



DATE: May 12, 2025

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 April 26th, 500 AHS students attended Prom, and it was a great night for students and staff.
- AHS is looking forward to our final competition events for the Battle of Connects this Wednesday, May 7th.
- AHS held its first ever Culture Week on April 25th - May 2nd. Activities included a kickoff assembly on Friday with guest speakers from the community, dress-up days throughout the week, cultural booths, student dance performances, and an after-school volleyball game. The week is more than just a celebration—it's a reflection of who we are as a school, as a community, and as a city. We live in Austin, a place that thrives on creativity, openness, and diversity. We come from many different backgrounds, speak many languages, hold many beliefs, and carry with us stories from all over the world. That's not something to set aside—it's something to *celebrate*. Culture Week is about acceptance. It's about honoring the differences that make each of us unique and recognizing the common ground that unites us. Whether you were born here in Austin or on the other side of the globe, whether your family's roots go back generations or just a few years—it all matters. You matter. We want to take a moment to recognize the Asian Student Union, the African Student Association and the Hispanic Youth Latino Group. This entire week—every activity, every event, every display—was created, planned, and brought to life by our students. We could not be more proud. Let this be the first of many Culture Weeks, and let it set the tone for how we treat one another—not just this week, but every day. With respect. With joy. With acceptance.

Packer Profile for all learners.

- Future Teacher banquet was held on May 5. Students signed a commitment letter and honored a teacher that made an impact in their lives. Thank you to the board members that attended.
- Austin High School Spanish/Latino Youth Club read stories in Spanish and helped children with a craft at the library.
- Tony from Absolute Energy Ethanol Plant presented to the Ag, Food, Natural Resources (AFNR) class on Thursday about how he is helping farmers with their operations to increase their productivity, profitability, and overall environmental quality through the 45Z Program
- Mr. Compton's Criminal Justice classes visited Riverland to learn more about the programing available to them if they are looking to pursue a career in Criminal Justice.
- Students from Mrs. Ahumada and Ms. Alberts heritage Spanish classes travelled to Winona State University to participate in the 2025 Civic Engagement and Leadership conference, where they participated in conversations on topics such as using art as a means of activism, how to succeed as a first generation college student, how to address climate change, the benefits of being bilingual, how to create a budget and set financial goals and other topics.

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

- As we enter the final stretch of our academic year, our school community continues to monitor student progress and provide targeted interventions to ensure every learner reaches their full potential. Our data shows that consistent attendance and engagement during these last few weeks are crucial for maintaining academic momentum and achieving end-of-year goals.
- We encourage families to maintain routines and support regular attendance as we approach the finish line. Our staff are working diligently to provide extra support during this critical period. Remember, every school day counts toward building strong foundations for next year's success. Together, let's make these final weeks count by staying focused, celebrating progress, and supporting one another through the home stretch.
- Packer Study Table for student-athletes is proving to be a success. Since our first Spring Season grade check, we have had 15 student athletes removed from the academic ineligibility list. We

Excellence in resource management.

- We are thrilled to share that we have filled our Social Studies, Science, and Art teaching positions for the 2025–2026 school year! Aiden Wendland, transferring from Austin ALC, will be joining us as our new Social Studies teacher. In addition, Wade Judge will bring his talents to the Art department. We are incredibly excited about the skills and passion our new team members will bring to AHS.

- We kindly encourage all parents and guardians to take a few moments to speak with their children about the importance of properly caring for their school-issued laptops. These devices are essential tools for learning and keeping them in good working condition is critical for student success. Unfortunately, we do see damage occur throughout the year, and in some cases, repair or replacement fees are assessed. To help prevent this, please remind your child to always keep their laptop away from liquids, food, and other potential hazards. It's also important that laptops are transported in a sturdy backpack or case that offers adequate protection from drops or bumps. With a little extra care and attention, students can avoid costly damage and ensure that their devices are ready to support them every day.
- Site Newsletter: [KDS Template](#)

