

August, 2026

Welcome, Stars!



Dear Sumner Families,

Welcome to the 2026-27 school year! We're so excited to begin another year full of growth, learning, and meaningful moments for your child(ren). Even before the first day, there's already so much to celebrate!

At Sumner, we're honored to be part of your child's journey from kindergarten through fourth grade. Our staff truly love our students and are dedicated to providing high-quality learning experiences in a warm and caring environment—full of moments that will become lifelong memories.

I hope your family is enjoying a joyful and restful summer. We can't wait to see you at our back-to-school conferences on Wednesday**, August 12th**, ahead of the first day of school on **Wednesday, August 19th**.

It's an honor to serve you and our amazing Sumner team. I look forward to a great year of partnership and possibility.

Warmly,

Jill Rollie

Principal

Welcome to Sumner (2026)



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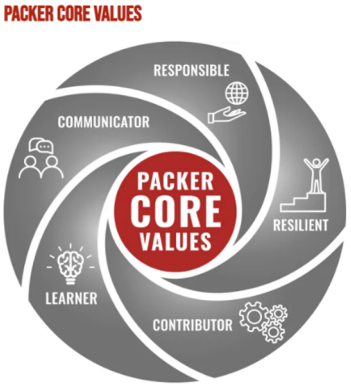
Strategic Priorities Update

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

Our Sumner School Family will continue to build a strength-based school where everyone knows what they do best. This learning work fosters ongoing encouragement, development, and empowerments with students and staff.

Each school day students will engage in a Morning Meeting. A Morning Meeting is incorporating community building activities between the teacher and students. This meeting begins at 8:00 AM and ends at 8:25 AM.

2. Packer Profile for all learners



Teachers will design meaningful instruction for students that emphasizes our Core Values. Our Packer Core Values are Responsible, Resilient, Contributor, Learner, and Communicator. Our instructional staff will focus on High Impact Teaching Strategies such as goal setting, as well as developing structured lessons with explicit teaching and student work examples that will be illuminated in our student Seesaw accounts.

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

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



Our Sumner School Family will create teams to target support for all students' academic, behavioral and social success at school.

- Each week teachers will collaborate through our Professional Learning Communities to improve their instruction to best meet student needs.
- We use real-time data to help teachers make smart choices and give students support right when they need it. Our staff teams work together to make sure every student gets the help they need. With trained staff who understand behavior, we can better support all learners so everyone has a chance to grow and succeed.
- Sumner implements Positive Behavior Intervention and Supports. This framework supports our educators to create more effective, equitable learning environments for all students.

4. Excellence in resource management.

- Sumner staff will support efficient breakfast deployment to students from 7:45 AM-8:00 AM every school day.

- To make things easier and more streamlined for families/caregivers in PreK-6, students will receive all necessary supplies for their grades when they arrive at school. We ask that students purchase a backpack before the start of school. We believe this process will save you time and ensure your child has everything they need to start the school year on the right foot.

  Why are we doing this?

  1. Convenience for families/caregivers: By offering school supplies directly through the school, families no longer have to spend time and effort searching for and purchasing each item on the school supply list. This can be especially helpful for families/caregivers who may not have easy access to transportation or live far from stores that sell school supplies.
  2. Standardization of supplies: By providing school supplies, the school can ensure that all students have the exact supplies. This can help minimize classroom distractions and ensure everyone can access the materials they need to learn.
  3. Cost savings: By ordering supplies in bulk, we can negotiate better prices and pass those savings on to families/caregivers. Additionally, school-purchased supplies can help families/caregivers avoid purchasing unnecessary items, which can add up quickly. This is also a cost-saving for families as the typical list of supplies can be over $60.

Know



Back to School Conferences

Conferences for Grades K-4: During this time, you will be able to conference with your child's teacher too.

- *8:00-1:00*
- *4:00-7:00*

Sumner families, you received a Portal Push on Monday, August 3rd with a link to sign up for a back-to-school conference time. In addition, we will have several information tables to ensure your child is prepared for the first day of school!



