

# Communications Update

Presented to the Board of Education  
November 14, 2023



# Communications Connect People

**Teachers ↔ Students**

**Staff ↔ Administrators**



**Staff & Administrators ↔ Parents/Guardians/Secondary Students**

This presentation focuses mainly on routine and emergency communications in the blue box, but touches on all boxes.

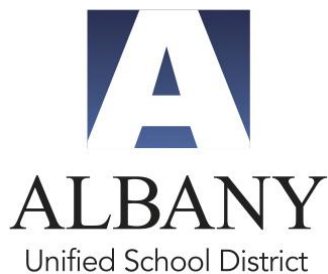
# What Tools Do We Use To Communicate?

The first and best way to communicate is face to face, in person!

This is important to remember.

## Tools:

- **AUSD Gmail**
- **Google Classroom** (teacher–student)
- **Language Line** (a live translator for communicating with non-English speaking parents/guardians)
- **ParentSquare (PSq)**
  - **Broadcast District-wide and school-wide messages, as well as updates and announcements between regular communications**
  - **Classroom newsletters and announcements** (teachers and Room Parents)
  - **Absence and tardy auto-notices**
  - **Emergency and Non-emergency Alerts** (via text message)
  - **Direct Messages** (within PSq, individual conversations, usually between teachers and parents/guardians)



ParentSquare™

**Aeries Communications**

Powered By  ParentSquare

### AUSD's communications software is Aeries Communications Powered By ParentSquare

- This is AUSD's third year using ParentSquare (PSq).
- No outside vendor means that all student and adult information remains secure in our Student Information System.
- Information is synchronized nightly.
- Parents/guardians receive emails in the language listed in Aeries as their home language.
- ALL parents/guardians receive emails/texts from PSq. **No registration is required.**
- Registration allows you to:
  - select a language for communications,
  - choose between email and text notifications, or get both, and
  - receive messages instantly or in a daily digest.



*I receive this weekly,  
in addition to all  
communications  
from all schools,  
excepting some  
teacher-parent  
messages.*



Albany Unified School District

## Your Weekly Summary

Monday, October 30th - Sunday, November 5th

Hi Kim,

Hope you had a good weekend! Here's a summary of what happened in Aeries Communications last week:

Last week, users at your district created:

84

Posts

202

Direct Messages

0

Alerts

The top post authors were:

- **Tamara Keller**, Marin Elementary with 8 posts
- **Jasmine Flores-Arias**, Ocean View Elementary with 7 posts
- **Eric Mapes**, Albany Middle School with 5 posts
- **Vivian Balderas**, Albany High School with 5 posts
- **Sabina Feinberg**, Albany Unified School District with 3 posts

In total there are **4 designated Aeries Communications Admins** at your district.

Out of 3,634 students at your district, you can reach 3,614 students' families.

3,614 / 3,634 Students

99.4% Reach

You need to fix 20 records to reach remaining 20 students. [Download Report](#)

[Check out the Dashboard](#)



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#### Includes:

- \* Weekly newsletters from elementary schools and AMS
- \* Daily Bulletins from AHS
- \* Superintendent's Community Update
- \* Weekly classroom newsletters from various teachers
- \* Board Meeting notifications
- \* Food Service notifications
- \* Monthly AHS Principal's newsletter
- \* Monthly AHS Counselor's newsletter
- \* Special announcements from all school offices and teaching staff

There were no alerts this particular week, however:

- \* This feature is extremely useful for emergencies
- \* Parents receive Alerts as text messages, nearly instantaneously

Direct Messages are like text messages, but within the PSq app:

- \* Usually from a teacher to a student's parents about a particular issue or accomplishment
- \* Parents can respond within the app

