



MORE THAN A RUBRIC

Joslin Elementary: A Story of Growth, Resilience, and Community

Joslin Elementary has undergone a remarkable transformation over the past five years — and it all began with a bold vision and a team willing to rise to the challenge. Joslin has become a “school of choice.”

A New Chapter Begins. In 2019, Joslin received a \$285,000 grant from Texas Education Agency (TEA). In 2020, Joslin received an \$850,000 School Action Fund Continuation Grant from the TEA. This investment marked the beginning of the “new Joslin,” focused on student-centered learning, expanded language offerings, and academic excellence. From the start, a core group of dedicated staff led by Principal Chang accepted the challenge. Every staff member has followed that commitment, shaping Joslin into what it is today.

Language, Culture, and Choice: Dual Language Innovation. In 2020, Joslin launched its Mandarin/Spanish Dual Language Program with Kindergarten. In spring 2025, Joslin celebrated their first 5th-grade graduates from the fully implemented program. This groundbreaking approach didn't come without growing pains. Teachers, leaders, and families worked through schedule challenges, aligned on expectations, and refined pathways to ensure that every student could find a program that met their individual needs. Whether a child required adjustments, support, or enrichment, Joslin's commitment remained the same: Support the kids based on what they need.

Partnering with Families for Student Success. Of course, no transformation happens in isolation. Joslin has continuously worked with families to ensure they understand the programs, the data, and the student growth happening in real time. As Principal Chang often reminds us, "Parents want the best for their kids, but sometimes expectations and growth don't align—we work together to find what truly is best." This partnership—grounded in trust, communication, and collaboration—has been key to Joslin's success. The PTA has worked side by side with the school to help shape Joslin into what it is today—supporting milestones, campus events, educational programs, advocacy, and fundraising.

Results That Speak Volumes. Joslin's academic growth is undeniable:

- ✓ Overall Accountability Score: 87 (B) — a 16% increase from last year
- ✓ Closing the Gaps Score: 90 (A) — earned by only two Title I schools in AISD
- ✓ Distinctions Earned: Math, Science, and Closing the Gaps

A Campus of Choice. Joslin is becoming a destination campus:

- ✦ Receives student transfers from 40.2% of AISD elementary schools
 - ✦ One of the top 3 dual language campuses south of the river
 - ✦ Highest-rated Title I dual language school in South Austin
 - ✦ Receives transfers from 100% of schools south of the river and east of I-35
- Families are choosing Joslin for our academic programs, welcoming culture, location, and proven student success.

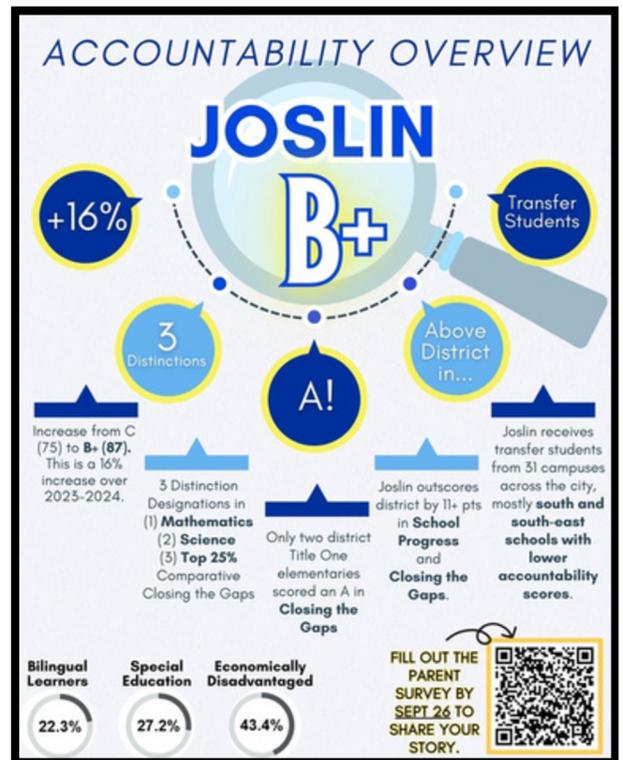
Your Voice Matters. The Austin ISD School Consolidation process is still underway, and your input is crucial. We encourage every parent, staff member, and community member to speak up. **Complete the AISD survey by September 26** (QR code to the right) to tell the school board what the consolidation rubric didn't capture — your voice can help ensure Joslin and schools like it are fairly represented.