Safety Drill Dates

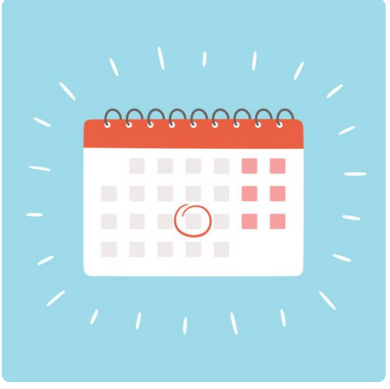


As part of our commitment to student safety, our school will be conducting lockdown drills on the following dates:

- ***August 28***
- ***November 4***
- ***December 15***
- ***February 18***
- ***March 30***

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 ***507-460-1100*** at least 24 hours before the scheduled drill.

Important Dates to Remember



August 12th - 8:00-1:00 & 4:00-7:00 - Conferences
Sumner Elementary School
August 19th - 8:00 AM - 2:30 PM - First Day of School
Sumner Elementary School
August 28th - 7:00 PM-Chateau Raceway Fundraiser for Sumner School
Chateau Raceway, Lansing MN

September 7th - No School Day: Holiday
September 18th - Picture Day
Sumner Elementary School
September 18th - 3:45 - Homecoming Parade
Families meet by the flagpole at Austin High School to walk the parade route

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.

Stopfinder:Parent/GuardianApp-Returning for 2026-2027

Austin Public Schools and Palmer Bus Service are pleased to announce that we will again use the parent/guardian app, Stopfinder, which will enable parents and guardians to track their children's school buses in real time with high accuracy. The easy-to-use app is secured, so only authorized users will have access to school bus information. Learn more here.

Meet PackerChat

Austin Public Schools is excited to introduce **PackerChat**, a new tool on our APS website designed to help families/caregivers, students, staff, and community members find information more quickly.

PackerChat works like a digital assistant. You can ask questions about APS programs, calendars, enrollment, transportation, activities, school information, district resources, and more. The tool helps guide users to information already available on the APS website.

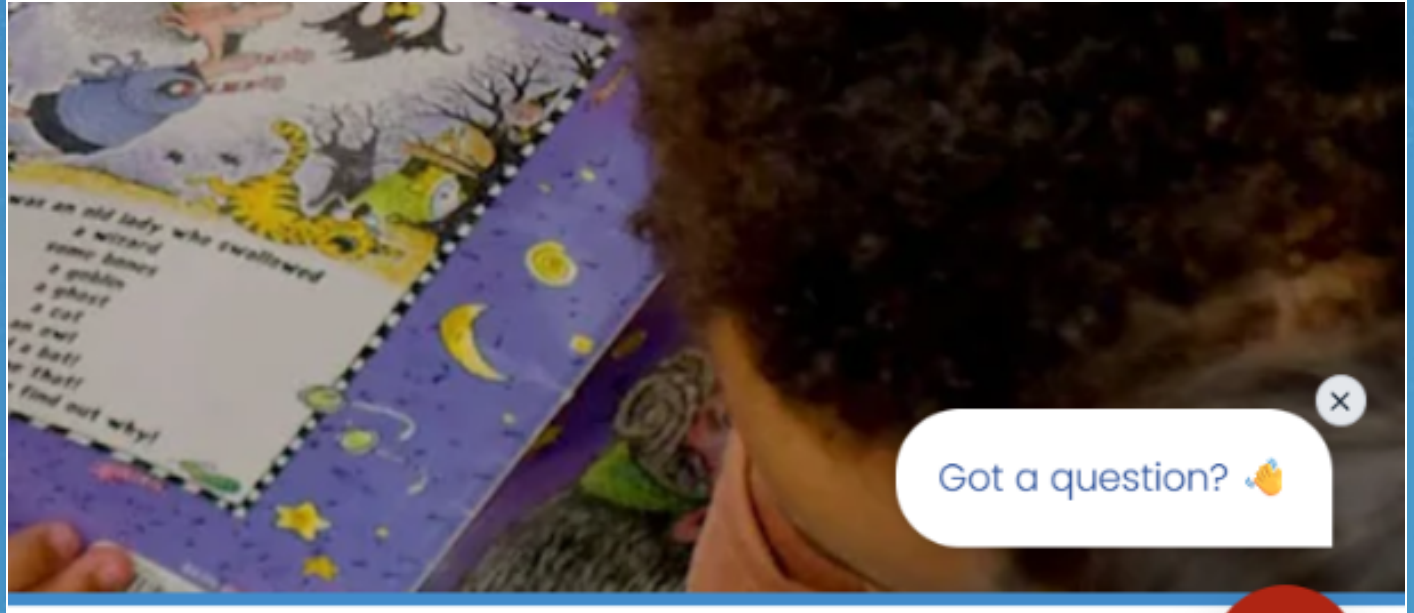
As we continue to improve this feature, we encourage you to try PackerChat and share feedback on your experience.