Austin Online Academy/ Austin Area Learning Center:

- Support and resources to ensure a safe and welcoming learning environment.
 - Students had another great month with attendance and engagement as was evident at our Twin Baseball Field Trip and upcoming activities to honor students who are academically on track and/or at a high attendance rate!
- Packer Profile for all learners.
 - This past month we continued to develop our understanding of pathways within our classes while also building our Portfolio in 9th grade. Thank you Camille Osmonson and Arik Andersen for your work in establishing this courses in both AOA and ALC.
 - This summer we have a team assembled to help building out our seminar courses between AOA/ALC as well as expanding our work-experience program. This will ensure our staff and students have an understanding of the scope and sequence of the Packer Profile and how to embedded this into school links.
- District-wide multi-tiered systems of support for all learners.
 - Angie Taylor shared the ALC success during the National BARR conference. We continue to see students meet or exceed goal targets in both AOA and ALC with this foundational support.
- Excellence in resource management.
 - As we are wrapping up credit recovery we want to thank our night school teachers: Camille Osmonson, Elizabeth Rassumussen, Leslie Leffers, Jessica Stanley and Kim Goblerish. Without them we wouldn't have been able to

support the number of students recovering credit in such meaningful and personal ways.

- This past month we had a record setting 121 credit recovers.
- Site Newsletter: see AHS/AOA/ALC Newseltter above.

Ellis Middle School:

- **Safe and welcoming learning environment:**
 - Our building leadership has identified 10 areas of focus for the remainder of the 24/25 school year and for the 25/26 school year. For each area we had two categories: "Concerns" and "Solutions". Each area was an independent poster hung in our conference room. Staff was given time to look at each are and offer ideas. The feedback will become part of our Site Improvement Plan for the 25/26 school year. The category areas are:
 - Staff Moral
 - Student Activities
 - Student Equity
 - Student Academic Success
 - Professional Development Days
 - State and District Testing
 - Hallways/Passing Time
 - Scheduling
 - Student Behavior
 - Supervision
 - As you may recall, one of our leadership team's goals for this year was to improve the student experience. We have conducted two student survey's so far and reviewed the data. Major area for focus: "having more time with friends" and "I like coming to school" for example. Student's trust in their teachers was high as well as "I know what teacher expect of me". We will continue to review this data to make adjustments.
 - We have started our improvement plan for next year with a larger emphasis on Professional Learning Communities.
- **Packer Profile:**
 - We will work with the Riverland Staff and the United Way staff to set up an Assurance Grant Account for each 8th grader.
 - We will also have visits from AHS staff to talk to our 8th graders about transitioning to AHS.
- **MTSS for all students:**
 - We had our last installment of our HITS training on April 21st. This session focused on reviewing what we have learning this year and giving teachers time to reflect.

- Members of the district wide grading team provided feedback from our staff on "Life Skills Grades". We are working as a team to make sure our reporting procedures meet families' needs.
- **Excellence in resource management:**
 - We met with buildings and grounds to review summer work projects.
 - We are excited for our new cafeteria tables next year.
 - We continue to work on staff development plans for next year using the data our leadership team provided us.
- Site Newsletter: <https://secure.smores.com/n/v1xpz>

IJ Holton Intermediate School:

Safe and Welcoming Learning Environment

- This year we had two particularly popular PBIS reward days: Rollercoaster making and our Culture Day.
- Our student council hosted three dances this year that have generated enough revenue to fund our PBIS weekly rewards and our reward days.
- Several of our student participated in the recent math master's competition and our team was very successful.

Packer Profile:

- In addition to our career pathway posters, we continue to find ways to add more Project Lead the Way classes and offer more career and college connections to our Core Classes.

MTSS for all Students:

- All our Core teachers, special education teachers and our ELL teachers have successfully completed the OL/LA CORE training, the state mandated reading training.
- Each of our core curricular areas has worked on their scope and sequence in preparation for self-contained classrooms next year.
- Two of our building administrators, one counselor and three teachers attended the BARR conference last week in preparation for BARR implementation at Holton next school year.

