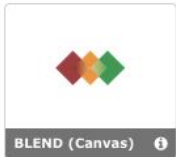


# Getting Started With BLEND for Parents and Guardians

BLEND is a Learning Management System (LMS) designed to support and amplify teaching, learning, and communication in Austin ISD. (\*BLEND is our district's version of [Canvas](#).)

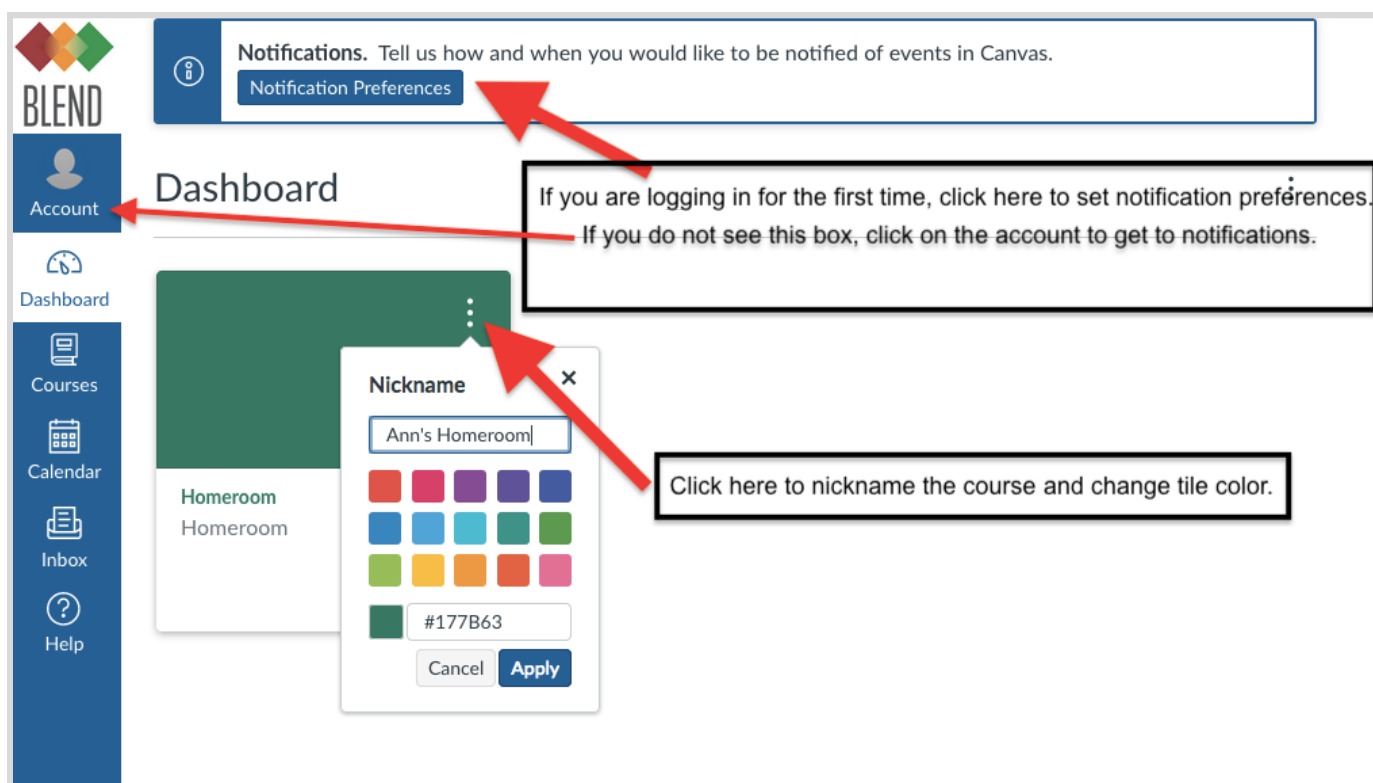
## 1) Accessing BLEND

To get started with BLEND, you must first [set up](#) a Parent Cloud Account at [my.austinisd.org](#). If you need help setting up your Parent Cloud Account, call Parent Tech Support at **512-414-9187**. Then:

	Log in to <a href="#">portal.austinisd.org</a> from your web browser with your AISD Parent Cloud credentials and click the BLEND tile.
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## 2) Organizing Your BLEND Dashboard

When you log in to BLEND through the portal, you will be directed to dashboard view. We recommend customizing course names and color-coding, especially if you have multiple students:



The screenshot shows the BLEND Dashboard interface. On the left is a blue sidebar with icons for Account, Dashboard, Courses, Calendar, Inbox, and Help. The main area has a 'Notifications' banner at the top with a 'Notification Preferences' button. Below this is the 'Dashboard' title and a list of course tiles. One tile is labeled 'Homeroom Homeroom'. A 'Nickname' dialog box is open over this tile, showing a text input with 'Ann's Homeroom', a grid of color swatches, a hex color code '#177B63', and 'Cancel' and 'Apply' buttons. Three red arrows point from text boxes to specific UI elements: one to the 'Notification Preferences' button, one to the 'Account' icon in the sidebar, and one to the three-dot menu on the 'Homeroom' tile.

**Annotations:**

- Notification Preferences
- If you are logging in for the first time, click here to set notification preferences. If you do not see this box, click on the account to get to notifications.
- Click here to nickname the course and change tile color.

## 3) Setting Your BLEND Notification Preferences

Click on **Account** (as pictured above). Next, click on **Settings**, and then **Notifications**. You'll be able to select how often you receive notifications for each item type. Use the icons on the next page.

## Notification Preferences

✓ Notify me right away

🕒 Send daily summary

📅 Send weekly summary

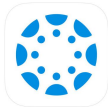
✕ Do not send me anything

By Clicking **Account** and **Settings** you can also add an additional email address or mobile # to receive notifications. You will need to manage the settings for *each* additional contact method you add from within **Notification Preferences**.

*\*Reminder: Parent Self-Serve is the gradebook of record. Use this tile in the Parent Cloud for overall course grade updates.*

### 4) Understanding the Parent Mobile App

The Canvas (BLEND) Parent app is designed to provide a *quick view* of your child's courses via your iOS or Android device. For a more complete course view, access BLEND via [portal.austinisd.org](https://portal.austinisd.org).

 <p><b>Canvas Parent</b> Instructure Inc.</p> <p>3.9 ★★★★★ 2.82K Ratings</p> <p>#134 Education</p> <p>4+ Age</p>	<p>Download the Canvas Parent app on your device and search for Austin Independent School District. Log in with your Parent Cloud credentials.</p>
<p><b><i>With the Canvas app parents can...</i></b></p>	<p><b><i>With the Canvas app parents cannot...</i></b></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• view the course syllabus (if published), course assignments, and calendar events.</li> <li>• set alerts to receive reminders for specific assignments / calendar events (sent to mobile devices as push notifications).</li> <li>• monitor their child's performance on BLEND assignments (overall course grades are accessible using the Self-Serve tile in the Parent Cloud).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• access course content (course homepage, content pages, embedded google docs, files, other students' work, etc.).</li> <li>• submit assignments, participate in discussions or take quizzes on their child's behalf.</li> <li>• participate in the course in any way.</li> </ul>

### 5) Accessing All Courses View

Not seeing one of your child's courses? Teachers are still learning to use BLEND, so not all courses are published. To see *all* of your child's course enrollments, click on **Courses** in the blue navigation bar and scroll down to click on **All Courses**. You will see a list of all published/unpublished courses:

Course	Nickname	Term	Enrolled as	Published
Practice summer 2018			Student	No
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;">             Since the "Practice summer 2018" course is not yet published, it will not display on the dashboard.           </div>				
■ 10 Easy Tips, Tricks, & Tools for Accessible Design in BL...			Student	Yes

**\*\*Looking for more detailed parent-facing BLEND info?**

**Click on the BLEND Parent Tour tile in the Parent Cloud OR go to:**

[bit.ly/BLENDparentTOUR](https://bit.ly/BLENDparentTOUR)