



JAMES BOWIE HIGH SCHOOL

Thursday, February 27, 2020

Greetings, Bulldog Nation!

All Juniors will take the College Board SAT exam from approximately 9:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. on Wednesday, March 4, 2020. Reflecting a commitment to graduating all students “college-, career-, and life-ready,” Austin ISD will cover all fees associated with the exam and will automatically register every Junior. It is important that all Juniors arrive on time and be ready to do their best. They are encouraged to eat a hearty breakfast and bring a snack as they will not be released from testing for lunch until approximately 1:30 p.m. **Calculators** are not required for the SAT, but they **are encouraged and most students prefer using one**. Because Bowie does not have enough graphing calculators for every 11th grade student taking the SAT on Wednesday to use, and because students may not share calculators during the exam session, Juniors are encouraged to bring their own (click [here](#) for a complete list of allowable calculators). Most juniors are aware of and have already been accessing the personalized SAT preparation modules available on Khan Academy, as well as some of the [other College Board resources](#). Please visit the College Board’s SAT [home page](#) or contact Bowie’s testing coordinator Wendy Escobedo (wendy.escobedo@austinisd.org) for additional information.

As will be necessary throughout construction over the next few years, we are constantly re-evaluating changing conditions on campus and trying to reasonably balance safety, convenience, efficiency, and put systems that work in place for our entire community. The traffic pattern at James Bowie High School has changed considerably for this school year and will be modified again for the 2020-2021 school year as construction continues and improvements are made. At this time we are **actively planning for future construction in athletics and fine arts next year and need your help!**

The traffic consultants on the Bowie project have designed two one-way traffic loops: one in the front of the campus, entering from Slaughter Lane, for student parking, pick up and drop off, as well as short and long term visitor parking; and the other, entering from Wolftrap, around the back of campus and exiting on Slaughter for everyone who has business with the school - faculty/staff, AISD and visitor buses, commercial deliveries, and increasing traffic associated with construction. Parking for large events, after school hours, and on weekends is available in student Lot A. For the remainder of this school year there will be one route through campus from Slaughter to Wolftrap as well.

Making the loop down the sides and around the back of campus a one way drive is necessary for several reasons. There is a high volume of school bus traffic, including the shuttle bus that runs from 6:30 a.m. to 10:00 p.m., and virtually all faculty and staff using that drive. As you know, we have students traveling to and from the portables and athletic fields throughout the day. Recently, the SROs have grown increasingly concerned about drivers turning into traffic or traveling against the flow of traffic causing frequent close-calls or near-misses for pedestrian and vehicle accidents.

Because safety is paramount, I would like to remind everyone in our student drivers and everyone in our parent community about the importance of following the established traffic patterns. **All student traffic, parents, and visitors to Bowie are to use the drive lanes in front of the campus.** At no time should

parents enter the campus at Wolftrap or drive around the back loop -- **the Wolftrap entrance and the back loop are for school buses, Austin ISD and staff vehicles only.** I realize that this may be a new habit or less convenient in some cases, but in the interests of safety, we need everyone in our Bowie school community to follow this traffic pattern. Austin ISD police will be enforcing the traffic pattern outlined for Bowie. We will continue to monitor, review, evaluate, and add additional signage so that the system is clear for everyone, including students, parents, and visitors to the campus.

I greatly appreciate your support in this matter.

Go Dawgs!

Mark Robinson

Principal

James Bowie High School

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