

September 2026

A Message from Mrs. Hemann



Welcome, Neveln Families!
Dear Parents and Guardians,
Welcome to the 2026–2027 school year! It has been wonderful welcoming our students back to Neveln Elementary and seeing our classrooms and hallways filled with our Neveln Knights again. Thank you for your partnership in helping your child arrive at school on time, ready to learn, and excited to be part of our school community. We are especially excited to welcome our new students and families to Neveln!
Each month, we will share a **Neveln Family Newsletter** with important dates, school updates, celebrations, reminders, and ways families can support learning at home. Be sure to check out all of the September information below!

This month, our Social/Emotional focus is **Building Community**.
Being part of the Neveln Knights family means building relationships, showing kindness, helping one another, and working together to create a school where **every child feels safe, welcome, and valued.**
How We Build Community at Neveln everyday.

Morning Meetings
Each classroom begins the day with a Morning Meeting. Students greet one another, build relationships, share ideas, and prepare for a successful day of learning. **Morning Meetings begin at 8:00 a.m. each day. It is important that all students are in class on time so they can begin the day.**

Knight Code of Honor
Throughout our school, students learn and practice our three expectations:
Be Respectful • Be Responsible • Be Safe

We practice what these expectations look and sound like in classrooms, hallways, the cafeteria, playground, buses, and throughout our school.

Teamwork & Belonging
Students have opportunities to work together through classroom activities, partner learning, buddy activities, and schoolwide celebrations. We want every Knight to know that they are an important part of our school community.

PBIS Celebrations
Students are recognized for demonstrating our Knight Code through **I CAN cards and Golden Shields**. These acknowledgements help us celebrate positive choices while reinforcing that we all play a role in making Neveln a great place to learn.

Building Community at Home
Families play an important role in helping children develop a sense of belonging and responsibility. Here are a few simple ways to continue our September focus at home:

- **Practice greetings.** Encourage your child to greet family members in the morning and when arriving home.
- **Give everyone a job.** Small responsibilities such as setting the table, feeding a pet, or helping with laundry show children that their contributions matter.
- **Celebrate teamwork.** Point out moments when family members help one another and recognize the difference teamwork makes.
- **Talk about belonging.** Ask your child, **"What is one way you helped someone feel included today?"**
- **Ask about the Knight Code.** Have your child share one way they were respectful, responsible, or safe at school.

Together, we can strengthen our Knights' sense of belonging both at school and at home.
Thank you for your continued partnership and for helping us make Neveln a place where **Every Knight, Every Day** feels connected, valued, and proud to belong.

Lynn Hemann
Principal, Neveln Elementary
507-460-1600

Strategic Priority Updates

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

At Neveln Elementary, one of our most important priorities is ensuring that **every student and family feels safe, welcome, and connected to our school community.**

Be a Knight — Do What's Right!
We are excited to continue **Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS)** at Neveln this year!
Through PBIS, we explicitly teach, model, and practice positive behavior expectations in every area of our school—including classrooms, hallways, bathrooms, the cafeteria, playground, library, and

buses.
Every day, our Knights practice the **Neveln Knight Code of Honor:**
I am Respectful.
I am Responsible.
I am Safe.

Celebrating Positive Choices
"I CAN" Cards
Students receive I CAN Cards when staff members notice them demonstrating the Knight Code. Cards are collected in classrooms and help students earn recognition and prizes during our monthly **Character Counts celebrations**. September's focus is **Building Our Neveln Community**.
Golden "I CAN" Cards
Classes can earn Golden I CAN Cards from specialists and for demonstrating positive behavior in the cafeteria. Every **10 Golden I CAN Cards earns a Golden Shield** for our school.
Schoolwide Celebrations
When Neveln collects **10 Golden Shields**, our entire school earns a special celebration!

We have already earned 3 Golden Shields!
Keep it going, Knights!

Families Are an Important Part of Our Community
Thank you to all of our families who joined us for Back-to-School Conferences on August 17! We were excited to have **93% of our families attend conferences**. This strong participation helps us build relationships between home and school and is a wonderful way to begin the year together. Thank you for being our partners in making Neveln a place where **Every Knight, Every Day** feels safe, welcome, and ready to learn.

