



James Bowie High School

❖ Pride In Performance ❖

Thursday, July 18, 2019

Greetings Bulldog Nation,

I hope that everyone is enjoying the summer break. There is a lot of activity underway this summer to renovate and modernize Bowie! Office staff is working out of the portables at the back of campus and busy planning for next year.

Bowie is currently seeking a few parent representatives to serve on the JBHS Campus Advisory Council (CAC). The Bowie CAC is a committee of parents, students, business and community representatives, teachers, principals, and other campus staff who review and provide input on the campus educational program, performance, improvement plan, staff development, budget, and other relevant campus issues. The CAC meets on the second Tuesday of each month from 7:30 to 8:30 A.M. If you are interested in serving on the Bowie CAC, and believe you can represent the interests of all Bowie students and families, please [Download a standard membership application](#) and drop it off at the main office (currently located in the Sage 1 portable building) or email it to ruth.widner@austinisd.org. Detailed information on CAC membership criteria is contained in the [CAC Bylaws](#). Thank you for your support of Bowie High School!

With significantly diminished parking capacity on campus due to the construction of the parking garage until the 2020-2021 school year, we are re-imagining how we typically organize various annual Bowie events. **One of the events that will be notably different this year is the Back-to-School Night on Wednesday, September 4, 2019.** In much the same way that 21st century learning may look different from when we (as parents) were in school, “open house” is being tweaked out of necessity to a new model for parent orientation this year. Instead of parents walking the bell schedule through the 8 periods in their child’s schedule to hear about the teacher and courses, we will offer a “virtual” format this year. Each teacher’s Back-to-School Night presentation will be posted online in a video format, allowing parents to see and hear from their child’s teacher about the class from the comfort of their own home. For those parents who still want to visit the campus in person on Back-to-School Night, we will offer a variety of general information sessions and a chance to learn about your child’s school, support programs, and technology. More detailed information about our new Back-to-School Night schedule and format will be forthcoming. We know this is a departure from the traditional Back-to-School Night experience that you may be used to, so we appreciate your understanding and flexibility as we manage current construction and adjust to modernization at Bowie High School!

Summer is the ideal time for students and their parents to **develop a plan to prepare for college entrance exams.** College applications are submitted during a student’s senior year, primarily in the fall semester, so we recommend that students take at least one [ACT](#) or SAT exam (but likely multiple exams) prior to their senior year. Bowie High School and Austin ISD are committed to supporting its students taking these exams by registering and paying for: freshmen to take the PSAT 8/9 exam; sophomores to take the PSAT exam; and juniors to take both the PSAT and the [College Board SAT](#). All of these exams will be scheduled and administered during the school day. Students are

encouraged to take additional steps to prepare for these exams, such as [linking their PSAT scores to Khan Academy](#) in order to complete personalized online practice modules, and taking free “mock” SAT and/or ACT exams offered at Bowie throughout the school year. College & Career Counselor Carli Valverde and the Bowie counseling team, with the support of our friends at [More Than a Teacher](#), will be hosting informational nights and other events this year to help students and parents navigate the entrance exam and application process. In addition to the abundant resources available on the [JBHS website](#), we have created a flyer with some more detailed information about [exam preparation activities planned for 2019-20](#).

We hope that everyone is enjoying the summer break! As a reminder to everyone, your student only has about a month to **complete any summer reading and/or homework assignments** for select Pre-AP and AP courses! Information and directions about Pre-AP and AP summer assignments can be found on the Counseling page of the [JBHS website](#). Stay cool Bulldog Nation!

Sincerely,

Mark Robinson
Principal
James Bowie High School
Follow me on [Twitter](#) @robinson_mark_a

A Recognized School of Excellence

4103 W. Slaughter Lane • Austin, Texas 78749 • 512-414-5247 • FAX 512-292-0527