

OCTOBER 2024: QUARTER 1 NEWSLETTER

PACKER PROFILE

PACKER PROFILE AT AHS

Welcome back and completion of quarter 1!

Our first quarter has been filled with exciting activities and new opportunities at Austin High School! Our students were welcomed back to the building on August 26th and the first two months of school flew by. It is hard to believe we are through one quarter, but there is still so much to come!



MEANINGFUL LEARNING EXPERIENCES

Students have experienced a number of meaningful learning experiences throughout the first quarter. There are so many connections taking place between content in course and the community. This helps our students to take their learning to another level!

- As part of Hispanic Heritage Month, the World Language Department put together an event that included art and informative displays from several Spanish-speaking cultures, student performers and guest speakers.
- Students in French III and IV connected with pen pals from France!
- The Austin Bruins spent time working with our Unified PE Students.
- US Marine, SSgt Speer, visited Introduction to Foods Students and they were able to sample MREs (Meals Ready to Eat).
- Mr. Compton's Criminal Justice Class visited Riverland Community College and met with professors and students currently studying Criminal Justice to learn about their program.



MEANINGFUL LEARNING EXPERIENCES

- Premier piano soloist Osip Nikiforov visited Austin High School to work with choir students.
- The Exploring Computer Science class welcomed a few Computer Science Professionals from Hormel who shared about their career paths and details about their CS jobs at Hormel.
- Members of the Future Teachers Club attended their first Professional Development Conference: GeoFest 2024 at the University of Minnesota.
- Wildlife Management students took part in a service project removing the invasive weed species buckthorn from an area at The Nature Center!
- Associate Justice Anne McKeig from the Minnesota Supreme Court met with AHS students to share about her journey in her career field.
- Alumnus Paiton Schwab, RN, PHN, CBC visited Mrs. Weis's Anatomy class to share her educational background and potential pathways in the medical field.





Mower County CEO started year seven! The students have completed the badge business and are learning so much about the Austin community.


Right: Four of our students were selected to attend the Global Youth Institute based on their yearlong projects around the topic of food insecurity.

Amazing job!

Below: We welcomed the newest inductees of National Honor Society for the year! The pillars of NHS focus on encouraging scholarship, leadership, service, and character.

CONGRATULATIONS

The following AHS students have been selected to attend the [Global Youth Institute](#).

 MAKAYLA DOKPODJO The UAE: Turning Deserts into Greenhouses	 CHLOE CANNON Poor Infrastructure in Rural Romania
 ISABELLA ROSENTHAL Improving Belize's Food Waste and Food Production	 SABREEN NAGID Political Causes of Starvation in Sudan

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PACKER PROFILE SEMINAR COURSE

Our 9th graders met with career speakers every Thursday as part of their Packer Profile Seminar. This is an excellent way for our students to be exposed to a variety of career paths, hear stories of the journey others have taken, and engage with our community members. Thank you to all who have joined us!

- Students met with Ms. Carlson and Ms. Flugge to hear about Get Connected, our volunteer database, and the Austin Assurance Scholarship.
- Students learned about speaker etiquette and questioning strategies with Mrs. Hovland. It has been amazing to see their growth in this area and to hear the questions they are developing!
- The career pathway of cosmetology was explored with a variety of community members, and students even saw how extensions are applied! Katlyn and Katherine Schumacher, AHS alum, from The Style Lounge Salon, Mariah Ramos (AHS alum) from the The MOD Medspa, and Luis, CEO alum, from Vida Barber Lounge were our awesome presenters!
- Taylor Bliese visited and shared about her work at Overby Orthodontics. She also focused on how to manage our time through organization. We have seen students putting this essential skill into practice.
- APS Success Coaches Enrique Camerena Corozo and Isaac Oboyo and one member of Austin Aspires, Jesus Alvarez, shared about their career, journey, and the importance of education.
- Alexis Edmundson from Special Olympics MN visited with our Packer Profile and Unified PE students about the history of the programming, how students can get involved in volunteering, and her career. Ella Riley, an AHS student, joined and shared about her personal journey. The next day our students worked with students with different abilities to do team building activities.



SCHOOL ASSEMBLY AND PROFILE DAY

- Students learned about the many supports available at AHS: counselors, success coaches, administrative assistants, building security, nurses office staff, IMC and career center staff, and our social workers.
- We had a full school rock, paper, scissors competition, a Fruit by the Foot eating contest, and learned about upcoming opportunities for a talent showcase and the AHS Blood Drive.
- Students played a trivia game in their Connect which will add to our Battle of Connect points. Four classes with the highest points earned a donut party and our door decorating winners from homecoming week enjoyed their big cookies!
- Students in all grades were introduced to our SchoolLinks platform. They completed their onboarding, set SMART goals, investigated their learning styles, and learned about how they best focus in school and life.
- Students were able to explore SchoolLinks further in areas of interest in careers, colleges, scholarships, and skills development.
- We will have our next building Profile Day in December. Students are able to continue utilizing the platform in classes and individually throughout the year.

Guardians, please have your student use the video below to find out how to add you to SchoolLinks so you can explore as well!

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1V4Xum0kXPcVKTF8_E1WvF0V10rUYAxaH/view



The graphic features a green and yellow geometric design on the left. The title 'INTRODUCING OUR NEW COLLEGE AND CAREER READINESS PLATFORM' is prominently displayed. To the right is the SchoolLinks logo, which consists of a green circle with a white 'S' and the text 'SchoolLinks' below it. A list of five bullet points describes the platform's features. At the bottom, a green button with a white arrow and the text 'QUESTIONS?' is followed by the email address 'contact.jane.carlson@austin.k12.mn.us' and a yellow envelope icon.