Mark Your Calendar: Homecoming Parade 2026!
Friday, September 18
Our Neveln Knights will be joining in the Homecoming excitement! Watch for additional information about the parade and Homecoming activities coming soon.

2. Packer Profile for all learners



At Neveln, we want our students to grow not only as learners, but also as individuals who are prepared to contribute to their school, community, and future.
The **Packer Profile** focuses on five important characteristics we want every Neveln Knight to develop:
Responsible • Resilient • Contributor • Learner • Communicator
Throughout the year, students will have opportunities to practice these skills through classroom learning, special activities, guest speakers, career exploration, field trips, and experiences within our community.
Learning Beyond the Classroom
September brings some exciting opportunities for our Knights to connect what they are learning in school with the world around them!

3rd Grade – Nature Center
September 8

Our 3rd grade students will visit the Nature Center to explore the outdoors, ask questions, make observations, and learn about the natural world.
Students will practice being **Learners** by exploring and asking questions, **Communicators** by sharing their observations, and **Responsible** community members while learning outside the classroom.

3rd Grade – Day on the Farm
September 22
Our 3rd graders will participate in **Day on the Farm**, where they will learn firsthand about agriculture, animals, and the important role farming plays in our Austin and Mower County community.

Learning Today. Preparing for Tomorrow.
These experiences are about more than taking a field trip. They help our students see how what they learn in school connects to careers, our community, and their future.

We look forward to providing many opportunities throughout the year for our Knights to learn, explore, communicate, contribute, and grow!

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



At Neveln Elementary, we use a **Multi-Tiered System of Support (MTSS)** to help ensure every student receives what they need to be successful.
Simply put, MTSS means that we **look at how students are doing, identify their strengths and needs, and provide the right support at the right time.**

September Benchmark Assessments - (August 31st - September 18th)
During the first month of school, our Knights complete **benchmark assessments** in reading and math.
These assessments give teachers important information about what students already know and what they are ready to learn next. Our teams use the results, along with classroom information, to plan instruction and determine whether students may benefit from additional support or enrichment.
Benchmark assessments are not about a single score—they are one of several tools we use to help us understand and support each child as a learner.

Attendance Matters Every Day!
Being at school and arriving on time are two of the most important ways families can support student success.
School begins promptly at 8:00 a.m.
When students arrive on time, they are able to participate in Morning Meeting, connect with their classmates and teacher, and begin the day ready to learn.
Every day matters. Every minute matters.
Strong attendance helps students build:

- Consistent learning routines
- Connections with teachers and classmates
- Confidence and independence
- Academic skills and growth

Thank you for helping your Knight get to school **every day and on time!**

Supporting the Whole Child
Through MTSS, we look at student needs in four important areas:
Academics – Providing strong classroom instruction and additional support when needed
Behavior – Teaching clear expectations and recognizing positive choices
Social & Emotional Skills – Building relationships, resilience, confidence, and a sense of belonging
Attendance – Developing strong attendance habits and partnering with families when support is needed

Teamwork at Neveln
Supporting students is a team effort! Our Neveln teams meet regularly to review student information, celebrate progress, identify needs, and problem-solve ways to support our students and families.
Our student support team includes:
Lynn Hemann – Principal
Shelli Miller – Secretary
Emily Beaver – Social Worker
Tracy Garry – Instructional Coach
Eric Kossoris – Behavior Interventionist
Stephanie Fehn & Allie Long – Reading Interventionists
Our classroom teachers, special education teachers, multilingual learner teachers, specialists, paraprofessionals, and other staff members are also important partners in this work.
Together, we are committed to helping **Every Knight, Every Day** learn, grow, and thrive at Neveln!

4. Excellence in resource management.

At Neveln Elementary, our staff members are one of our most important resources. Having caring, skilled, and dedicated people in the right roles helps us provide strong learning experiences and support for every student.
We are excited to welcome several new staff members to the **Neveln Knight family** for the 2026–2027 school year!

Welcome to Our New Neveln Staff!
Mrs. Braaten – 4th Grade Teacher
Mrs. Benavente – 4th Grade Teacher
Ms. Frie - Kindergarten Teacher
Ms. Alcala – Multilingual Learner Teacher

Welcome to Our New Paraprofessionals!
Ms. Kewatt – Paraprofessional
Ms. Kaderabek – Paraprofessional
Ms. Kalliokoski - Paraprofessional
Each of these staff members brings new strengths, experiences, and talents to our school community. We are thrilled to have them join our team and help us provide excellent learning opportunities and support for our Knights.
When you see our newest staff members at Neveln, please help us give them a warm **Knight welcome!**
Together, our staff, students, and families make Neveln a great place to learn, grow, and belong.

