



JAMES BOWIE HIGH SCHOOL

Wednesday, January 29, 2020

Greetings, Bulldog Nation!

Congratulations go to Ms. Erin Kowalik on being named the James Bowie High School **Teacher of the Year for 2019-2020!** Ms. Kowalik graduated from Trinity University with a Bachelor of Science in Biology, before receiving her Master of Arts in Education from New Mexico State University in 2008. Erin worked in lab research at multiple universities before becoming a teacher at Bowie in 2008. We are very proud of Ms. Kowalik!

The mission of James Bowie High School is to nurture all learners in their academic and career goals, social needs, and personal interests, while celebrating diversity and preparing students for their futures. One of the strategic ways we accomplish this mission is by guiding students in the thoughtful selection of courses of interest and at the appropriate level of challenge. The counseling team has revamped the [course scheduling section](#) of the Bowie website and **organized several activities to make the course advising process more accessible, informative, and clear.** Over the last three weeks, for example, counselors have been making presentations in the 9th grade World Geography classes, the 10th grade World History classes, and the 11th grade English classes about graduation requirements, electives and pathways, options to earn college credit, and more. Students were given a **Choice Sheet** (find a copy [here](#)) by the counselors to be signed by a parent or guardian and **turned-in on Thursday, February 20, 2020**, when they enter their course selections in TEAMS. Between now and this due date, the Bowie teachers will spend some class time discussing course options in their respective subject areas. To allow students to better understand the nature and expectations of various courses, **teachers produced informational videos that you may also view on the Bowie website** (videos are linked [here](#)). We also want students to thoughtfully consider how their course selections could impact their school-life balance, so all students will be guided through a [time-management activity](#) that involves looking at the [estimated homework commitment](#) of Bowie courses.

In mid-February through March, after students have submitted their Choice Sheets and entered their courses in TEAMS, **the counselors will begin to meet with each student for about 10 minutes** to review the course selections, making adjustments as appropriate. Course verifications will be sent via parent emails sometime in May. Students and parents can make changes to the course selections until the last day of school on Thursday, May 28, 2020. Because staff and programming decisions are

contingent on the students' course requests, course change-of-mind requests can not be honored after May 28, 2020. Thank you, parents, for partnering with us to make sure all of our students make the best possible choices for their interests, aptitudes, and commitments.

The [Austin ISD 2019–20 Family Survey](#) is now available and is accepting responses online through March 6, 2020. Families are encouraged to participate so they can share input on district and campus performance. The survey includes questions about how well school staff and leadership communicate with parents, as well as how easily parents may communicate about their students and learn about the programs offered at their school. The results will help district leadership learn how to best to improve services for our students.

This Friday, January 31, is the last day to order yearbook senior ads with guaranteed space, and it's also the last day to save \$15 on the 2020 yearbook. Go to BowieYB.com to order. Next week the yearbook staff will reallocate extra pages from senior ads, so don't miss out on the chance to honor your graduate's achievements.

A quick reminder that **Thursday, January 30, 2020, is a late start.** All Bowie faculty and staff will be gathered for a faculty meeting tomorrow morning. The first bell for classes rings at 10 a.m. and buses will run one hour later than normally scheduled.

Go Dawgs!
Mark Robinson

Principal
James Bowie High School
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