INTRODUCING OUR NEW COLLEGE AND CAREER READINESS PLATFORM



SchoolLinks

- **Explore** Colleges and Careers
- **Complete** career interest surveys and help discover your pathway
- **Check** the dashboard for upcoming events (college and career tours, college rep visits, career and job fairs.)
- **Search** for scholarships, explore financial aid information, manage your college applications and send transcripts
- **Plan** a successful future with SchoolLinks!

> QUESTIONS? contact.jane.carlson@austin.k12.mn.us

Parents and guardians can join SchoolLinks right along with their student. [Watch this video](#) to learn how.



VOLUNTEER FOR THE
Nourishing
CHAMPIONS
SNACK PACKING EVENT
EMPOWERMENT. EDUCATION. A HAND UP.



24,000 snack
packs were
filled for the
community in
22 minutes
by our 1,600
students!





Austin High School COLLEGE FAIR

This is your chance to speak informally with representatives from a variety of colleges right here at AHS!

Open to all students 9 - 12

Where: Commons Area

When: 1:00 - 3:00 PM

Date: Thurs Oct 10, 2024

Explore your options and start planning your future. We look forward to seeing you there!

Representatives attending include the colleges below and all branches of the military!

Do the Scavenger Hunt and you might win a pizza!



MINNESOTA STATE UNIVERSITY MARSHFIELD





INTERESTED IN EXPLORING A CAREER?

JOB SHADOWING

STUDENT PERSPECTIVE:

"JOB SHADOWING WAS ONE OF THE BEST DECISIONS I'VE MADE DURING MY HIGH SCHOOL YEARS. BEING ABLE TO HAVE THIS OPPORTUNITY WAS A DOORWAY TO MY CAREER PATH. I FOUND OUT EXACTLY WHAT I WANTED TO DO AND SEE A GREAT MENTOR IN ACTION OF THE CAREER. I THINK ANYONE WHO IS QUESTIONING WHAT THEY WANT TO DO SHOULD INVESTIGATE JOB SHADOWING. COMING FROM SOMEONE WHO IS INCREDIBLY INDECISIVE, THIS MADE MY DECISION EASY!"

See Mrs. Hovland in the IMC or email Emily.hovland@austin.k12.mn.us to set up your experience today!

"JOB SHADOWING HELPED ME FIND MY FUTURE!"



MENTOR PERSPECTIVE:

"IT IS SUCH AN HONOR WHEN SOMEONE ASKS TO COME WATCH AND SEE WHAT YOU DO IN A GIVEN DAY AT WORK. I MAKE IT MY MISSION TO HELP PROMOTE WHAT WE CAN DO IN THE FIELD OF EDUCATION AND HOW TEACHERS CAN HELP MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN THE LIVES OF OUR YOUNGEST LEARNERS. IF A HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT WANTS TO SPEND THE DAY WITH ME, IT'S MY CHANCE TO SHOW HOW YOU CAN MAKE THE SCHOOL DAY A FUN AND MEMORABLE LEARNING EXPERIENCE. BY JOB SHADOWING YOU CAN SEE WHAT IT TAKES TO PLAN FOR THE DAY, HOW TEACHERS HAVE TO BE QUICK THINKERS ON THEIR FEET, AND EXPERIENCE THE SUCCESSES AND CHALLENGES FACED BY THE STUDENTS IN THE CLASSROOM. WE GET TO HAVE SUCH A POSITIVE IMPACT ON THE LIVES OF OUR STUDENTS AND IT'S A PRIVILEGE TO SHARE THE GREAT WORK WE CAN ACCOMPLISH TOGETHER."



ARE YOU INTERESTED IN THE FIELD OF EDUCATION?

- ? Would you like help navigating the college/career process?
- ? Would you like to learn about job opportunities in the field?
- ? Would you like to be eligible for a future teacher scholarship?
- ? Would you like to attend a field trip to Mankato or Winona to see their teacher licensure programs?
- ? Would you like to gain experience within an elementary/early childhood classroom?
- ? Would you like to get teacher training now for a head start on your college and career?
- ? Would you like to take some college classes in high school for a head start on your college and career?

COME JOIN THE FUTURE TEACHERS CLUB!

The goal of the club is to engage students in teacher preparation activities and pathway planning, support students in a path from high school to college to a teaching career, and help remove roadblocks that might hold students back, financial or otherwise.

Club activities include field trips to universities to tour their teacher licensure programs, guest speakers, opportunities to learn about education professions, in-classroom experience observing teachers, opportunities to share what you want/need to succeed, and, most importantly, having fun!

Meetings are held two Wednesdays per month. First meeting of the month is at 2:45, second meeting of the month is at 3:40. All meetings are in Mrs. Owens' room 274 and snacks are provided!

9/11, 9/25, 10/9, 10/23, 11/13, 12/11, 1/8, 1/22, 2/12, 2/26, 3/5, 3/26, 4/9, 4/23, 5/14, 5/28

For more information, please contact colleen.owens@austin.k12.mn.us, monica.ocampo@austin.k12.mn.us, or emma.walsh@austin.k12.mn.us, or drop by AHS 274.

How to sign-up for Future Teachers Club:

- Parent/Guardian go into Parent Portal
- Click the three bars at the top left
- Click School Store
- Click the AHS Emblem
- Click Activities
- Sign student up for Future Teachers Club



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Please contact
our Profile and
Pathways
Coordinators if
you have any
questions or
would like to get
involved!



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