Welcome to Neveln!

To learn more about the Packer Profile and the district's long-term strategic plan, please visit AccelerateAustin.org.

Know

School Day Procedures and Reminders

Morning Arrival
Students should arrive between **7:30–7:55 a.m.** so they are ready for learning when school begins.
7:30–7:45 a.m.
Students line up outside behind the cone labeled with their teacher's picture and name.
7:45 a.m.
Classroom teachers walk students into the building.
After 7:45 a.m.
Students arriving after classes have entered the building should use the **main office entrance — Door #1**.
After 8:00 a.m. — TARDY
Students arriving after 8:00 a.m. are marked tardy. An **adult must walk the student into the building** and check them in with Shelli in the school office.
School begins at 8:00 a.m.
Being on time matters! Students should be in their classrooms and ready to learn by 8:00.
📞 **New This Year — Automated Attendance Calls**
Families will receive an **automated phone call at 8:45 a.m.** if their child has been marked absent and we have not received notification about the absence.
If your child will be **absent or arriving late**, please notify us by:

- Using the **Infinite Campus app** to report the absence, or
- Calling the Neveln office at **507-460-1600**

Letting us know helps us make sure **every student is safe and accounted for** and prevents families from receiving an unnecessary automated call.
Transportation Changes
If your child's end-of-day transportation plans change, please call the Neveln office at **507-460-1600 by 2:00 p.m.**
This gives our staff enough time to communicate the change and make sure your child gets to the correct location safely.
Afternoon Dismissal
The dismissal bell rings at **2:30 p.m.** Students are escorted outside by staff at approximately **2:35 p.m.**
Bus Riders
Students are escorted by staff to their assigned buses.
Parent/Caregiver Pick-Up
Students are walked with their class to the **basketball hoop area**.
Parents and caregivers should **park and walk onto school property** to meet their child.
For everyone's safety, **please do not wait for students near the playground doors.**

Walkers & Bike Riders

Students are dismissed by their classroom teacher after checking out.

Please remind children who ride bikes to **walk their bikes while on school grounds**.

🛑 **Help Us Keep Everyone Safe**

Please help us keep our busy arrival and dismissal areas safe by following these important reminders:

- **Keep the bus lane clear.** Please do not park or stop in the Neveln bus lane.
- **Leave pets at home.** Please do not bring dogs, cats, or other pets to arrival or dismissal.
- **Use the safe side of the vehicle.** Children should exit the vehicle on the **school side of the street**, not into traffic.
- **Always use the crosswalks.** Please do not allow children to cross in the middle of the street. Use designated crosswalks and follow the directions of our student patrol.
- **Never walk between parked buses.** Please walk around the bus loading area rather than between buses.



Birthday Treats



We love celebrating our Neveln Knights on their birthdays!

Classroom teachers recognize student birthdays in special ways, which may include singing, wearing a birthday hat, or another classroom celebration.

Sending a Birthday Treat?

Students may bring a treat to share with their classmates. To help us safely and easily distribute treats:

✅ YES — Individually Wrapped & Store Purchased

Birthday treats must be **purchased and individually wrapped**.

Examples include:

Fruit Snacks ✅

Individual Bags of Goldfish or Crackers ✅

Individually Packaged Cookies ✅
Other Individually Wrapped Snacks ✅
Please contact your child's teacher ahead of time to let them know you will be sending a birthday treat.
❌ PLEASE DO NOT SEND
Cupcakes, cakes, or other large/shared treats ❌
Homemade treats ❌
Treats that are not individually packaged ❌
Our individually wrapped treat guideline helps make birthday celebrations easier and safer for our classrooms.
💌 Birthday Party Invitations
Please **do not distribute personal birthday party invitations at school.**
💝 Celebrations & Family Preferences
We respect the traditions and beliefs of all Neveln families.
If you do not want your child to participate in birthday or holiday celebrations for personal or religious reasons, please contact your child's classroom teacher. We will honor your family's wishes and work with you to determine an appropriate alternative activity for your child.
Thank you for helping us make birthday celebrations fun and inclusive for all of our Knights! 💡



Milk Price for Cold Lunch Option



All students in Minnesota are eligible to receive a hot lunch free of charge each and every day. We also know that some students choose to bring cold lunch.
The new legislation that was passed to enable all students to have a free hot lunch does not include milk for those taking cold lunch. If

a student takes cold lunch, they will be charged $0.50 if they choose to take a milk with their cold lunch.

