AUSTIN PUBLIC SCHOOLS
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DATE: November 9, 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.** On October 29th we had Mock Election Day at Austin High School. Students visited Knowlton Auditorium during their Social Studies classes to cast their (mock)votes ahead of next Tuesday's election.

  Activities: Starting the Fall Season Student Feedback and End of Season Coach Meetings; transitioning to Winter Sports

- **Packer Profile for all learners.**
  We have had two lessons already and our next lesson is November 18th. Students are completing assignments in SchooLinks and teachers are helping complete portfolios and work with families on students who have missed lessons. This will all culminate in our Senior Portfolio event in December.
  Activities: Congrats to Boys Soccer for advancing to the Section 1AA Soccer Finals – finished in 2nd place; Senior Sydney Lewis qualified for the State Cross Country Meet; Girls Soccer Assistant Coach, Kory Klouse, named Section 1AA Assistant Coach of the Year; Girls Volleyball Assistant Coach, Andrea McKichan, named the 2026 MNVCBA Assistant Coach of the Year; Boys Soccer, Taw Reh, named finalist for Class AA Mr. Soccer

- **District-wide multi-tiered systems of support for all learners.**
  Activities: Transitioning from Fall to Winter Athletics. Packer Study Table continues. Working with coaches and Packer Study Table staff to figure out how to support those out of season to continue to focus on their studies

- **Excellence in resource management. School Fees:** As AHS finishes the first quarter of the 26/27 school year, families are reminded to pay school fees in

Parent Portal before fee letters go out in a couple of weeks. Grades 9 through 12 are assigned a yearly Technology Fee of $30 for laptop use. Additional fees can be added throughout the year for field trips, testing sign-ups, library fines, class supplies, and laptop chargers or damage. All fees must be paid before graduation, and families of seniors are encouraged to begin payments now if needed. Fees can be paid in increments, online or at the Cashier's window in the Common's area, by cash, check, or credit card. Families with questions may contact the District Cashier. The portal is at launchaustinmn.infinitecampus.org. Activities: Austin High School played host for the Section 2A Boys and Girls Soccer Finals as well as the Section 1 9-person Football Final.

Staff Development: AHS staff attended a personal learning session with Amy Thuesen, Director of Technology, on Microsoft Copilot. The session covered how AI can scaffold instruction, build lessons aligned to grade level standards, translate curriculum, and level texts to reading levels. The focus stayed on the teacher as the person who changes and adapts what AI offers, so the tool supports the planning, and the teacher keeps the judgment. Staff left with practical tools to use in planning and to reach every reader in the room.

- **Link to newsletter: KDS Template**
- **October Portfolio: https://app.smore.com/n/ms7kd**
- **September Portfolio: https://app.smore.com/n/vx2h5**

AUSTIN ONLINE ACADEMY/AUSTIN ALC :

- **Support and resources to ensure a safe and welcoming learning environment.** This past month AOA/ALC students celebrate attendance success through an incentive at the YMCA. Students also continue to work with staff to identify barriers and find ways to increase attendance and engagement at school. During November PD staff engaged in a PLC reflection in which we had time to celebrate a goal that they had set during the start of the year and lean into strengths developed in the process.

- **Packer Profile for all learners.**
  We have had two lessons already and our next lesson is November 18th. Students are completing assignments in SchooLinks and teachers are helping complete portfolios and work with families on students who have missed lessons. This will all culminate in our Senior Portfolio event in December. This past month in the ALC we have had a variety of pathway experiences including speakers on tax managing, investing, combat nurse, Dr. Page, as well as attending Construct Tomorrow and Winona College visit.

- **District-wide multi-tiered systems of support for all learners.**
  Our Barr feedback continues to provide resources and supports for our students struggling to engage in learning. We have a new attendance protocol we are starting in Austin Online to try to catch students prior to more than 5 cumulative absences. In the ALC we use our small and big block to review weekly data and intervene early.

- **Excellence in resource management.**
  In the next month we will start working to communicate summer program options, dates and locations. Our credit recover program continues to serve over 50 students a month in the ability to gain credit and get back on track towards graduation.