A Place to Belong. Joslin is more than a high-performing school — it's a joyful, inclusive space shaped by our PTA family, community, and Austin ISD. In just the past three years, we've added a new Pre-K playground, butterfly and class gardens, picnic benches, safer office and fencing, a refinished blacktop, and vital large-scale equipment funded through the PTA and community support — opportunities that make a lasting impact for our students every day.

"I get to see everyone and get to be happy. This is my happy place." — Arlo, 3rd Grade

"Joslin is a place of acceptance and teamwork. We only get better as we grow together." — Mrs. Zamberlan, Assistant Principal

♥ **Joslin is not just surviving — it's thriving. Together, we've built something special. And together, we'll carry it forward into an even brighter future.**



Austin American-
Stamman article
featuring Joslin
Elementary

PTA Updates

WELCOME New PTA Leaders
Programs Chair - Andreas Jack

Website Coordinators -Heather Cram,
Marilyn Steckiel

Spooktacular Sponsors and Volunteers Needed!

Sponsor a booth at our annual Halloween Carnival for \$150! Your business name will be featured on an 8"x12" sign at the carnival, on our website (www.joslinpta.com), in the November 2025 newsletter, and on our Sponsorship poster at the event. You can choose to host your booth. Email joslinpta@gmail.com if you are interested.

The success of our fall celebration depends on volunteers like you. Please scan the QR code on the Spooktacular flyer to volunteer!

Room Parent Helpers Needed!

If you have a few minutes to help your child's teacher — even with small tasks like making copies or planning a class event — we'd love your support. You don't need to commit to being the sole room parent; every bit of help makes a big difference.

Please reach out to Jessica Sanders at jess.o.sanders@gmail.com or 512.905.2116 if you're interested.

Let's take care of our teachers as much as they take care of our students. Nothing shows appreciation more than lending a hand.

Loteria Night Fun!

On September 12, Jaguars and friends celebrated Hispanic Heritage Month at the 3rd annual Lotería Night! Thanks to our generous donors, meals and festivities were free for all who joined, making it another fun-filled PTA event.



Got any trinkets, knick-knacks, or small prizes sitting around at home that haven't been loved in a while?

Help us give them a new life! We're collecting donations to be used as Spooktacular prizes.

- 👉 Please donate: gently used or new small treasures
- 🚫 Please do not donate: books, stuffed animals, large items, or anything with a soft surface
- 📦 Drop-off box located at the School Drop-Off Door

Spirit Night Success!



Thank you to everyone who joined us at Amy's Ice Cream and Phil's Ice House on S. Lamar for Spirit Night on August 20. Together, we raised \$896.81 from their profits that evening.

DON'T FORGET!



You must renew your membership every year.

This year, our goal is 150 members — we're currently at 93. If we reach our goal by the Moon Festival on October 6, we get to silly string Principal Chang! Let's do this, Jaguars! 🐾



Garden Work Day continues

Our first Garden Work Day on August 30 was a hit! 15 families came out to weed and refresh the classroom vegetable beds for the new school year. Teachers are currently planning how to incorporate the gardens into their lessons and choose what vegetables to plant.

The Campus Beautification Committee still needs your help to manage the gardens — this is a team effort, and all are welcome to join. No experience necessary!



PRINCIPAL'S CORNER

Welcome, Officer Patton! We're excited to welcome Officer Patton as Joslin's new campus police officer this school year! You'll see him around campus keeping our community safe and connected. Be sure to say hello and give him a warm Joslin welcome.



officer Patton

School Consolidation Survey. The Austin ISD School Consolidation survey is due **September 26**. We strongly encourage every parent, staff member, and community member to complete it because your voice matters! This is your chance to help shape the future of our school.

Shout Out to parents helping advocate for Joslin during the school consolidation process:

- Mrs. Kristin Davis - going above and beyond to analyze Joslin's data with a new lens and fresh initiative
- Mr. Delgado - CAC Parent Co-Chair

Looking Ahead. Regardless of what happens on November 20, our commitment remains the same: we will finish this school year strong — together.

Lend a hand!

Weekly help needed

Mrs. Gibbs (Library) & Mrs. Hansen (Art) with:

- Shelving books
- Hanging artwork
- Organizing supplies
- Take-home projects
- Fundraising for art supplies



Art



Library

Custodian Appreciation Week
Sept. 29 - Oct. 3

**Denia Maritza Mendoza,
Oliva Aviles**

Principal Appreciation Week
Oct. 6-9

Mr. Chang

**THANK YOU
TO OUR SPONSORS**



headscratchersclinics.com



Gifted & Talented (GT) Nominations Open

You can now nominate your child for the GT program!