If you have any questions, please feel free to call Food Service at 507-460-1921.

Neveln Clothing Store is Open

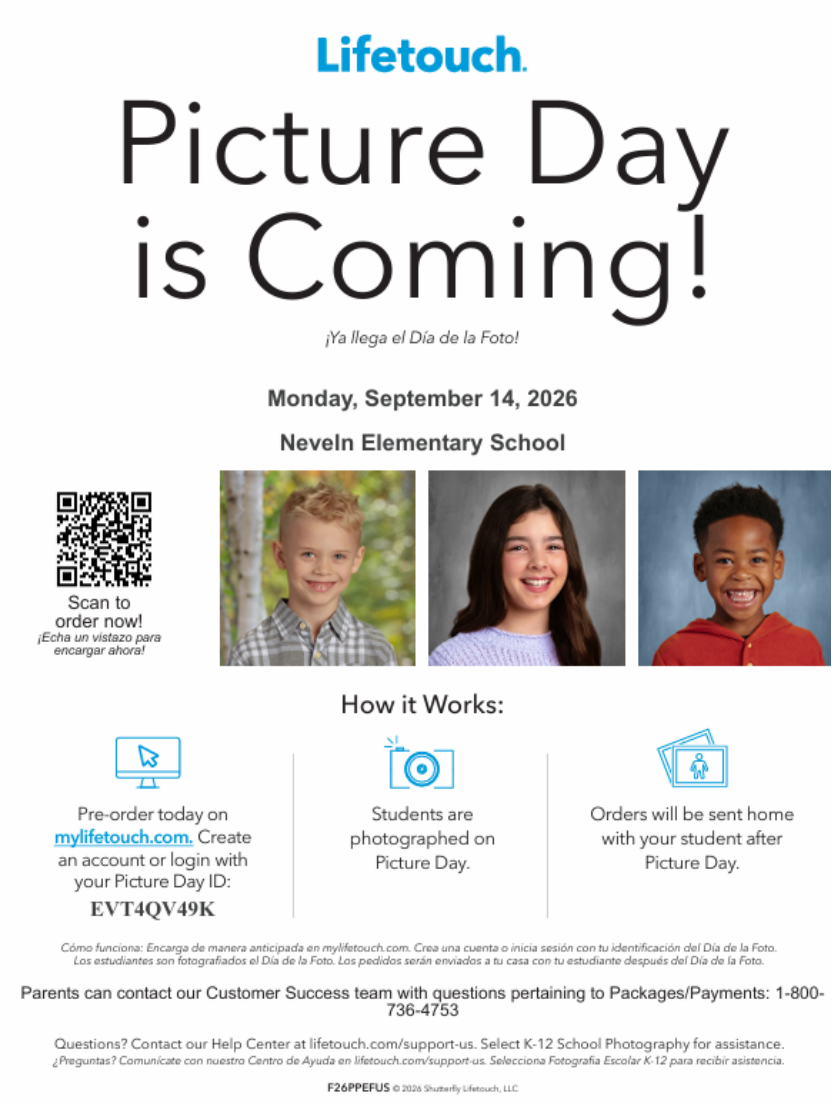
Use this link to shop for your favorite Neveln Knight Gear!
https://gppaustin.chipply.com/nevelnptc25/



School Pictures

Reminder: School Pictures will be on September 14th!





Neveln School Store

Our Knights have the opportunity to purchase small items from the **Neveln School Store**, which is proudly run by our **Neveln Student Council members**.

What Families Need to Know:

- School Store will open Week of September 14th
- Students can shop if they bring money from home.
- Please send **less than $5.00** with your child.
- Items range in price from **25 cents to $3.00**.
- Shopping days are by grade level:
  - **Mondays** → 1st & 4th Grade
  - **Tuesdays** → 2nd & 3rd Grade
  - **Fridays** → Kindergarten
- **All money raised goes back to Student Council** to fund special events and activities for students at Neveln throughout the year.

