



James Bowie High School

❖ Pride In Performance ❖

Wednesday, November 13, 2019

Greetings Bulldog Nation,

We are so proud to announce that our housekeeping staff was awarded the “**2018-2019 CLEANEST SCHOOL AWARD**” for Austin ISD! This is the first time for this award to be presented to Bowie! In one of my recent meetings with the Principal’s Panel several of the students commented on how clean our team keeps the school. It was great to see them honored by the district with this award. Way to go staff!

James Bowie High School students and faculty will have the unique opportunity to see a **U.S. Army UH-60 “Blackhawk” helicopter land and take off from the athletic fields on December 2, 2019**. The event, coordinated between district and school officials, Bowie’s Air Force Junior ROTC program and the Texas Army National Guard will also allow some classes the chance to tour the helicopter and talk with the aircrew and other aviation professionals, with an emphasis on the STEM aspects of careers in aviation and emergency rescue.

We are entering the start of cold and flu season which starts now and usually peaks December through February. **Please remember that Bowie is offering a free flu shot clinic for students on November 21, 2019**. Parent permission forms are available in the front office or can be accessed [here](#). Flu shots are also available at clinics and most pharmacies and the cost may be covered by your insurance plan. All forms need to be returned to the Bowie front office by Friday, November 15. Students will receive a pass to attend the flu clinic the day prior. For more information about the flu and flu prevention, visit www.cdc.gov/flu or call 1-800-CDC-INFO. The CDC recommends the following preventive actions:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand rub.
- Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue when you cough or sneeze. Throw tissue away in trash can after one use.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.
- Try to avoid close contact with sick people.
- If you or your child gets sick with flu-like illness, CDC recommends that you (or your child) stay home for at least 24 hours after the fever is gone except to get medical care or for other necessities. The fever should be gone without the use of a fever-reducing medicine. While sick, limit contact with others to keep from infecting them.

Next month, students will take their **fall semester final exams**. The [schedule](#) for Friday, December 13, through Thursday, December 19, is now posted on the JBHS website. Students who have maintained excellent attendance will be able to claim incentive “certificates” which allow them to replace their exam grade in one or two of their classes with their semester average, if it’s higher, when calculating the fall semester exam grade. Please note this is not an “exemption” because AISD board policy requires all students to take a semester exam in every class; even in classes for which they intend to use their attendance incentive certificate.

The **attendance incentive program**, developed and piloted in AISD at Bowie, continues to be popular with Bowie students and has proven to be an effective strategy to promote attendance, which in turn, helps drive academic achievement. (Please see the [policy](#) in its entirety and the [FAQs](#) posted on the JBHS website for more information.) The attendance incentive program has been reviewed several times by staff, students, and parents to ensure it remains effective, fair to students, and manageable for our staff. While several improvements have been incorporated as a result of these conversations, one of the conclusions reached is that there exists no feasible and equitable way of examining individual attendance records to make exceptions for students with a high number of absences caused by extenuating circumstances such as extended illness, injury, or family emergency. Bowie must use the attendance record reported to the state and the the TEA absence codes to determine eligibility to earn exam certificates. (Please see the complete list of TEAMS codes [here](#).) While some students may not qualify for an incentive due to various and sometimes exceptional circumstances, we are confident that our teachers administer exams that are aligned to the curriculum and consistent with grades earned throughout the semester. Therefore all students are positioned to be successful on all of their final exams.

Attendance incentive certificates for the fall will be distributed on Friday, December 13, on the first floor of C-hall before/after school, during both lunches, or during class with the permission of their teacher. **December 13 is the ONLY day that certificates will be distributed** – students who don't pick up their certificates will be unable to redeem them. Please note that library obligations must be cleared before a student can collect their incentive certificate. On the day of the semester exam, students will submit the certificate to the teacher of the course in which they would like to use it. In the upcoming weeks, teachers will be reviewing the exam incentive policies and procedures with their students.

Go Dawgs!
Mark Robinson

Principal
James Bowie High School
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A Recognized School of Excellence