- **Link to newsletter:** https://app.smore.com/n/2z0sy
  October Portfolio: https://app.smore.com/n/ms7kd
  September Portfolio: https://app.smore.com/n/vx2h5

ELLIS MIDDLE SCHOOL:

- **Support and resources to ensure a safe and welcoming learning environment.**
  - We had our second communication event with over 90% parent connects.
  - Teachers would like to figure out a way to have face-to-face conferences effectively.
  - Teachers are using the PLP tab to document significant communications
  - We have a cardiac response team that put together an excellent plan. Marj, or building nurse, leads the way.
  - We are holding more voluntary behavior meetings after school to discuss building behavior issues and develop solutions with all staff.
  - BARR report:
    Fostering Resilience Through BARR training took place at Ellis on 8.13.26. This was a full day of training led by the BARR Center. 90% of certified general education staff members participated in the training. The training objectives included defining the concept of resilience, discussing the value of including multiple perspectives to ensure a holistic approach in fostering resilience within school systems, determining opportunities to engage adults throughout our school system & community to meet the needs of the whole student, and identifying opportunities to engage community resources to meet and support the needs of students & their families.

- **Packer Profile for all learners.**
    - Our digital music class moves into second quarter. Some adjustments have been made, and we feel this has been an excellent addition to our electives.
    - We continue to work with Emily Hoveland to make our Packer Profile tab more robust.
    - Our SLT will lead the work for our Profile project.
    - We will have a new PLTW class next year which will focus on H-Vac and plumbing for example.
    - Our Digital Arts offerings are expanding. Mr. Larson has developed a great display in front of his room with career opportunities in Digital Art.

- **District-wide multi-tiered systems of support for all learners.**
    - Our ALC math intervention class is going very well with over half of the students making "high growth."
    - Dr. Gabrielson has worked with T&L to purchase a curriculum to support the work currently being developed.
    - Our reading intervention class is also going well. The teachers meet regularly with the AHS/ALC interventionist to make sure we are consistent with the execution of the curriculum.
    - Attendance is a high priority for our MTSS teams. We get bi-weekly reports from our attendance Admin. Assistant. We have already found small gaps in communication that we can shore up.
    - We have added members from Austin Aspires to our teams to add more student support options.

- **Excellence in resource management.**
    - Dr. Gabrielson is our Athletic Director, and she has put excellent process' in place for paying fees, joining activities, and using the weight room.
    - With the referendum passing, we can look forward to some updates around the building.

- **Link to newsletter:** https://app.smore.com/n/t35960

IJ HOLTON INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL:

- **Support and resources to ensure a safe and welcoming learning environment.**
  - BARR update: IJ HOLTON: **Effective Team Meetings** training took place at IJ on 8.17.26. This was a full day of training led by the BARR Center. 93% of certified staff members participated in the training. The training objectives included identifying the elements of an effective team, understanding the role of Community Connect and Block meetings as a solution-focused process, effectively utilizing collaborative problem-solving within the team structure, developing a next steps action plan, and promoting the success of all students
  - Conferences start 11-5 from 3:30pm-7:30pm and 11-12 from 3:30pm-7:30pm. We really like the in-person conferences. We wish we had more than 15 minutes and we wish we could have an AM session.
  - We have started our work on the Cardiac Response Plan
  - We have an administrative assistant track attendance more intensively than before and share information with counselors and administration.
  - Our SLT has started the process of dividing out the strategic priorities and we will start the work of building the 27/28.

- **Packer Profile for all learners.**
  - We hope to have a deeper presence in this area as our SLT chooses artifacts for students to keep.

- **District-wide multi-tiered systems of support for all learners.**
  - We hosted all the elementary PD for the district and it went very well. Holton has a great facility for this.
  - HITS training focused on PLC work. Each group shared their work.
  - We are working on streamlining our progress monitoring process to make sure we cover all the students.
  - Our monthly attendance meanings have shown us areas we can focus on. Particularly with students who have medical issus.
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- **Excellence in resource management.**
  - We are starting the discussions for next year's school supplies.
  - It has been a huge asset to have all supplies provided through the district. Each student has the same materials.