Excellence in Resource Management:

- We currently have hired for all our open positions.
- We received a \$20,000 grant from the Austin Public Education Foundation for classroom libraries. We will supplement that amount with building funds.
- Our largest purchase this summer will be book shelves for classrooms.

- Site Newsletter: <https://secure.smores.com/n/ugpr6>

Banfield Elementary School:

- Support and resources to ensure a safe and welcoming learning environment.
 - We're proud to share that 100% of our staff successfully completed the year-long OL&LA (Observation, Language & Literacy Academy) professional development course. This impactful learning experience has equipped our teachers with high-leverage strategies to support language development and early literacy instruction. To honor their hard work, dedication, and commitment to student success, we celebrated with a sheet cake and a moment of recognition. The knowledge gained through OL&LA will have a lasting influence on our students' learning and growth. This professional learning also lays the foundation for our development plan next year, as we focus on deepening our understanding and fully implementing these practices in our classrooms.
 - On Tuesday, May 6th, Banfield will host a fun and engaging spring family night! The evening will include a bounce house, a book walk, pizza, a BOGO book fair in the library, a nature center activity station, and a temporary tattoo table. This event is a wonderful opportunity to connect with our Banfield families and welcome our incoming kindergarten students.
- Packer Profile for all learners.
 - May is a busy month at Banfield, with each grade level participating in field trips that offer exciting learning opportunities. These experiences are thoughtfully planned by our teachers to align with future careers and the Packer Profile, helping students make real-world connections. It's also a great time for families to get involved, as some trips may need volunteers to help support these meaningful experiences.
 - Even with the flurry of field trips this season, our Special Education teachers, Multi-Language Learner teachers, and Reading Intervention teachers have been able to maintain consistent instructional routines with students, thanks to the structure of their daily schedules. Preserving this consistency will remain a top priority as our team begins reviewing and planning the 2025–2026 building schedule.
- District-wide multi-tiered systems of support for all learners.
 - Last week, our 3rd and 4th grade students wrapped up their MCA assessments, and now the entire building is transitioning to STAR360 and FAST benchmark assessments. We're eagerly anticipating the results and look forward to seeing the growth our students have made throughout the year.

- As we look ahead to the 2025–2026 school year and re-engage in Professional Learning Community (PLC) work focused on strengthening Tier 1 instruction, our Site Leadership Team has been discussing key elements such as roles within PLCs, as well as proposed dates and meeting times. With the completion of our OL&LA training, this renewed focus on collaboration and instructional practices will be a central priority for our building next year.
- Excellence in resource management.
 - In the upcoming weeks, there are scheduled meetings with individual teachers and grade levels to discuss scheduling, room assignments and other considerations for the upcoming year. This also includes staff reviewing the class rosters that have been compiled over the past six weeks from Mr. Haugen.
 - As we wrap up our budget for the 24-25, we've been able to add some significant upgrades to the building with signage, furniture and rebranding of the building with visuals and materials for staff and students.
- Site Newsletter: <https://secure.smores.com/n/rhuy7>

Neveln Elementary School:

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

We are proud that 100% of our staff completed the OL&LA (Observation, Language & Literacy Academy) professional development course. This year long learning has been beneficial and our teachers have learned about high impact teaching practices for language development and early literacy learning.

We celebrated with a Graduation sheet cake to recognize the hard work, dedication and commitment to our team and student learning. This learning experience will make a lasting impact on student learning.

We are excited to invite families to our Spring Family Event on Wednesday, May 14th from 4:00 – 6:00 PM. This outdoor even will feature free food, ice cream, games and more – a full evening is planned for the whole family.

We are looking forward to welcoming our newest Neveln Knights – next year's Kindergarten students – who are invited to join the fun. We would like their family to get to know our staff, students and neighborhood school. We hope to see everyone there!

- Packer Profile for all learners.