The store is a fun way for students to practice responsibility, make choices, and support school-wide events—all while showing their Knight pride!

Targeted Services Calendar 2026

We are excited to announce that **Targeted Services** begins soon!

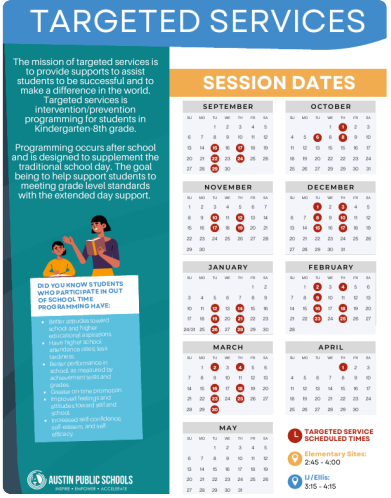
This after-school program provides **extra support for students in the area of math**, giving them the opportunity to strengthen skills, build confidence, and grow as learners.

Program Details

- 🕒 **Hours:** 2:30 – 4:00 PM
- 📅 **Days:** Tuesdays & Thursdays
- 🗓️ **Session One:** September 15 – October 8

We look forward to seeing our Knights take part in this program and continue to build success beyond the school day! 💙

If you have questions regarding Targeted Services please reach out to your child's teacher.



Stopfinder App

Austin Public Schools and Palmer Bus Service have a parent/guardian app called Stopfinder that will allow parents and guardians to track their children's school bus in real-time accurately. The easy-to-use app is secured so only authorized users can access school bus information.

APS Stopfinder Support
507-433-5358
trinar@palmerbusservice.com

AUSTIN ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

Walkathon

BANFIELD | NEVELN | SUMNER | SOUTHGATE

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 Time:

- **Neveln:** 1:40–2:10 p.m.

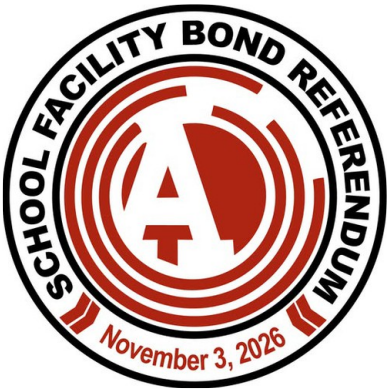
A Few Important Reminders

- **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**.