After using PackerChat, please let us know:

- Was it easy to use?
- Did it help answer your question?
- Was the information accurate and helpful?
- What could make the experience better?

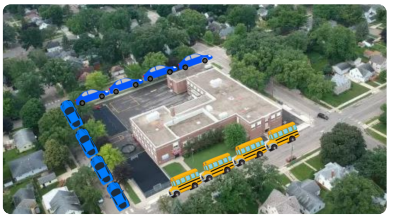
Your feedback will help us improve PackerChat so that it becomes an even stronger resource for our APS community.

Try PackerChat today on the APS website and let us know what you think.



Do

Student Safety



Student safety is of the utmost concern for us here at Sumner. Our families have a huge part in supporting safety during arrival and dismissal. We appreciate your support!

To help us in this mission there are two parts of our school that you can help us with.

First, please continue to use the East and South side of the building when picking up and dropping of your child. Do not drop off students on the North side of the building, this is our bus lane.

Second, if you are going to pick up your student early or are going to change the pickup type (parent pickup/bus) please give the main office a call at 507-460-1100 or email lisa.bellrichard@austin.k12.mn.us. Students are dismissed from school at 2:30 PM. Please check out our Transporation message linked below.



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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:

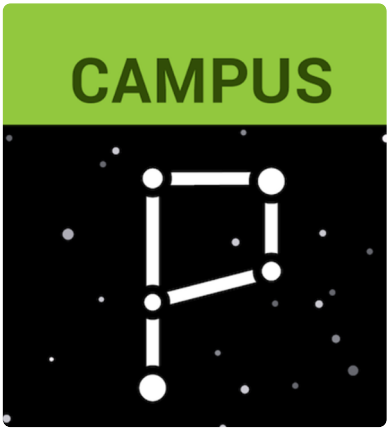
- Send teachers a message via direct text message
- Communicate in over 150 home languages thanks to automated translation
- Utilize the free Talking Points app to manage communication with all of your children's teachers

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



Infinite Campus Workflow Suite to Streamline Attendance Requests



Dear APS Parents/Caregivers,

Infinite Campus Workflow Suite, brings greater convenience and accessibility to families across the district. Parents and guardians have **24/7 online access to submit attendance requests** directly through the Infinite Campus Parent Portal.

This feature is part of the district's ongoing commitment to improving communication and simplifying processes for families. With the Workflow Suite, parents can now notify schools of student absences, early dismissals, and late arrivals anytime, anywhere, without needing to call the office or send written notes.

Parents will continue to receive timely updates and confirmations through the Parent Portal, ensuring transparency and peace of mind.

For more information and instructions on how to submit attendance requests, please review the Campus Portal User Guide (pages 7-10)

Attendance Every Day

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! Let's work together to ensure our children come to school every day on time! Our school day begins at 8:00 AM. If your child is unable to attend school, please log into your Parent Portal and record your child's absence. If you are unable to access portal, please contact the Sumner office at (507)460-1100 or email lisa.bellrichard@austin.k12.mn.us.
Please take a few minutes to view the video linked below, *Bringing Attendance Home*, a video from Attendance Works.

Bringing Attendance Home Video - Attendance Works

Bringing Attendance Home Video - Attendance Works

Ask parents/caregivers about the importance of school attendance in the early grades, and they can tell you why showing up every day matters. They can also share their very real challenges in getting children to school. Bringing Attendance Home, a video from Attendance Works, features parents talking to other parents about reducing absenteeism.

attendanceworks.org







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.

Share





Sumner Elementary School
https://sumner.austin.k12.mn.us

805 8th Avenue NW
Austin, MN 55912
507-460-1100

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