- All 2nd graders not currently in GT will be universally screened between 9/24/25 - 10/9/25.
- K, 1st, 3rd-5th graders who have not been identified as GT can be referred using the online form via the QR code or referral link. Referred students will be screened between 10/20/25 - 11/14/25.



GT Referral link

Learn more about the GT program by joining the district Zoom meeting (flyer below)

VIRTUAL

GIFTED AND TALENTED

INFO SESSION

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23

6 - 7 p.m.

OR

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 24

12 - 1 p.m.

Learn about the Gifted and Talented (GT) Identification process, GT Assessments, and our district GT service model.

Join the Advanced Academics team at:

Zoom | bit.ly/3JxCfPr

2025-2026

LASA DANCE JR. CLINICS

Save the Dates!

Calling all K-11th Grade Dancers...

LASA Dance is hosting THREE Junior Clinics throughout the year! Gain dance experience in age-appropriate grade-level groups (K-2, 3-5, 6-8, & 9-11), with performance opportunities in the fall & spring. All clinics are led by our incredible team leaders from Velocity & Dynasty Dance Teams.

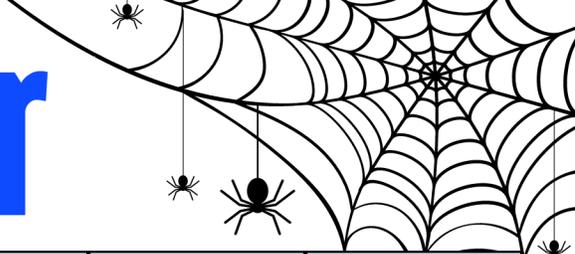
MON 20 OCT	<p>Fall Dance Clinic & Football Game Performance Opportunity</p> <p style="font-size: x-small;">Choose a full day (8a-4p) or half day (8a-12p) of dance featuring warm-up, technique, arts & crafts (K-5), team building, and special Thriller-themed choreography. All dancers are invited to perform at our Oct 30th game.</p>
SAT 7 MAR	<p>Dance Clinic & Audition Prep for 2026-2027 LASA Dancers</p> <p style="font-size: x-small;">A half-day clinic from 8a-12p, with warm-up, technique, an age-appropriate dance combo, team building, and arts & crafts for younger dancers (K-5). Current 8th-11th graders can also use this clinic to prepare for LASA Dance auditions, Mar 30-Apr 2.</p>
SAT 25 APR	<p>Spring Dance Clinic & Spring Show Performance Opportunity</p> <p style="font-size: x-small;">A half-day clinic from 8a-12p with warm-up, technique, arts & crafts (K-5). All dancers are invited to perform in our Spring Show on Saturday, May 2, at the AISD PAC.</p>

REGISTRATION & DETAILS COMING SOON AT:

Tinyurl.com/LASADance



October



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Hosted by Joslin PTA			1	2 7-7:20a: Run Club 	3 Fall Picture Day 3:15-4:15p: Silat 	4
	Custodian Appreciation Week					
5	6 5:30-6:30p: Healthy Living Night* 6:30-7:15p: Moon Festival	7 8:30-9:15a: Chat with Chang 	8	9 7-7:20a: Run Club* 3:30p: CAC School Consolidation Recommendation Packet 	10	11
	Principal Appreciation Week				STUDENT HOLIDAY	
12	13 <i>Indigenous Peoples' Day</i> SCHOOL HOLIDAY	14 4-10p: P. Terry's Spirit Night (204 W. Ben White)* 	15 PTA Meeting 3p: Board 3:30p: General* 	16 7-7:20a: Run Club* 	17 Academy 4 3:15-4:15p: Silat End of 1st Grading Cycle	18 8-10a: Garden Work Day (all are welcome)* 
19	20 <i>Diwali</i> Parent/Teacher Conference 	21	22	23 7-7:20a: Run Club* 	24 3:15-4:15p: Silat 5:30-8:30p: SPOOKTACULAR* (no costumes during school)	25 
	STUDENT HOLIDAY					
26	27 Story Wrangler begins (3rd grade)*	28	29	30 7-7:20a: Run Club* 	31 <i>Campus Costume Day</i> (no masks, blood, or weapons) 3:15-4:15p: Silat	

Healthy Living & the Moon Festival

Monday Oct. 6

5:30- Healthy Living (health careers, yoga, food tasting & scavenger bingo)

6:30- Moon Festival

SPOOKY

HAUNTED HOUSE CRAFTS

Joslin PTA

SPIRIT NIGHT

Tue, Oct 14
4:00 - 10:00 pm

P. Terry's
204 W. Ben White

COSTUME OPEN VOLU