



# JAMES BOWIE HIGH SCHOOL

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Friday, March 20, 2020

Bowie Parents & Guardians,

As I write this, I am keenly aware that our Bowie families are facing a host of never-imagined challenges and insecurities related to the unprecedented circumstances caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. I hope that you are comforted knowing that you are part of a community that cares deeply for its students and their families.

**I trust that you are all aware by now of the district's decisions to cancel classes through Friday, April 3, 2020, with the presumption that remote learning will commence on Monday, April 6, for an undetermined period of time until we are able to return to a normal schedule of operations on campus.** While the plan is fluid and continues to evolve in response to changing conditions, the current thinking is that between now and April 6, our amazing teachers will work and meet remotely to develop online learning activities and resources to ensure your child's academic progress continues. Bowie is an AISD Everyone:1 campus and our teachers have led the district in their use of BLEND, the district's Learning Management System (LMS.) Therefore, I am comfortable that the transition to a primarily online platform can be accomplished in our school community. My personal request is that you **extend our teachers amazing amounts of grace** as they learn new tools and re-imagine lessons for the online platform, all while managing their own children and families at home.

There are a few logistics I want to address. Most importantly, per district directive, **the Bowie campus is closed to everyone until further notice**, so please do not visit the campus for any reason. We know that some students would like to retrieve items left at school, have their Chromebooks serviced, or pick up documents such as VOE forms or transcripts, etc., but we will need the next couple of weeks to work out a plan for these requests. Second, because of City of Austin restrictions on group gatherings and the District closing facilities for the next two weeks, all Bowie activities (meetings, games, practices, rehearsals, etc.) have been canceled through at least Friday, April 3. On Thursday, March 19, the [UIL](#) officially suspended all contests, practices, rehearsals and workouts until further notice. The only exception for people on campus would be for those critical events and controlled activities coordinated by staff if an online platform is not available. Official decisions about prom, graduation, exams, and other end-of-year events have not yet been made, but it is possible/likely that more cancelations will be forthcoming from the district if COVID-19 concerns persist.

Hopefully, many of your Bowie-specific questions will be answered over the next couple of weeks as our staff starts to navigate these new challenges. In the meantime, I encourage you to review the most recent [FAQs](#) shared by the district, submit any

questions you may have using the [Let's Talk](#) portal, and keep checking the district's [Coronavirus webpage](#) for important updates.

While the world seems to have shifted suddenly and dramatically, there also exists an opportunity for each of us in the Bowie community to embrace the challenges, grow from the experience, and truly embody the Bowie mantra of "Pride in Performance" in the weeks to come. I appreciate your patience and support, and wish health and safety to you and your families.

Sincerely,  
Mark Robinson

Principal  
James Bowie High School  
Follow me on [Twitter](#) @robinson\_mark\_a