



James Bowie High School

❖ Pride In Performance ❖

Wednesday, October 23, 2019

Greetings Bulldog Nation,

Homecoming is this weekend! The **Homecoming Game** is Friday, October 25, 2019, at Burger Stadium at 7:30 p.m., and we will be crowning our Homecoming King and Queen during halftime. The **Homecoming Dance** is Saturday, October 26, from 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. at James Bowie High School. Homecoming at Bowie is much more than a high school dance, and our **PTSA** does an amazing job ensuring that there is something fun for all students. We will have a big screen projecting movies in the courtyard, there will be games for the students to play, and we will also have food trucks for students to purchase snacks at their own expense. The last day to purchase pre-sale tickets is tomorrow for \$10.00 (cash only.) Students can purchase tickets before school in room B218, during both lunches at the Kennel, or in front of the library. Students will be able to purchase tickets at the door on Saturday for \$15.00. Students must have their Bowie student ID to purchase tickets and will also need their ID to check in to the dance on Saturday as well. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the **Student Council Sponsor Kaylin Brett** at kaylin.brett@austinisd.org.

As you know, regular attendance at school is critical for your child's academic success. With that in mind, we would like to share some **important notes about attendance**. School starts with the first bell at 8:50 a.m., classes start at 9:00 a.m., and ends at 4:30 p.m. Students have a six minute passing period and need to be in their classrooms ready to work before the tardy bell rings. One of our campus improvement plan goals is to **increase average daily attendance to at least 96.5%** to move us into the first quartile with our campus comparison group. If your child is ill and contagious, please keep him/her home. However, if they are well enough to attend school, please make sure they do. We don't want them to miss anything!

Austin ISD is required to submit its attendance to the Texas Education Agency reflecting student attendance at a specific time each day. Please try to schedule appointments for your child after school, but if that is too difficult, try and **schedule appointments before/after the official attendance-recording time of 10:15 a.m.** Part of the school funding formula is based on average daily attendance. We want students to be counted present for the day as much as possible! If we increase average daily attendance in Austin ISD we increase funding, and every little bit helps!

All high school students must be in **attendance for a minimum of ninety percent (90%)** of the total number of days the class is offered. No distinction is made between excused and unexcused absences. When your child is absent, please make sure you provide written documentation for the absence. Notes from parents may be emailed from the parent's email address to the campus attendance clerk. There are incentives for student attendance as well. A more detailed description of the Austin ISD Absence and Attendance policy can be found directly in each [2019-2020 Student/Parent Handbook](#) or the [Attendance and Learning](#) page of the James Bowie High School website.

Research conducted within the last 5 years by the [Anti-Defamation League \(ADL\)](#) shows that one out of five students in school have been bullied; one out of four have been cyberbullied; three out of four have been harassed for their race, religion, ethnicity, and/or their perceived sexual orientation; and a majority have been harassed because of their size or body shape. These alarming statistics necessitate a fervent commitment to fighting issues of bias and bullying. Since 2014 Bowie has proudly maintained designation from the ADL as a **No Place for Hate®** campus by annually participating in three student-developed, campus-wide activities.

Two of Bowie's 2019-20 No Place for Hate® activities were successfully launched last week. The members of our Student Leadership class partnered with teachers to introduce the [Pyramid of Hate](#) and [SpeakUp](#)

strategies to seniors in small groups. The message delivered by seniors to their peers in this lesson is that allowing all forms of bias language to go unchallenged, even if the bias language seems innocuous or is presented as a “joke,” contributes to a culture that tolerates more brazen forms of bias language and hate. The lesson encourages students to interrupt those using bias language, to echo others interrupting bias language, to question the use of bias language, and to educate those using bias language as to why it’s harmful. Students are also encouraged to seek assistance from a teacher or another trusted adult when they encounter bias language and aren’t sure how to respond. This lesson was well-received by seniors and will be taught to students in grades 9 through 11 in their English classes in the weeks to come. Please take a few minutes to emphasize to your child the importance of this lesson and its message.

Following the PSAT exam last Wednesday, all students participated in the second No Place for Hate® activity, the “**Leaf**” **Hate Behind Fall Fest**. Held in the courtyard, students were invited to sign the No Place for Hate® pledge, vote in the pumpkin decorating contest, dance in the “pit,” and participate in carnival-type games intended to reinforce messages of kindness, inclusiveness, and unity. After the intensity of taking the PSAT exam, our students very much enjoyed the opportunity to laugh and play with their friends! On the heels of a successful Fall Fest, the Student Leadership class is already planning for the next No Place for Hate® activity -- details to come!

The SELebration TEAM has made its debut here at Bowie and we need your help! The **SELebration TEAM** (Together Everyone, Achieves, More) was created to encourage and foster Social and Emotional Learning among the staff. The goal of the SELebration TEAM will be to continue to foster a positive school wide community. We want all staff, bus drivers to teachers, to feel valued and part of our wonderful community. The SELebration TEAM is an active, working committee that plans and provides opportunities for staff to be appreciated, celebrated, and engage in activities that continue to build and maintain positive and trusting relationships. If you are looking for an opportunity to support the teachers and staff here at Bowie, please consider donating. Your donations will go towards various appreciations, celebrations, staff prize drawings, and more. Any contribution would be greatly appreciated! Click **HERE** to donate or purchase items off the wish list.

It is **not too late to join Bowie’s PTSA!** The PTSA is a terrific way to be an effective partner in your child’s education. PTSA does not require much time or money – just an interest in knowing more about your child’s school and helping your student succeed. It’s a great way to be an effective partner in your child’s education. Research shows that students whose families are involved in their education are more likely to succeed academically and often have better behavior. Bowie's Parent Teacher Student Association is here to help you do that. PTSA is the organization that sponsors schoolwide programs like the Bulldogs and Hotdogs Festival, the Homecoming Dance, offers scholarships to seniors and raises funds for school initiatives. Austin PTA members have also worked together to help make CapMetro rides free for students and to advocate for more money for Texas public schools. Please consider joining here: www.bowieptsa.org.

Sincerely,
Mark Robinson

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James Bowie High School
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A Recognized School of Excellence

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