November Referendum

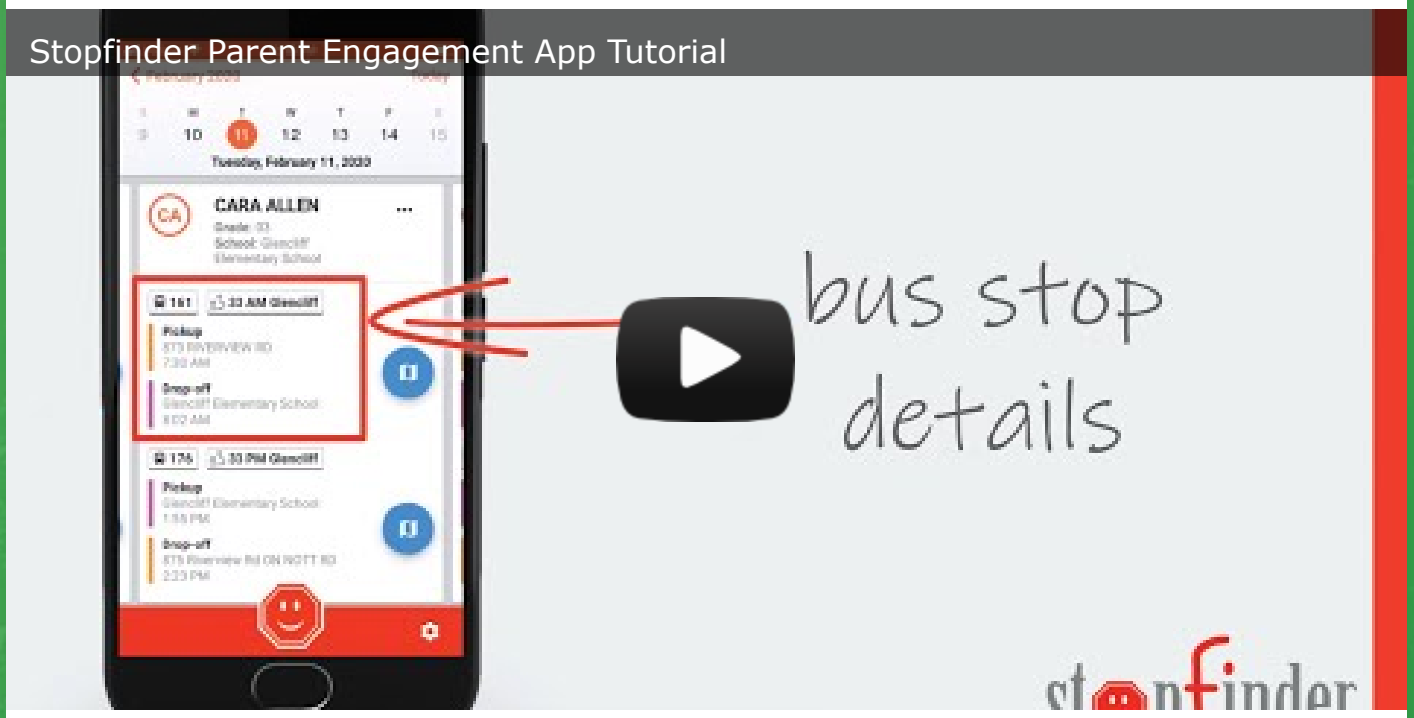


The Austin Public Schools have placed a $24.9 million bond referendum on the November 3 ballot.

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



PDF **STOPFINDER_QuickStartGuide_2024.08.pdf** Download 659.7 KB

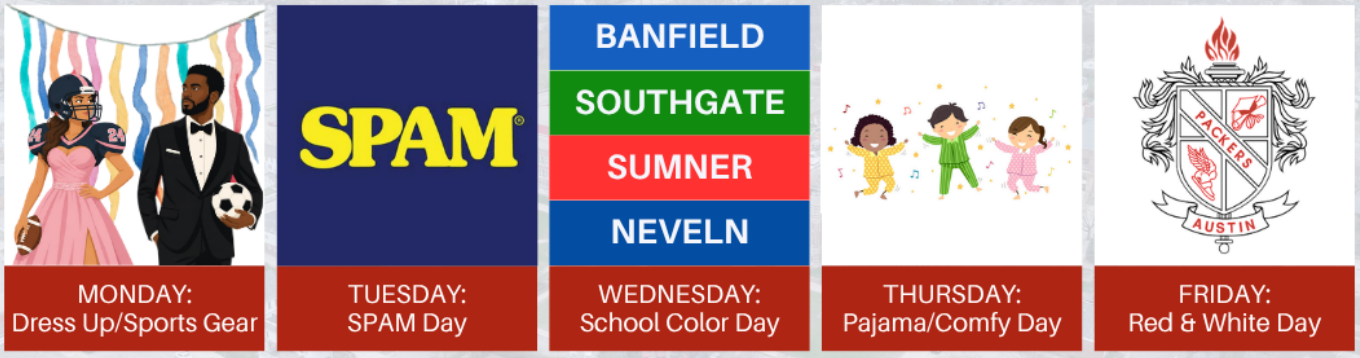


Homecoming Dress Up Days 2026

Neveln Knights are showing their school spirit as we celebrate APS Homecoming! Each day has a fun theme, and we encourage all students to join in the excitement. Check out the schedule below and help your child get ready to dress up and show their Knight pride!

