

August 2026

Welcome Back 2026

Dear Neveln Families,
Welcome to the 2026–2027 school year! I hope your summer has been filled with fun, laughter, and time together as a family. We are so excited to welcome our students back to Neveln Elementary and begin another year of learning, growth, and memorable experiences.
A special welcome goes out to our Kindergarten families! We are honored that you are beginning your child's elementary journey with us. Starting school is an exciting milestone, and our staff is committed to making every child feel safe, welcomed, and loved from the very first day.
At Neveln, we believe that strong partnerships between home and school help children thrive. We look forward to working together with you throughout the year to support your child's academic, social, and emotional growth.
Thank you for being a part of the Neveln family. We can't wait to see our hallways filled with smiling faces once again!
See you soon!

Lynn Hemann
Principal, Neveln Elementary

Strategic Priority Updates

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

At Neveln Elementary, we are committed to creating a safe, welcoming, and strength-based school where every child feels valued, connected, and ready to learn. We believe every student has unique talents and strengths, and we intentionally help children recognize, develop, and use those

strengths each day. By focusing on what students do well, we build confidence, resilience, and a positive school culture where everyone can thrive.



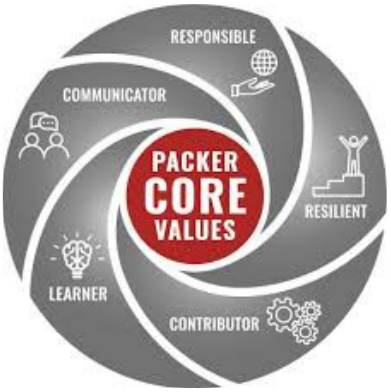
One of the most important ways we build community is through our daily **Morning Meeting**. Every school day from **8:00–8:25 AM**, every classroom begins the day by coming together to greet one another, build relationships, and prepare for learning.

During Morning Meeting, students:

- Build meaningful friendships and a strong sense of belonging.
- Practice communication, problem-solving, and teamwork.
- Strengthen social-emotional skills and self-confidence.
- Learn classroom expectations and develop positive habits for learning.
- Start each day feeling welcomed, supported, and ready to succeed.

Our goal is for every child to know that they belong at Neveln. When students feel safe, connected, and valued, they are better able to learn, grow, and reach their full potential.

2. Packer Profile for all learners



At Neveln Elementary, we want every student to grow not only academically, but also as a person. Throughout the school year, teachers will intentionally connect learning experiences to the **Packer Profile**, helping students develop the skills and character they need to be successful in school and beyond.

Families will see these learning experiences highlighted in their child's **Seesaw portfolio**, where students will share examples of their work and reflect on how they are demonstrating our core values.

Packer Core Values

- **Responsible** – Demonstrates accountability to self and others.
- **Resilient** – Develops perseverance and self-confidence.
- **Learner** – Challenges self to think critically and embrace new learning.
- **Communicator** – Listens actively and shares learning experiences effectively.
- **Contributor** – Engages as a productive member of the school, community, and global society.

Our teachers will also focus on research-based, **High Impact Teaching Strategies (HITS)** that maximize student learning. These include:

- Setting clear learning goals and success criteria.
- Providing explicit, structured instruction.
- Encouraging students to reflect on their learning and growth.
- Giving meaningful feedback that helps students improve.

We encourage families to regularly check their child's **Seesaw account** to celebrate learning and stay connected to classroom experiences throughout the year.

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

At Neveln Elementary, we have teams of teachers to provide targeted support for every student's academic, behavioral, and social success. This collaborative approach ensures that all students receive the guidance and resources they need to thrive. We use real-time data to help teachers make smart choices and give students support right when they need it. Our Neveln staff grade level teams work together to make sure every student gets the help they need.

Teachers and specialists meet in teams once a week in professional learning communities to plan lessons tailored to the individual needs of all students.

At Neveln we are committed to creating a positive and safe learning environment for all of our students. To support this, our school has developed a clear set of expectations for your child's behavior at school. These expectations will be taught to all students and will apply across all areas of the school, including the playground, lunchroom, classroom, and on the bus.

