


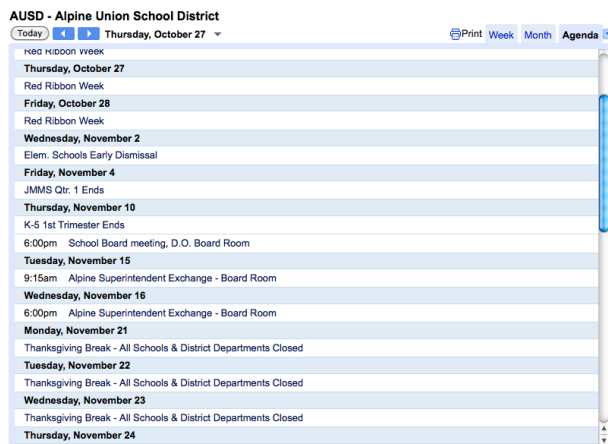
Five Ways the AUSD Website Will Make Your Life a *Little* Better

by Tom Pellegrino

Calendars: When is that report card coming?



On the upper right area of the homepage, you will find the Alpine District & School Calendars. If you click on the  located on the homepage you will be able to add AUSD's calendars to your Google calendar (if you have one) as individual layers (AUSD, JMMS, Creekside etc). You can also create a new Google calendar for your personal use and integrate the AUSD calendar content into your calendar avoiding the need to add each individual item (parent conference dates, STAR testing, early release days, report card periods, school vacations, etc.)



If you just want to view the district and school calendar, scroll to the bottom of the homepage to view an agenda of upcoming dates and events. The view here can be changed to month, week or agenda.

News:

Clicking on the pictures above the “News and Current Events” will take you to short news stories about what is happening. You might even see a story about your child!



Search & Files: Where is the ESS page?
Where is that bus form or file I need?

The screenshot shows the AUSD website's search and file search interface. The top navigation bar includes links for Home, Schools, Students, Parents, Staff, MultiMedia, Departments, and Directory, along with a search bar. Below the navigation bar is a social media section with a Facebook 'Follow' button for @AUSDsupt and buttons for Online Payment, Gallery, File / Forms, Contact, Log out, and Newsletter Signup. The main content area features a section titled "Forms & Publications" with a search by category dropdown menu and a keyword search box containing the word "bus". Below the search box, it states "Your search for 'bus' generated 1 result(s)." and displays a table with the following information:

| File | Date Filed |
|--|-----------------|
| Bus_Pass_Application_2011-2012-1.pdf | August 25, 2011 |

Description: Bus Pass Application

With our keyword search feature, you hone in on what you are looking for! Type one word to get a list web pages or files on the AUSD website that you may be looking for. Search for content within the site using the top right search bar. Search for files after clicking the “Files/Forms” button in the middle of the navigation bar.

Parents Navigation Tab:



If you need it, it is probably in this section. Pay for bus, ESS, and cafeteria online, check your child's grades BEFORE the report card, find resources to support your child's educational journey, and give us feedback about how we are doing or what you would like to see us do more that you like!

SOCIAL MEDIA & RSS FEEDS

During emergencies, tornado alley schools have found the best way to communicate with parents is with the use of social media. We can learn a thing or two from the schools that regularly need to communicate to thousands of people in a matter of seconds. With the threat of fires and power outages ever present, we can use this tool as well. Communication is good in non-emergency times too! If you use Facebook or Twitter, you can find us at:



FACEBOOK: www.facebook.com/AUSDcommunicate



TWITTER: Follow the Superintendent to get important District updates
<http://twitter.com/AUSDsupt>

I promise not to tweet about my favorite songs.

Tweets are all business, short and sweet.



RSS Feeds: If you have a personal Start Page such as iGoogle, or MyYahoo, you can add the AUSD webpage to your start page with an RSS Feed. This will "push" information to your homepage about the district.