Throughout the year, our students have been uploading work into See Saw to show their growth in reading and math. If you are having trouble accessing your child's Seesaw account, please reach out to your child's classroom teacher to get the code.

Our Neveln Knights are participating in several field trips this month to explore career pathways that might interest them someday.

Kindergarten students are going to the **Hormel Nature Center**.

1st Grade students are going to the **Hornel Historic House** and the **Hornel Nature Center**.

2nd Grade students are going to **Oxbow Park** and Zollman Zoo in Byron, Minnesota.

3rd Grade students are going to the **Minnesota Zoo** in Apple Valley, Minnesota.

4th Grade students are going on the **Canoemobile** trip, tour of IJ Holton and visiting the **Mower County Historical Society**.

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

Our students in Grade 3 & 4 have completed the MCA assessments in reading and math. We are proud of them for working hard on these important assessments.

Targeted Services Summer School program will run June 9 through July 24, to provide continued learning experiences in reading and math for our students.

Students entering Grades 1-3 will attend Southgate Elementary from 8:15 AM – 2:45 PM.

Students entering Grades 4-8 will attend IJ Holton from 8:00 Am – 2:30 PM.

This summer school experience will offer academic enrichment and help students stay on track through engaging and supportive classroom experiences during the summer.

- Excellence in resource management.

We continue to monitor student enrollment numbers to determine staffing needs for the upcoming 25-26 school year.

- Site Newsletter: <https://secure.smores.com/n/9hkvi>

Southgate Elementary School:

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

This week our Gators earned a school wide BINGO incentive for earning 1500 Gator Tickets. It was great to hear our students having fun and celebrating being Respectful, Responsible, Safe and Caring.

As the school year closes out, we have multiple activities plan to help build a welcoming environment for students including our Schoolyard Bash, our Nature Center and Canoemobile trips, and 4th grade send off.

2. Packer Profile for all learners

Our teachers continue to load artifacts into SeeSaw for students and families to see learning and growth over the school year. Also, many of this year's field trips will have elements of real life career exploration that we will capitalize on for students to be able to see themselves as productive members of or own community. We are very excited for these opportunities!

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

Each week, our student support teams continue to meet to discuss the needs of our students whether it is in the typical classroom or for those who may need additional supports. Members of our support teams are part of the district MTSS teams and continue our own learning.

We are now in our last assessment window and will use the data to adjust our classroom practices and how we provide services to students who may need additional supports. Our teams are also discussing how we can get the next school year off and running with a great start.

4. Excellence in resource management.

This month is the start of our staffing season and have initial discussion at the district level about our enrollments and staffing needs for the 2025-2026 school year. These meetings are an important part of our planning process and serve as a jumping off point for in school services, scheduling and school staffing.

We are also beginning some necessary resource management for next year including looking at space needs, student programming and starting to develop a building schedule.

SMORE: <https://secure.smores.com/n/q7yrv9-gator-gazette>

Sumner Elementary School:

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

- All Sumner reading Teachers—100%—successfully completed the OL&LA (Observation, Language & Literacy Academy) training, a professional development series focused on strengthening instructional practices for language development and early literacy. We celebrated this achievement in

true graduation style, recognizing the hard work and dedication of our entire team. Our teachers are AWESOME!

- We're excited to welcome our incoming kindergarten students! In late May, we'll be sending out a virtual welcome newsletter filled with important information to help our youngest learners get off to a strong start this fall. Stay tuned for helpful tips, key dates, and everything you need to feel ready for a great year ahead!

Packer Profile for all learners.

- Check out your child's learning progress in reading, math and writing by navigating to our Seesaw application. If you haven't logged into Seesaw yet, reach out to your child's teacher to get connected!
- Exploring Career Pathways Through Field Trips! This spring, our students are taking learning beyond the classroom through a variety of engaging field trips that connect to real-world career pathways. Our kindergarten and first grade students will be heading out to the Nature Center, where they'll explore the wonders of the natural world and learn about careers in environmental science and conservation. Our fourth grade students will participate in the *Canoemobile* experience—an exciting, hands-on opportunity to learn about water ecology and outdoor education. They'll also visit the Historical Society at the fairgrounds to dive into local history and explore careers in museum curation, preservation, and public service. These experiences help spark curiosity and broaden students' understanding of the many ways learning connects to future opportunities!