We believe that by clearly communicating and reinforcing these expectations, we can help all students succeed. Students who meet these expectations will be recognized and celebrated for their positive behavior during character counts celebrations each month.

4. Excellence in resource management.

We are fortunate to have a wonderful team of cafeteria staff who work tirelessly to ensure that every student starts the day with a nutritious breakfast. Breakfast is served to all students from 7:45 - 8:00 a.m. daily. Serving breakfast to every student, every day, is a vital part of our commitment to student well-being and success.

We are excited to welcome new staff to our building this year. Please welcome the following staff members at Neveln.

Kindergarten - Ms. Frie
English Language Teacher - Ms. Alcala
4th Grade - Ms. Braaten
4th Grade - Ms. Benavente
Special Education Paraprofessional: Ms. Cline
General Education Paraprofessional: Ms. Kaderabek
General Education Paraprofessional: Ms. Kewatt

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

Know

Conferences



Scheduled Conferences
Our Neveln students will have a scheduled conference on August 17th. All parents/guardians received a link in a parent portal message to schedule their child's conference on Monday, August 3rd. Don't hesitate to get in touch with Shelli in the office 507-460-1600 if you have any questions.

Conferences 8:00 AM - 1:00 PM
Conferences 4:00 - 7:00 PM

School Hours, Arrival & Dismissal

The official school day at **Neveln Elementary** is **8:00 AM – 2:30 PM**.

Arrival

- **7:30–7:45 AM:** Students should line up outside on playground behind the cone labeled with their teacher's name. Classroom teachers will greet students and walk them into the building through the playground doors.
- **After 7:45 AM:** Students should be dropped off at the **main office entrance (Door #1)**.

If your child's end-of-day transportation changes, please notify the school office at **507-460-1600 before 2:00 PM**. This helps ensure all students get home safely.

Dismissal

The school day ends at **2:30 PM**. Students gather their belongings and are escorted outside by Neveln staff beginning at **2:35 PM**.

- **Bus Riders:** Staff members walk students directly to their assigned buses each afternoon.
- **Parent Pick-Up:** Students are escorted to the basketball hoop area and remain with their classroom teacher until they are picked up. For student safety, parents and caregivers must **park, exit their vehicle, and walk to the pick-up area** to meet their child and the teacher.
- **Walkers & Bike Riders:** Students are escorted outside by their classroom teacher and dismissed after checking out with the teacher.

Parent Drop-Off & Pick-Up Reminders

The safety of our students is our highest priority. To help ensure a safe and efficient arrival and dismissal each day, please follow these important traffic guidelines:

Please Do Not Park in the Bus Lanes

Neveln Elementary has **two designated bus lanes**, and **both must remain clear at all times**.

- **North Bus Lane along Oakland Avenue:** Reserved for school buses only.
- **East Bus Lane along 19th Street:** Reserved for special transportation and accessible transportation vehicles.

These areas are essential for students who rely on bus transportation and accessible services. Parking or waiting in these lanes creates safety concerns, delays transportation, and can prevent students from entering or exiting vehicles safely.

Thank you for helping us maintain safe and efficient arrival and dismissal procedures for all Neveln Knights!



School Pictures

School Pictures will be on September 14th



Referendum November 3

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.

If you do not want your child to participate in holiday or birthday celebrations for personal or religious reasons your desires will be honored. Please contact the classroom teacher to discuss the activities in which your child should not participate, and to decide what he or she will do during these events.



Treat that Meets Policy



Treat that Meets Policy



Does NOT meet Policy

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.

Lockdown Drill Dates

As part of our commitment to student safety, our school will be conducting **lockdown drills** on the following dates:

- **August 28, 2026**
- **September 8, 2026**

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 **507-460-1600** at least 24 hours before the scheduled drill.

