standardize laptop mount for all staff. This is a benefit to subs and teachers as it creates a consistent setup for all staff.

Know



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



October 7th: Building-Wide Walkathon
October 8th: Ms. Sloan to the Nature Center
October 9th: Picture Retakes, Ms. Johns and Ms. Kelley to the Nature Center
October 12th: Mr. Good and Ms. Farlinger to the Nature Center
October 14th: Professional Development for Staff - No School
October 22nd: Lockdown and Fire Drill, Conferences
October 27th: Conferences
October 26th, 27th, and 28th: Dental Clinic in Wood Gym

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

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