



James Bowie High School

❖ Pride In Performance ❖

Tuesday, December 10, 2019

Greetings Bulldog Nation,

In August 2019, a representative contingent of Bowie teacher leaders and instructional staff wrestled with how to best identify and articulate the purpose, meaning, and focus of our work with students. After much thoughtful consideration and debate, they crafted and embraced the following statement:

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.

Our subsequent charge is to design programs, make decisions, and foster a culture oriented to and grounded in this mission. We are excited that our current 8th grade students, the Class of 2024, will reap the benefits of our renewed commitments and focus, while still experiencing and enjoying the traditions built over Bowie's 32-year history of "Pride in Performance."

Having served as a middle school principal before I came to Bowie, I am very much aware of the anticipation and anxiety that accompanies the transition to high school. Therefore, we are taking the opportunity of this school year to strengthen that transition for our future Bulldogs and their parents. I am excited to share what we have planned!

MIDDLE SCHOOL CAMPUS VISIT - During the month of January, I will visit our main feeder middle schools to meet our rising freshmen and let them know about an exciting opportunity to learn more about James Bowie High School. Then, on Friday, January 31, 2020, all 8th grade Bailey Middle School, Gorzycki Middle School, and Small Middle School students living in the Bowie attendance zone will be bussed to JBHS and welcomed for a campus visit. Junior and Senior student leaders will accompany small groups of 8th graders as they meet students from other middle schools in team-building activities, get their questions about high school answered by a student panel, and explore Bowie on a campus tour to discover it's not as big and scary as they may think!

SHOWCASE NIGHT - We know that our parents and students want to know more about classes and clubs at Bowie before selecting courses for freshmen year. We will host our annual 9th Grade Showcase Night on the evening of February 6, 2020, from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. Eighth-grade students and their families will be able to walk the campus, attend informational presentations, visit club and program booths, and chat with current Bowie students and staff.

COURSE SELECTION GUIDANCE - Often the process of selecting courses in high school creates significant angst for students and families. Navigating the graduation requirements, pondering potential career pathways, anticipating the impact for college applications, determining the appropriate level of course rigor, and ensuring school-life balance, is a lot to take into consideration. To support our families with decision making, we are creating additional resources for the JBHS website to provide more succinct guidance about the course selection process, as well as teacher-created informational videos about specific courses, languages, fine arts programs, and elective career

pathways. Our amazing counseling team will be meeting with students at each middle school campus finalize course selections and inviting 8th-grade parents and caretakers to be there when they meet with the students individually. We want all of our students and parents to have as much information as possible about the awesome opportunities at Bowie!

MEET MR. ROBINSON - No doubt some parents and caretakers are apprehensive about what high school life will be like for their child. Will my child be physically, psychologically, and emotionally safe? Will my child be known, respected and valued as an individual? Can my child be academically challenged and empowered in their learning? Will they be adequately supported if they struggle? Toward the end of the school year in May, I will be visiting Bailey, Small, and Gorzycki to informally chat with parents and caretakers curious about questions like these or anything else about Bowie High School.

CAMP BOWIE EXPRESS - To support our rising freshmen in developing a belonging mindset at Bowie, we want everyone in Bulldog Nation to be familiar with some of our traditions before we start the 2020-21 school year. Because on-going construction will require campus to be closed over the summer, our freshmen transition camp -- "Camp Bowie Express" -- will be offered on Saturday, May 2, or Saturday, May 9. This is a great opportunity for students to make new friends, get tips from upperclassmen, learn the logistics of daily campus life, and start internalizing Bulldog values and ways.

After 30+ years of excellence, James Bowie High School continues to innovate and improve. The Class of 2024 will be the first to enjoy the completed modernization of our fine arts and athletic facilities, as well as new STEM and CTE pathways, additional language opportunities, and state- and nationally-recognized extracurricular programs. These students will also be joining a campus community that is growing its cultural proficiency and intentional in its efforts to ensure safety and inclusiveness for all. And still ... there is so much more!

To learn more about everything Bowie has to offer, I enthusiastically encourage all of the 8th graders and their families in the Bowie vertical team to participate in the upcoming transition activities and to be on the lookout for more specific information to come from me and our wonderful counseling staff.

Welcome to Bowie, Class of 2024!

Go Bulldogs!

Mark Robinson
Principal
James Bowie High School

A Recognized School of Excellence

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