

DATE: October 13, 2026
TITLE: APS Site Reports
TYPE: Informational
PRESENTER: Dr. Joey Page, Superintendent

BACKGROUND:

The following is a summary of events and items from our sites.

AUSTIN HIGH SCHOOL:

- **Support and resources to ensure a safe and welcoming learning environment.**
Activities: Cameras were installed at Wescott Sports Complex to enhance safety for the track, football field, and tennis courts; AHS Bleacher Captains making a conscious effort to bring more enthusiasm and student participation to sporting events; Student Council created Packer Punch Cards to try and incentivize students to attend AHS Activities; successful homecoming week despite the weather and many changes to our schedules. The only thing cancelled was the bonfire. We had 652 students attend the dance.
 - Austin High School celebrated Homecoming in September. Lots of fun was had by all as we celebrated this week. We are excited to continue to see our students joining in on the fun.
 - Grade 10 students from Austin High School travelled to Riverland Community College for CareerQuest. CareerQuest is a career exploration event bringing students together with a broad selection of employers from across the region.
 - Austin Public Schools is now using TalkingPoints to communicate with families directly via text message. This tool will allow all families/caregivers to receive messages in their home language instantly.
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- **Packer Profile for all learners.**
Activities: New Club (pilot) for 2026-27: Aviation Club (Clark Ekins); non-official Club (not seeking status) – Military Interest Club (Tieler Myers)

Earlier this month our seniors participated in the Direct Admissions assembly. This was an opportunity to open letters to see what colleges they had already been

accepted into. This time goes well with the College Fair at the end of this past week.

Our first Portfolio Day was in September in which all students were engaged with some aspects of the portfolio. From a speaker for all 9th graders to class sessions with teachers and drop in for PSEO and AOA students, everyone was able to access the learning and ask questions. Families received portal pushes in regard to when the Portfolio Day was occurring, what we learned and how they can support. If you are interested in following along for one of the portfolio days, reach out to Matt Schmit or Jessica Cabeen.

- **District-wide multi-tiered systems of support for all learners.**

Activities: Packer Study Table Continues – looking deeper into those student-athletes who are really struggling in the classroom are also struggling with attendance. Use athletics as a means of motivation and accountability

We are running our new Reading Intervention course (Level Up Reading) connected to the Read Act and our Capti data.

Austin High Schools PLCs are up and running. This Wednesday staff will be working through the first question of a PLC with to focus on standard 9.1.8.2 and/or 11.1.8.2 (Examine/Evaluate the impact of academic vocabulary in informational text through study of word origins (morphology and etymology) and use of reference tools.) This helps support PLCs in our building but also the whole group reading intervention connected to our students' Capti data results.

We continue to work with Teaching and Learning on HITS PD. The 3 strategies taught during those sessions will be implemented into our PLC's with vocabulary focus.

- **Excellence in resource management.**

Activities: Submitted MSHSL opt-up form for Wrestling to move from AA to AAA; submitted opt-down applications for Football (AAAAA to AAAA) and Boys Hockey (AA to A); also added Lyle to our Boys Hockey Co-op (Pacelli, Southland, Lyle); I would like to recognize the Fall Coaches out at Wescott for doing a tremendous job of navigating their schedules as we installed the new track. They were patient, worked together, and made it work without complaint!

Student Laptops and Chargers

Students and families are responsible for the care of the school-issued laptop and charger. That means the device stays in its case, it gets charged at home, and any damage or lost device is reported to the office the day it happens. We

have seen more damaged laptops this fall than we should at this point in the year. Each repair takes the student out of instructional time and costs the district, or the family, money that belongs in classrooms. Staff continue to remind students to handle the device carefully and to bring problems to us right away, and we ask families to support that same message at home. Talking Points Is Now Building-wide

Talking Points is available to every family in the building. The tool translates messages between school and home so families can read and reply in the language they use at home. The district expanded the tool because it removes language barriers, and because stronger family engagement supports credit attainment and academic performance.

Semester 1 Progress Grades

Semester 1 progress grades are posted in the portal. Staff communicated with families about student progress on September 23. Families who have concerns about their student's academic performance are encouraged to contact the staff member directly.

- **Link to newsletter:** <https://app.smore.com/n/jwkdm>

AUSTIN ONLINE ACADEMY/AUSTIN ALC :

- **Support and resources to ensure a safe and welcoming learning environment.**
 - The Austin Area Learning Center launched its first school-wide celebration of the year, recognizing students for attendance, engagement, and positive contributions to the school community. These celebrations support relationship building, foster a sense of belonging, and reinforce positive school culture aligned with our commitment to creating a safe and welcoming learning environment.
 - Additionally, students continue to engage in meaningful career and college readiness experiences. Upcoming opportunities include:
 - October 23: YMCA Incentive Activity for students maintaining 90% attendance
 - October 28: Construct Tomorrow Career Exploration Event
- **Packer Profile for all learners.**
 - Austin Area Learning Center and Austin Online Academy continue to support students through Minnesota's Direct Admissions initiative. Students and families are receiving individualized guidance as they explore

postsecondary opportunities and understand admission pathways available to them.