- **Monday, September 14th - Picture Day - Wear you Best!**
- **Tuesday, September 16th** – *SPAM Day*
- **Wednesday, September 17th** – *Wear Blue! Show your Neveln Pride*
- **Thursday, September 18th** – *Pajama or Comfy Day*
- **Friday, September 19th** – *Neveln Knight Day – Wear Blue or Red and White for the Packers!*

NEVELN THEME DAYS



HOMECOMING
September 14-19, 2026

AUSTIN PUBLIC SCHOOLS
INSPIRE • EMPOWER • ACCELERATE

Important Dates to Remember



September 7 - No School Day: Holiday
September 8 - Lock Down Drill
September 14 - School Pictures
September 17th - Flu Shot Clinic at Neveln
September 17th - Parent Meeting In Spanish - Noon and 5:00 PM
September 18th - Homecoming Parade - All families are welcome to walk with Neveln
September 22 - No School Day for students

Do

Volunteer Background Check Information

We have been so happy to have more parents and families back in the building for volunteer opportunities. In order for a parent to be a volunteer, they need to have a current background check on file.
If anyone is unsure of whether or not they are current, they can call the Neveln Elementary School office to check. Give Shelli a call at 507-460-1600.
For people who need to complete a new check, it's done online, very quick and easy from the district website under the "Parents" dropdown menu:

https://www.rhris.com/ApplyNowV3/ApplyNowV3.cfm?SiteID=5039S&PNbr=4&OriginalURL=

Attendance Updates

At Neveln, we believe that **being at school every day matters**. Consistent attendance helps students build routines, grow academically, and feel connected to their classroom community.
Important Reminders

- ✅ **Students must attend school every day.**
- 🎯 **Our schoolwide goal is 90% attendance or higher each day.**

- ⏰ Please **contact the office** if your child will be late or absent.
- 🚗 For any **transportation updates**, please call the office by **2:00 PM** so we can ensure students are placed in the correct dismissal lines.



📞 **Main Office:** 507-460-1600

Perfect Attendance Celebration 🎉

We are excited to implement a Perfect Attendance Celebration each month!

To qualify, students must be:

- **On time each morning (by 8:00 AM - not one minute later)**
- **In school all day without leaving early**

Thank you for partnering with us to make sure every Neveln Knight is present, on time, and ready to learn. Together, we can build strong habits that lead to student success! 💙

Tips for getting out the door on time!

Being on time sets the tone for your child's entire day. Here are some simple ways families can help their child get out the door on time each morning:

6 Tips for On-Time Arrivals

1. **Set a Consistent Bedtime** 🛏
   Make sure your child gets enough sleep so mornings are smoother and less stressful.
2. **Prepare the Night Before** 🎒
   Pack backpacks, cold lunch decisions for following day, and set out clothes before bedtime to avoid rushing in the morning.
3. **Use a Morning Routine** 🛁
   Create a simple checklist (wake up, get dressed, eat breakfast, brush teeth, grab backpack) so children know what to do next.
4. **Build in Extra Time** ⏰
   Plan to leave the house 5–10 minutes earlier than necessary to allow for last-minute surprises.
5. **Limit Morning Distractions** 📱📺
   Turn off TV, video games, and phones until your child is ready for school.
6. **Set a Positive Tone** 💙
   Encourage your child with kind words and celebrate small successes when they are ready on time.

A note from Nurse Fjelsta



This is a friendly reminder that you should turn in your student's health action plans for asthma, allergy, seizure, or medication to the school nurse.

If you have any questions, please contact:

Nurse Tanya Fjelsta 507-460-1603

Vaccinations strengthen your child's immunity from illnesses such as whooping cough, measles, mumps, and chicken pox. Minnesota law (Statute 121A.15) requires written proof or legal exemption of certain vaccinations for children to remain enrolled in public school. You may access your child's current record on the Infinite Campus Parent Portal or through your healthcare provider. For more information or to obtain an exemption form, contact your school's office. A medical exemption must be signed by a healthcare provider, and a non-medical

exemption must be signed by a parent and notarized. If vaccination or exemption information is not up to date, you will be asked to pick your child up and keep them at home until complete. It's not too late! If your child has fallen behind on their vaccinations, talk to your healthcare provider to get them caught up.

Arrival and Dismissal Procedures



Car Riders - Parent Drop off or Pick Up
* Please be sure to not park in the Bus Lanes at Neveln
* Please do not bring any pets (Dogs, Cats, and etc) to drop off or pick up
* Please drop off your child on the safe side of the road - student should exit the car on the school side
* Do not allow your child to cross in the middle of the street - use cross walks with student patrol
* Do not walk between our parked buses

Parent Facebook Page

Neveln has a Facebook page. It is a great way to stay connected with Neveln news!

Neveln Elementary School
https://neveln.austin.k12.mn.us

1918 E Oakland Avenue
Austin, MN 55912
507-460-1600

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