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**)

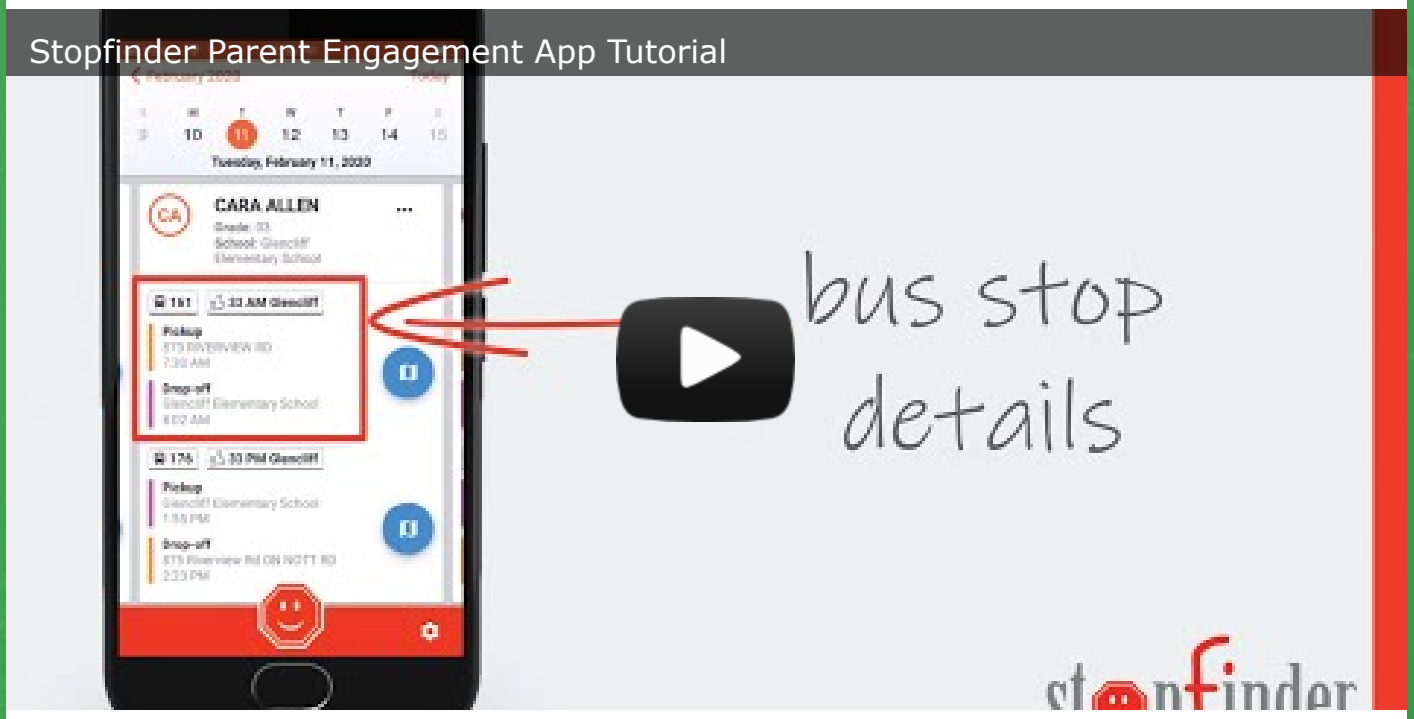
#edequity #edtech

Stop Finder 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

Stopfinder Parent Engagement App Tutorial



PDF **STOPFINDER_QuickStartGuide_2024.08.pdf**

Download
659.7 KB



Important Dates to Remember



August 17th 8:00 - 1:00 & 4:00 - 7:00 PM

- **Conferences for all students are scheduled one-to-one conferences (15 minutes each)**
- **Call the office to set up a conference**

August 19th - 8:00 AM - 2:30 PM - First Day of School - *Neveln Elementary School*

September 7th - No School Day: Holiday

September 14th - School Picture Day - Grades KG - 4th

September 18th - Homecoming Parade - More information will be sent at a later date

Do

Cell Phone Policy

Please note our cell phone policy linked below and share with your child prior to the first day of school.

Student Handbooks - Austin Public Schools | Inspire. Empower. Accelerate.

Student Handbooks - Austin Public Schools is a public school district in southern Minnesota that serves around 4800 students and employs just over 800 staff and faculty.

austin.k12.mn.us

Vaccinations

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. Appointments fill up fast as school approaches, so call early to ensure your child can remain in school.

https://neveln.austin.k12.mn.us

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

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