



James Bowie High School

❖ Pride In Performance ❖

Tuesday, October 8, 2019

Greetings Bulldog Nation,

As you are probably aware, Friday, October 11, and Monday, October 14, are student holidays. ([Bowie's 2019-20 A/B Calendar](#)) While Monday is a district-wide day of staff professional development, the entire Bowie Vertical Team (BVT) -- meaning all the elementary and middle schools that feed into Bowie -- requested that Friday also be designated a District of Innovation (DOI) day for additional professional development. The District of Innovation concept, passed by the 84th Texas Legislative Session in House Bill 1842, is intended to give districts and individual campuses more local control over their planning in order to accomplish their respective and unique goals. On Friday the teachers of the BVT will come together at Bailey Middle School for a day of professional learning, beginning with a keynote address delivered by Dr. David Yeager, a professor at the University of Texas at Austin and renowned researcher in the areas of growth, belonging, and purpose mindsets. (Click [here](#) to learn about the importance of mindsets to learning). Breakout sessions throughout the day will give teachers the opportunity to better align instructional practices and curriculum for Kindergarten through 12th grade.

During our professional development planning for the year, we learned that our teachers were seeking advice about how to respond when someone—a student, a colleague, even a parent—uses biased language or stereotypes in school. The Speak Up training planned for staff on Monday, October 14, will give teachers the means to encourage positive identity development for all students and to intervene when they hear biased language. This intensive workshop will introduce the staff to the [Pyramid of Hate](#) to emphasize the importance of challenging all manifestations of prejudice and discrimination. There will also be an opportunity for the teachers to role-play the four speak-up-to-hate [strategies](#): interrupt, question, educate, and echo. We believe that modeling the kind of behavior we want from students-- in this case, these tangible strategies-- is one of the most effective ways of teaching it. In addition, our students will be directly trained in the Speak Up vocabulary and strategies by the end of the fall semester in their English classes, so that our entire school is standing in solidarity against hate with a common approach.

This week, October 7 to 11, Bowie will be celebrating Pride Week-- a time set aside each October by Austin ISD to celebrate LGBTQIA+ students, staff and families. Austin ISD's Pride Week is part of the district's [Respect for All](#) initiative, which focuses on creating a positive learning environment, preventing harassment, and honoring the diverse backgrounds and needs of each student.

Each morning this week, Bowie's SAGA (Sexuality and Gender Acceptance) Club members will be spending some time on the morning announcements sharing the stories and contributions of influential figures outside of the heteronormative community. In addition, the music of LGBTQIA+ artists will reverberate in the halls between every class period. Staff members wear Pride gear to demonstrate their support for their students, and particularly this week, teachers are encouraged to integrate social and emotional learning into their curriculum that builds students' awareness and acceptance of all

groups of people. Ultimately, Bowie's role in celebrating Pride Week is to highlight our commitment to creating a safe, supportive, and inclusive environment.

Finally, I want to remind you that on Wednesday, October 16, freshmen, sophomores, and juniors will be taking the PSAT, while seniors will be participating in several meaningful activities to explore various issues of equity. For more information about the PSAT and the October 16 senior activities, check out the videos we created for our students by clicking [here](#). Those students taking the PSAT are encouraged to bring a calculator for the test, and all students grades 9-12 should bring their fully charged Chromebooks in order to complete grade-level activities after the test. You will receive additional reminders via Naviance in advance of the PSAT.

We have been working with the City of Austin to correct the signage and timing of the light at the entrance and exit to the campus at Slaughter Lane. As a reminder to anyone [picking up or dropping off students](#), the drive loop around Lot A is now open. To access the loop around student Lot A please use the Slaughter entrance and the left thru-traffic lane in front of the campus. When you pass the big red canopy and main crosswalk at the front of the school, take a slight left to enter the loop. Once on the loop, pick-up/drop-off can happen in the right lane and the left lane will be for thru traffic; just like the drive in front of campus that exits on Wolftrap. When students leave the school at dismissal, everyone should walk to the main crosswalk at the front of campus. Once a student is in the crosswalk by the handicapped parking spaces, they can survey the entire Lot A and loop drive to the Slaughter exit from that protected vantage point. Students are able to walk through the parking lot with the students who have parked there to walk to their ride.

The opening of student Lot A has also increased our ability to provide handicap parking and visitor parking for our community. The City of Austin, Page Architects, and Bowie High School encourage anyone picking up or dropping off students to use one of the two drive lanes on campus. It is much safer for cars to enter campus to pick up and drop off, than it is to back up and wait on Slaughter Lane for students to enter or exit a vehicle. Thanks again for all your help and support with our traffic improvements!

The date for Bowie's graduation ceremony has been set for the Frank Erwin Center on Wednesday, May 27, 2020, at 7:00 p.m.

Sincerely,
Mark Robinson

Principal
James Bowie High School
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A Recognized School of Excellence

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