



JAMES BOWIE HIGH SCHOOL

Monday, March 30, 2020

Bowie Parents & Guardians,

District and campus leaders were very busy and productive all of last week developing plans to ensure continuous learning after April 6, 2020, for our students. Our teachers have been focused on professional development and planning for online learning to start one week from today. I do not yet have a complete or detailed plan to share with you because we are still grappling with some complex issues and logistical obstacles, but I do want to share what I know at this point.

Instruction for Advanced Courses (ACC Dual Credit, UT OnRamps, and Advanced Placement) - The canceling of classes because of the Coronavirus outbreak has forced changes in both the preparation and exam schedules for our advanced courses and examinations. All of the advanced courses will require students to have a working computer and internet connectivity. Students in any of the advanced courses who do not have the necessary technology should email Susan Leos at susan.leos@austinisd.org

- **ACC Dual Credit** will restart on March 30, 2020. All courses will now be administered online. All students who are in dual credit courses will be contacted by their ACC professor to ensure that students know where to find course resources. Students who have not been contacted by their professor should email Carli Valverde at carli.valverde@austinisd.org
- **Advanced Placement** - The examinations will all be taken at home in the form of free-response essays or short-answer questions. The College Board is providing [free video review lessons](#) for students that can be immediately accessed. Online instruction and support from the Bowie AP teachers will begin on April 6, 2020.
- **UT OnRamps** - The courses will restart on April 6, 2020. UT has adjusted the curriculum so students will be able to complete the coursework by the end of the semester. Our teachers will continue to support our students online. College credit will still be available for all eligible students.

Instruction for Academic Courses - District leaders are finalizing how to effectively deliver online learning and how to equitably calculate grades for all high school students in a manner that balances the wide range of needs and circumstances across our community with the district's commitment to continuous learning during campus closures. It has become apparent that simply moving the existing curriculum online for all classes and all students is not feasible, so the district leaders are crafting a more comprehensive plan that ensures equity, compliance, and quality of instruction. The district is still aiming to commence with online continuous learning on April 6, but

because of the aforementioned issues, I have asked the Bowie teachers to not communicate any specific assignments or plans to students until we receive more guidance from the district.

College Examination Updates

- **TSI** - The examination must be taken in a certified testing site. There is an option for students to take the examination at home. The High School Office is investigating whether the option is viable.
- **SAT** - The March and May examinations have been canceled. The June 6 SAT is still scheduled. Khan Academy will be available for all students to prepare for the examination.
- **ACT** - The April examination has been canceled. The next scheduled exam is June 13, 2020.

Academic Resources - Although not for a grade, our Bulldogs can keep their minds active and their literacy skills on track by using the following digital resources:

- All students can access the **MackinVIA app** from the AISD Portal (<https://portal.austinisd.org/>) to check out ebooks and audiobooks, as well as access news and nonfiction (DOGOnews articles on the home page, and several databases with research and current news events).
- Many students have their Austin Public Library card and can access their **Virtual Library** (<http://library.austintexas.gov/virtual>) for books, ebooks, elearning, entertainment, and more.
- **AISD Learning At-Home Public Website:**
<https://sites.google.com/austinisd.org/aisd-learning-at-home>

Technology Resources

- **Internet/WiFi:** Include [Charter WiFi](#) free for 60 Days, AT&T hotspots throughout the City of Austin, AISD buses with wifi access, and [Spectrum free internet access](#) for qualifying families.
- **AISD Support (accessing BLEND, Teams, and other AISD systems)**
 - Parent Help: call 512-414-9187 or email parenttechsupport@austinisd.org
 - Student Help: call 512-414-4357 or submit help [form](#)
- **Chromebooks** - Given the Order to shelter-in-place, we are unable to repair Chromebooks at the campus. The district is developing a plan for distribution of devices.

At this time we are unable to issue Verification of Enrollment (VOE) forms from the campus as well. According to the [Texas Department of Public Safety website](#), license offices are also closed. When the shelter in place order has been lifted, we will announce procedures returning to campus or picking up VOEs. Thank you for your continued patience as we work through this time together.

I am also pleased to share with you that Bowie's amazing nurse Shari Petersen, RN has created a website for the [Bowie Health Office](#). While it is still being developed and there

will be more great content added, she has prioritized the most current and pressing needs, providing links to the AISD COVID community page and every useful resource she thought would be helpful to someone, including when and how to get tested for the Coronavirus. There is also information about Telehealth and links to help families use that resource at home if needed.

Please know that we are here to support you and your family during these difficult and unknown times. Our staff is checking their email, so please don't hesitate to reach out to your child's teacher, assistant principal, counselor, registrar, etc., with any questions you may have. We may not yet have all the answers, but we will do our best to assist you.

Sincerely,
Mark Robinson

Principal
James Bowie High School
Follow me on [Twitter](#) @robinson_mark_a