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

- Growing Greatness Through Strong Data-driven Systems and Relationships! Recently, Ms. Rollie attended the National BARR (Building Assets, Reducing Risks) Conference, where educators from across the country gathered to share strategies for supporting the whole child through relationship-centered systems. This experience affirmed the powerful work we're doing at Sumner to support every student—academically, socially, and emotionally—through our MTSS (Multi-Tiered System of Supports). MTSS is a framework that helps us identify and respond to each student's needs by providing layered levels of support. Whether a student needs enrichment, targeted intervention, or additional social-emotional guidance, MTSS helps ensure no one slips through the cracks. The conference reinforced the importance of building strong relationships and maintaining clear, consistent data-driven systems to help all students thrive. We're excited to carry this learning forward as we continue growing greatness at Sumner!
- Our third and fourth graders have successfully completed the MCA assessments—great job to all of them! Next, we'll begin our spring benchmark assessments. These assessments help us track student growth over the course of

the year and identify key success criteria for end-of-year outcomes. This information is essential in guiding our instruction and celebrating how far our students have come.

Excellence in resource management.

- We continue to monitor student enrollment numbers to determine staffing needs for the upcoming 25-26 school year.
- Site Newsletter: <https://secure.smores.com/n/621dw>

Community Education:

- Support and resources to ensure a safe and welcoming learning environment.
 - Summer Wellness opportunities in the community will be shared with district staff in May. Many thanks to the district Wellness committee for their active engagement and promotion of [Wellness](#) in Austin Public Schools.
 - Staff at the CLC have written 600+ notes of appreciation to each other this school year.
- Packer Profile for all learners.
 - Community Education books have been printed for summer activities and are being distributed throughout the community. Registration is available [online](#).
 - Community Education had 2009 registrations this school year and 89 enrichment classes for the community plus seven day trips!
 - Summer Kids Korner staff have been hired, and school year staff are actively preparing training for our staff and preparing fun and engaging activities as well as in town and out of town field trips for this summer. Our program will be housed at Woodson Education Center this summer.
 - Readers Cafe will be open during summer lunch at Woodson Education Center this summer, Monday – Thursday for the month of June. Come for lunch, check out a book, and enjoy some fun activities with our amazing staff and volunteers.
 - Preschool graduation will be happening May 27-29 at the CLC for our Prekindergarten students. We look forward to sharing this new tradition with our students and families. All board members are invited to attend one of our ceremonies!
 - During the 24-25 school year we had 16 Early Childhood Family Education classes as well as one field trip!
- District-wide multi-tiered systems of support for all learners.
 - Early Childhood LETRS training completed with curriculum writing happening in June to articulate implementation of our learning.

- This spring our early childhood students received 1094 stickers to honor behaviors that support our three program wide expectations: I am a friend, I am safe, and I am responsible.
- Job-alike PLC meetings as well as completion of IGDP's are happening this month in our early childhood professional learning communities.
- Austin Adult Learning has served 459 students during the 24-25 school year in either GED, English Language, or Riverland Community College classes.
- Excellence in resource management.
 - We had 280 students enrolled in preschool for the 24-25 school year. We currently have 53 students on our waiting list for the 25-26 school year.
 - Our ABE program will be receiving new laptops for staff and students as we begin implementation of a new ABE English Language curriculum in the 25-26 school year. Many thanks to Amy Thuesen and the tech department for facilitating these purchases.
 - 194 students were enrolled in School Year Kids Korner and 103 are registered for summer Kids Korner.
- Site Newsletter: <https://secure.smores.com/n/rt7c9>