# AUSD Communications 2023–24 Totals

**1,012**    *Posts (emails)*

**2,045**    *Direct Messages*

**6**    *Alerts*

**25,879**    *Auto Notices (absent or tardy notifications)*

# Clever Ways To Use PSq

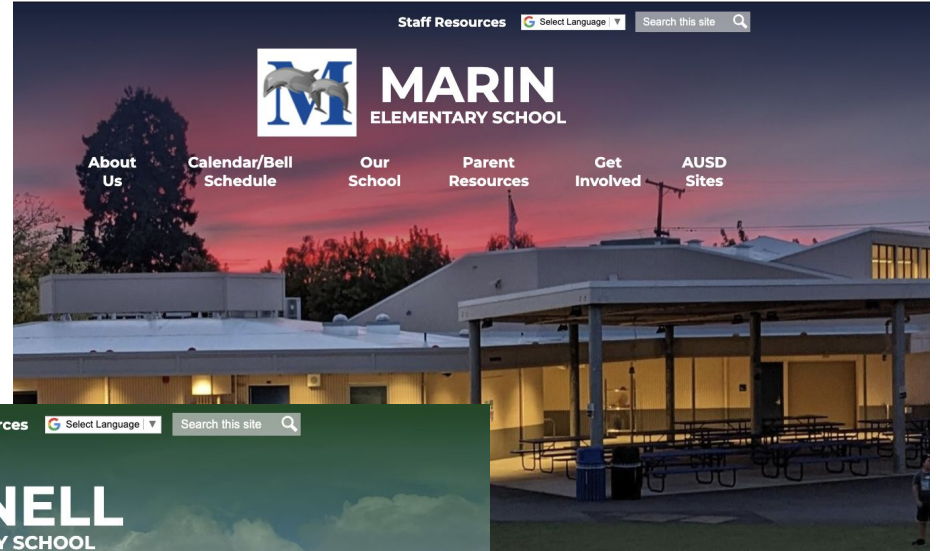
***Non-Emergency Alerts:*** Principals can send a single text message simultaneously to all staff. This is useful for daytime announcements, when teachers are more likely to glance at their phones and may not have time to check emails.

Non-emergency, but urgent text messages, can also be sent to parents. For example, if a street adjoining a school is closed, parents can be alerted.

***Direct Messages:*** Because of the translation features built into PSq, teachers can communicate through Direct Messages with non-English speaking parents about student-specific issues in a conversational way. Messages are automatically translated in both directions.



# Elementary Website Updates



# Elementary Website Updates

About Us	Calendar/Bell Schedule	Our School	Parent Resources	Get Involved	AUSD Sites
Principal's Message	<a href="#">School Year Calendar</a>	Library	Attendance Reporting	<a href="#">PTA</a>	Each site links to other school websites
Staff Directory	<a href="#">Bell Schedule</a>	<a href="#">Food Service</a>	<a href="#">MySchoolBucks</a>	<a href="#">Volunteer</a>	
<a href="#">Contact Us -</a>		Basic Info for Parents	Parent Handbook	<a href="#">Parent Engagement Groups</a>	
		<a href="#">SARC</a>	<a href="#">If Your Student Needs More Help...</a>	<a href="#">ParentSquare</a>	
		<a href="#">SPSA</a>	<a href="#">Aeries Parent Portal/Portal Help</a>		
		<a href="#">CA Dashboard</a>	<a href="#">Before After School Care</a>		
		<a href="#">Safe School Plan</a>	Forms		
			<a href="#">COVID-19 Resources</a>		


Blue items are links to pages that sites do not have to maintain.

Purple items are documents that must be uploaded, or have an updated link entered, annually

Green items are Edlio features that do not require maintenance.

Black items are the site's responsibility and require at least annual checks.

Staff Resources
Select Language
Search this site


**MARIN**  
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

About Us
Calendar/Bell Schedule
Our School
Parent Resources
Get Involved
AUSD Sites

[Parent Resources](#) » [If Your Child Needs More Help...](#)

## If Your Child Needs More Help...

AUSD educators and administrators care deeply about supporting all students and have a range of tools to help address student challenges. If your child seems to be struggling at school, they are here to partner with you regarding ways to get back on track. This guide will help you to consider steps you can take. Your child's teacher is your primary contact to work together to support your student.



## NOTICE FOR VISITORS

All people entering the building as visitors during normal daily business hours must have an appointment and check in at the front desk with an I.D. A visitor is defined as a non-employee or contractor of the district. All visitors must be accompanied by an escort through the building to their appointment destination. Unescorted members of the public must remain in the front desk area of the office. Due to the confidential information related to students and staff, no video recording, still photography, or voice recording shall take place beyond the front desk unless there is a scheduled time, place, and venue that will not expose confidential information.

Legal Reference:  
California Education Code 51927-Privacy and Confidentiality,  
California Code of Procedure 1985.6(e) Administrative

# Communication Is The Heart of Education

*Also includes signs, banners, vetting and prepping announcements, liaising with the City of Albany, most surveying, and printed newsletters.*



### Albany Middle School Craft Fair is This Sunday!

The AMS Craft Fair is fun and a wonderful way to support student crafters as well as the AMS PTA. Get your holiday shopping done with beautiful, one-of-a-kind handmade items. Enjoy baked goods at the Costa Cafe, see friends and neighbors, and listen to live music while strolling around the tables. **Sunday, November 5, 10:00am-3:00pm** in the AMS Gymnasium.