- **Link to newsletter: https://app.smore.com/n/r7y9g6**

BANFIELD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL:

- **Support and resources to ensure a safe and welcoming learning environment.**
    - More than 90% of Banfield families attended fall conferences. Staff connected with families and shared students' early successes.
    - Next week, we'll begin our third round of highlighting the Packer Core Values during morning announcements and Morning Meeting.

- **Packer Profile for all learners.**
    - Staff continue to explore how EduClimber can help them identify and address students' individual learning needs.
    - During the recent professional development day, staff developed a consistent set of learning artifacts for students to upload to Seesaw throughout the school year.

- **District-wide multi-tiered systems of support for all learners.**
    - Professional learning communities (PLCs) remain central to staff learning. Teams have improved how they use student data to identify instructional needs and plan next steps.
    - The attendance team meets every two weeks to review attendance, share concerns with families, and work with them to address barriers. The Attendance Task Force guides this work by identifying monthly topics for staff to address.
    - Student use of Freckle and Lalilo is up nearly 30% compared with last year. These tools use benchmark assessment results to tailor practice to each student's learning needs.

- **Excellence in resource management.**
    - Staff and students participated in the walkathon, raising funds for our PBIS program and other school initiatives in partnership with the BPTC.

- **Link to newsletter:** https://app.smore.com/n/yadwu

NEVELN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL:

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

- Neveln is explicitly teaching and reinforcing PBIS expectations: Be Respectful, Be Responsible, Be Safe following breaks this school year (MEA, Thanksgiving, Winter, etc)
- We celebrated positive student behavior through Golden Shields and schoolwide PBIS celebrations, including a recess dance party.

- Over 90% of Neveln families attended fall conferences, providing opportunities for staff to strengthen family connections and celebrate students' early successes.
- We are highlighting the Careers and Packer Profile Core Values through daily morning announcements and classroom Morning Meetings at Neveln each day.

Packer Profile for all learners.

- Staff are identifying ways to recognize and celebrate individual student strengths. We used November 3rd PD day to brainstorm together ideas to use this year.
- We are integrating career exploration into classroom learning and daily announcements. We will be adding a few short videos to Neveln News so students can hear from adults that are working in careers highlighted by our Packer Profile posters.

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

- November 3 professional development focused on grading and reporting, math standards, and literacy instruction.
- Teachers continue implementing High Impact Teaching Strategies (HITS) and Science of Reading practices.
- PLC teams analyze assessment data to identify student needs, monitor progress, and adjust interventions.
- Freckle and Lalilo provide targeted reading and math practice to support student growth.

Excellence in resource management.

- Neveln Welcomed a new lunchroom supervisor, Marijane to our team. We are excited to have her with us!
- We are reviewing staffing needs and allocating resources to support student learning and building operations.

- **Link to newsletter: https://app.smore.com/n/y04w3**

SOUTHGATE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL:

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

Our Gators are working on their second building wide incentive this month. When students fill up our Gator Swamp, Mr. Gus will be dying his hair.

Our kindness theme for this month is "Gratitude." We kicked off this theme with a building wide assembly where I challenged the students to show 5 acts of gratitude in the month of November each week. This theme fits into our Great Gator goals.

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 to create an portfolio of students work. Students will also have multiple opportunities for exposure to possible future career and educational choices.

During conferences, we highlighted "Strengths Spotting" with our students. Also, we are starting to connect these strengths with future career oppourtunities!

Some of the work examples teachers have been planning on showcasing include student work on numerical recognition, reading passages and recording their progress, and writing samples from class assignments. All of these will serve as artifacts in the "Profile" for learners to reflect upon as the continue their educational journey.

District-wide multi-tiered systems of support for all learners.
The School Leadership Team plays a vital role in guiding the direction and success of our school. This team works collaboratively to set building-wide goals that align with our district's vision and focus on continuous improvement for students and staff. By analyzing academic, attendance, and behavior data, the team identifies strengths and areas for growth, ensuring that decisions are grounded in evidence and centered on student outcomes.