- ALC has had speakers addressing the following topics: Workforce Development, Accounting, and Stockbroker.

- **District-wide multi-tiered systems of support for all learners.**

- Austin Online Academy launched **Operation Egg Head**, an initiative encouraging students to upload their headshots into Infinite Campus. Having student photos available helps teachers build stronger relationships, personalize interactions, and create a more connected online learning experience. This simple effort supports student engagement and strengthens connections between students and staff.
- Staff continue to engage in weekly PLC meetings focused on attendance and credit attainment. Teachers review student data, monitor progress, and make adjustments to instruction and support systems to address barriers and increase both attendance and successful credit completion. This ongoing process ensures students receive timely interventions and support to stay on track for graduation.

- **Excellence in resource management.**

- Fourteen (14) students recovered credit during the September Night School session, helping students remain on track toward graduation.
- Austin Online Academy continues to increase supplemental partnerships with other districts this semester, and enrollment continues to grow.

- **Link to newsletter: SEE AHS**

ELLIS MIDDLE SCHOOL:

- **Support and resources to ensure a safe and welcoming learning environment.**

- We have adjusted our communication events to offer more time for teachers to make contacts.
- Our building level crisis response team meetings are bi-weekly.
- We are also working to do a better job of documenting communication with families.
- We have monthly climate surveys with staff to help address concerns before they become larger issues.

- **Packer Profile for all learners.**
 - We are beginning the process of designing a “Career Project” with the help of Emily Hovland.
 - We are researching another PLTW class for Ellis.
 - We are working to add a Dance class to P.E. for next year, if possible.
 - We are working to better align co-curricular activities with AHS.
- **District-wide multi-tiered systems of support for all learners.**
 - Our language arts teachers are completing their OLA training for reading.
 - Our math and reading intervention classes are going well.
 - In special education, our teachers are learning to use GoalBook to write IEP's.
 - Our PD around HITS and vocabulary instruction
- **Excellence in resource management.**
 - We continue to work to replace furniture in our classrooms.
 - We have worked with the district to allocate resources for our intervention classes in math and reading.
- **Link to newsletter:** <https://app.smores.com/n/j17bu>

IJ HOLTON INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL:

- **Support and resources to ensure a safe and welcoming learning environment.**
 - Bi-weekly, building level crisis team meetings
 - Use of communication tools like Talking Points
 - 1st 20 days is complete; similar routines established through the entire building
- **Packer Profile for all learners.**
 - New PLTW class is launched and moving forward successfully
 - We are still looking for items we would like to have in the Packer Portfolio
- **District-wide multi-tiered systems of support for all learners.**
 - PLC learning focus
 - We are now reviewing data in PLCs to form small groups for interventions
 - We use CAPTI testing to screen students for interventions
 - We are using the communication log in campus (PLP tab) to better document parent communications

- We have monthly attendance meetings with our new attendance admin. assistant.
- **Excellence in resource management.**
 - Our school supplies are now in the building before school starts. This allows us to have materials necessary for learning in students' hands on the first day of school.
 - We are working to re-paint parts of the building that need to be touched up.
- **Link to newsletter: <https://app.smore.com/n/e1gdc>**

BANFIELD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL:

- **Support and resources to ensure a safe and welcoming learning environment.**

Support staff completed the first round of one-on-one meetings with every student in the building. These conversations strengthen relationships, inform our MTSS process, and help identify opportunities to improve student experience.

More than 90% of staff are using TalkingPoints to communicate with families, supporting ongoing connections between school and home.

- **Packer Profile for All Learners**

Packer Core Values are being incorporated into morning announcements and classroom Morning Meetings to reinforce shared expectations and support student development.

Staff continue to share student work with families through Seesaw. This year, specialist staff will also upload work samples to provide families with a broader view of student learning.

- **Packer Profile for all learners.**

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- **District-wide multi-tiered systems of support for all learners.**

Building wide Professional Learning Communities meet every Wednesday. Adjustments based on staff feedback are helping refine the PLC process and support collaborative instructional planning.

Staff have expanded their use of Freckle and Lalilo during small group instruction. Usage has increased by more than 20% compared with last year, supporting differentiated learning opportunities.

- **Excellence in resource management.**

The addition of lunchroom supervisors has increased our team to four, strengthening supervision and support during lunch.

Standardized laptop mounts have been introduced for all staff, creating a consistent technology setup that supports daily instruction and helps substitute teachers navigate classroom equipment.

- **Link to newsletter:** <https://app.smore.com/n/mpzyd>

NEVELN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL:

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

- Fall Parent-Teacher Conferences: Successful conferences held October 1 and 6, with over 90% family attendance, strengthening home-school partnerships.
- Family Engagement – Walk-A-Thon: Many families joined our all-school walk on October 7. We look forward to determining whether we met our walking and fundraising goals.
- TalkingPoints: Our staff are using TalkingPoints daily, and our families have communicated how beneficial it is.
- PBIS – Knight Code: Students earned another 10 Golden Shields and will celebrate with a schoolwide PBIS celebration.
- School Safety: Completed three fire drills and three lockdown drills this school year.

Packer Profile for all learners.