### Alain Pacific Standard Parent Engagement Group (AP-PEG) Speaker Event

Are you passionate about making a difference in your community? Curious about the benefits of volunteering from a young age? Join us for an engaging speaker event that explores the transformative power of youth volunteering and highlights local opportunities to get involved. AP-PEG is hosting an online talk by Lucy Chen, Chair of Albany AP-PEG, about volunteering in local communities. Registration is free but required. [Click here to register](https://www.albany.org/peg). The event will be over Zoom, **November 15, 7-8:30pm**. To participate and receive news about AP-PEG events, [please sign up here](https://www.albany.org/peg).

### Second Week:

#### Albany Disability Squares' Family Support Group

Please join us for the next meeting of the **Albany Disability Squares' Family Support Group** on **Wednesday, November 8, 8:00-8:00 pm**. So much of our time, energy and heart goes toward supporting our kiddos! It can be rewarding but also exhausting, overwhelming, and lonely. Join us for this drop-in group where we support each other in our frustrations and triumphs. Join the [Zoom Meeting](https://www.albany.org/peg) at the time or dial by your location: (408) 638-0968, Meeting ID: 886 008 4968, Passcode: 798804. \*This is a peer-to-peer support group for caregivers and not professional group counseling.

### ALBANY COMMUNITY

#### Albany CARES Connects You

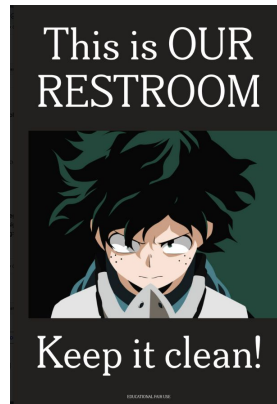
Assistance for accessing many resources, such as medical, dental or mental health programs, is available for AJUSD families. Appointments are available in person and over the phone at (505) 555-4569. Click on [Albany CARES](https://www.albany.org/care) for more information on this service.

#### AIEF First Mondays at Little Star Plaza

**Little Star Plaza** will donate 10% of sales to **Albany Education Foundation** on Monday, Nov. 6th, and every first Monday of the month. AIEF funds grants for teachers. Thank you for supporting Little Star Plaza and Albany Education Foundation!

#### Pioneer Soccer Winter After-School Clinic

Have fun and develop soccer skills inside during the winter month! Pioneer Soccer's after school program starts Nov. 27 and runs until Feb. 5th for 8 sessions at the Berkeley Youth Alternatives (BYA) indoor gym at 1255 Alston Way, Berkeley. Kindergarteners come from 3-4 pm, 1st to 5th graders come from 4-5pm. Get more information or register by contacting Coach Pymmer at [Pymer@berkeleyyouthalternatives.com](mailto:Pymer@berkeleyyouthalternatives.com) or (925) 375-6646.



## ALBANY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2023

### New Marin Elementary School Is Opening!

Time-Lapse Video of the Construction



#### MARIN OPEN HOUSE-SAVE THE DATE!

The Marin Elementary School Grand Re-Opening and Ribbon Cutting will be on Friday, August 11 from 1-7pm. Twenty-four spectators, well-Rt, and up-to-date classrooms were built, while the multipurpose room, administrative pod, and library were renovated. The playground has greatly increased in size, with new nature-play areas, ball fields, and a terrific new play structure. Everyone is invited, please come and explore the marvellous new school and playground that were built with your bond dollar!

#### EXCITING CHANGES NOW FULLY REALIZED

All major facilities projects funded by School Bond Measures B&E are now complete. Marin Elementary's re-opening ends four years of temporary housing with Ocean View and Main students on-site at AMS and AIS. For the coming school year, the AMS Annex will house eighth grade classrooms, plus world languages, computer science, theatre, and choir. AIS will gain classrooms and install a new Design/Build workshop in the Church Addition. Temporary classrooms at both sites will be removed.

### Cornell Improvements

While the original Cornell Elementary building continues to serve students and host a vibrant school community, numerous recent improvements keep it up to date. Technology upgrades provide teachers and students with the same capabilities as their peer schools. This summer, new paint will brighten the exterior, and a second phase of playground renovation will add ball walls, a whiffy, and the newest play structure in Albany. Plans are proceeding for a heating and air conditioning (HVAC) system, along with electrical upgrades.



Cornell now has a greener, all-electric kitchen from recent renovations. Because Cornell was determined to be seismically sound in engineering analysis, AJUSD seeks to moderate and continue to improve this California Distinguished School.



BOND B&E PROJECTS NOW COMPLETED

Albany Unified School District | 1214 Siskiyou Ave., Albany, CA 94706 • Phone (510) 538-3750 • [www.ajusd.net](http://www.ajusd.net)