The team meets regularly to review data trends, monitor progress toward established goals, and adjust strategies as needed. Academic data helps identify where instructional support or professional development may be needed, while attendance and behavior data provide insight into school climate and student engagement. Together, these data points inform action plans that promote achievement, equity, and a positive learning environment for all students.

Excellence in resource management.
Our school continues to prioritize growth and collaboration through a variety of professional development opportunities for staff. Teachers and support staff engage in ongoing training focused on instructional best practices, student engagement, and the integration of new resources that support academic and social-emotional learning. These opportunities strengthen our collective capacity to meet the diverse needs of students and promote a culture of continuous improvement.

By combining staff development with community engagement, we ensure that both our educators and stakeholders are informed, connected, and working together toward a shared vision of excellence for our schools.

Link to newsletter: https://app.smore.com/n/s74xe6-nov-2026-gator-gazette

SUMNER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL:

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

We hosted a highly successful Fall Conference session, with 88% of families attending. During conferences, we highlighted points of pride and areas for growth, provided actionable steps families can take to support student learning, and shared next steps for school-based instruction. Families received data from the Fall Benchmark assessment along with student goals for the Winter Benchmark, reinforcing our commitment to strong partnerships between home and school. We love partnering with our families.
We continue to encourage families to support **All Day, Every Day** attendance. Research is clear—consistent attendance is one of the most important factors in ensuring student success.
We're encouraging students to aim for **zero unexcused absences or tardies** each month.
To qualify for monthly attendance recognition:
☑ **Zero unexcused absences or tardies**
☑ **No more than two excused absences**
(Three or more excused absences will disqualify students for that month)
Currently, at Sumner we have on average 95% of students in attendance each day. In the month of October we had 270 students who earned Star Attendance.
Let's continue to work together to make every day count—on time, all day, every day!

- **Packer Profile for all learners.**

  Growing Greatness at Sumner: Celebrating Student Learning and Strengths!
  At Sumner Elementary, we are intentionally bringing our **Packer Profile** to life by helping students recognize their strengths, take ownership of their learning, and reflect on their growth.

  Through **Seesaw Student Learning Artifacts**, teachers and students are capturing meaningful examples of learning in reading, writing, and math, along with capstone experiences in our specialist areas. These artifacts provide opportunities for students to showcase their accomplishments, reflect on their progress, and celebrate growth across all areas of learning.

We are also placing a special emphasis on **student strengths**. During fall conferences, teachers shared a unique strength they recognized in each child. Students are now reflecting on those strengths, building confidence, belonging, and an understanding of what makes them unique.
Our goal is to move beyond simply sharing *what* students are learning to helping them understand **how they are growing as learners**. Through reflection, goal setting, and celebrating strengths, we are developing students who recognize their potential and take pride in their learning journey.

- **District-wide multi-tiered systems of support for all learners.**
  November 3 professional development focused on strengthening standards-based grading and reporting, math standards alignment, and literacy instruction. Teachers continue implementing High Impact Teaching Strategies (HITS) and Science of Reading practices to strengthen Tier 1 instruction. Through ongoing PLC collaboration, teams analyze student assessment data, monitor progress, and adjust instruction and interventions to meet learner needs. Targeted learning platforms, including Freckle and Lalilo, provide additional opportunities for individualized reading and math practice to support student growth.

  Additionally, Sumner's Supplemental Support Team (SST) meets biweekly, bringing together a multidisciplinary team of specialists, instructional coaches, and teachers to review student progress and coordinate targeted academic, attendance and behavioral interventions. Through ongoing collaboration, multiple sources of student data, and progress monitoring, teams make timely adjustments to supports and services to ensure students receive responsive instruction and opportunities to achieve grade-level expectations.

- **Excellence in resource management.**
  Our goal is to provide a welcoming, efficient, and well-organized breakfast experience for all students. To ensure students have plenty of time to enjoy breakfast and start their day feeling nourished and ready to learn, **we encourage families to have their children arrive between 7:30–7:45 AM.** This allows students time to eat breakfast and transition smoothly into their classrooms before the school day begins at 8:00 AM. Thank you for helping us start each school day strong!

- **Link to newsletter:** https://app.smore.com/n/ad0ye