- Packer Profile Traits: Reinforcing Responsible, Contributor, Learner, Communicator, and Resilient through classroom instruction and schoolwide activities. We include these character traits during morning announcements each day and connect the National Day to careers.
- Experiential Learning: Students participated in learning experiences at the Apple Orchard, Hormel Nature Center, Day on the Farm, and Austin Fire Department.

District-wide multi-tiered systems of support for all learners.

- Attendance Goal: Maintaining a schoolwide goal of 90% attendance, with all five reported weeks exceeding this target.
- Weekly Attendance Rates: We announce weekly rates during morning announcements to students and staff.

Week	Attendance
August 31–September 4	92.62%
September 7–11	95.46%
September 14–18	95.93%
September 21–25	95.01%
September 28–October 2	93.50%

- Perfect Attendance: Celebrated 95 students with perfect attendance from August 19–September 30 and 130 students with perfect attendance during September.
- Student Support: Continued using MTSS processes and collaborative teams to identify student needs and provide targeted academic, behavioral, and attendance interventions.

Excellence in resource management.

- Reading Corps: We want to recognize Mary and Alezay for providing targeted literacy interventions that support student reading growth.
- Math Corps: We want to recognize Ali for providing targeted mathematics support to strengthen foundational skills in math.

- **Link to newsletter**

<https://app.smore.com/n/h8pyqn>

SOUTHGATE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL:

- **Strategic Priorities Update**

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

I'm proud to announce that our Gators have earned their first building wide incentive for the year: All of our Gators will be getting additional recess time for their hard work. Our behavior interventionist, Josh McRae has been doing an amazing job with the Weekly Gator News bringing updates to our students, families and staff about what it means to be a GREAT Gator.

Our Walk A Thon at Southgate will be held at Southgate on Wednesday, October 7th. All families are welcome to come and walk for our Family Walk at 8:15am.

- 2. Packer Profile for all learners

The Packer Profile reflects what our students, staff, and families desire each day for our students and supports their preparation to become college, career, and life ready. Our students, while learning foundations skills, will use SeeSaw to start creating a portfolio of students' work. Students will also have multiple opportunities for exposure to possible future career and educational choices.

Over the last 8 weeks our students have been able to visit the Apple Orchard, the Nature Center and work with Austin's fire department both on school skills but also career paths and local community opportunities. We appreciate the partnerships we have with our local agencies in Austin!

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

Teachers and specialists meet in teams once a week in professional learning communities to plan lessons tailored to the individual needs of all students. Our School Leadership Team met over the summer and is excited to lead staff through exploring best practices for our reading instruction.

We are also beginning to assess students' groups to ensure that we can provide instruction that helps our learners grow and accelerate according to the district's Strategic Plan. These assessments will be conducted throughout September so that we can better gauge our students' learning.

- 4. Excellence in resource management.

This week our paraeducator group is fully staff gain as of last week. We are lucky to have an amazing group of people that help support our staff and our learners every day.

We spent time at our last professional development reviewing new math standards, how reading standards can impact our grading practices, and reviewing student data to plan how to best use our instructional time and resources to meet the needs of our learners. It was incredible to see the level of engagement and care that our staff has for the students in the school.

- Link to Newsletter: <https://app.smore.com/n/rew17-gator-gazette>

SUMNER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL:

- **Support and resources to ensure a safe and welcoming learning environment.**
 - We enjoyed spending time and connecting with our families at our Welcome Family Night on September 3rd. We served 200 meals on this night and enjoyed great family fun and connection. It was pure JOY!
 - We issued 271 stickers to students who showed STAR Attendance in the month of September! Students are able to earn these monthly stickers by achieving zero unexcused absences or tardies during the month and no more than two excused absences (three or more excused absences will disqualify them for that month). Remember to call the Sumner office if your child is going to be absent or tardy. Attendance Matters!
- **Packer Profile for all learners.**
 - Our Elementary Packer Profile is Growing! Our Elementary Packer Profile is growing with fantastic artifacts that tell the story of your child's learning

and growth! This year, your child will showcase artifacts demonstrating progress in math, reading, and writing, along with learning from music, art, physical education, and science! Each student will also highlight a one-word strength their teacher has noticed shining brightly in them. You'll find these special snapshots of learning and growth in your child's Seesaw throughout the year. We hope you enjoy watching your child learn, grow, and shine at Sumner!

- Third grade classrooms enjoyed A Day on the Farm and a trip to the Nature Center
- First grade classrooms went to the Apple Orchard and were able to bring back apples.
- **District-wide multi-tiered systems of support for all learners.**
 - Our student body has earned 21 Starbucks, which means classrooms have earned 210 Tokens, which means the adults in our building have given 5,250 Start Tickets to students showing the Sumner Cool Rules! AWESOME! When we reach 50 Starbucks, we will enjoy a schoolwide celebration! More to come!
- **Excellence in resource management.**
 - Our para educators are supporting students in grades K-4. These incredible educators support early childhood developmental needs and provide targeted interventions and supports for small groups of students, as well as individual student needs.
- **Link to newsletter:** <https://app.smore.com/n/qmw8a>