



JAMES BOWIE HIGH SCHOOL

May 19, 2020

Dear Bulldog Nation,

With the end of the 2019-20 school year just days away, I've been reflecting on all that we have learned and done this year, mindful of what has worked and why, and excited to consider the possibilities of a new school year in the fall. I am amazed at how quickly our Bowie school community has been able to shift to a new instructional model and find new ways for students to demonstrate learning. I appreciate the agility of our teachers, the consistent support of our parents, and of course, the resilience of our students, particularly the seniors in the Class of 2020.

To honor our seniors, a **Class of 2020 Send Off Salute*** event has been organized for the evening of Wednesday, May 27, on the date originally planned for our graduation ceremony. Seniors are invited to decorate their cars, put on their cap and gown with all of the graduation regalia, and have someone, preferably a family member, drive them through the Bowie campus one more time. The Bowie teachers and staff will line the perimeter of the campus (socially distancing and wearing masks so unfortunately, you won't be able to see our smiling faces but), cheering and waving to the seniors as they make the drive from Wolftrap to Slaughter.

*Please note that this is **not a public event so spectators will not be allowed on campus**, but rather a time for the seniors and their teachers to share in the celebration of their accomplishments given the extreme limitations that we are all living under. We wanted to plan an event in collaboration with the Class of 2020 student officers for our grads to have an opportunity for a final connection with all of the staff at Bowie, even if it's yards apart. Seniors and their parents should expect to receive a Naviance email with detailed instructions about participating in the Senior Send Off Salute.

Speaking of amazing seniors ... you may have seen on social media that Dr. Cruz and I made an appearance at the homes of two of our distinguished seniors to let them know they have the highest grade point averages in the Class of 2020. **Valedictorian Talia Hanley** has participated in Student Leadership, choir, yearbook, and Business Professionals of America (BPA), among other activities in her time at Bowie. **Salutatorian Kathryn Cole** is a three-sport scholar athlete - volleyball, basketball, and lacrosse - a National Merit Finalist, Who's Who recipient, and also in BPA. These two young women exemplify James Bowie High School's motto of *Pride in Performance*. Congratulations, Talia and Katie!

The AISD Department of Communications and Community Engagement, wanting seniors to feel uplifted and accomplished despite the current circumstances, created **temporary Facebook profile picture frames** for students and their friends/family to add to their pictures. They have created frames: 4 per campus (56 total) - 1 in English and 1 in Spanish for grads and 1 in English and 1 in Spanish for friends/family. To access the frames, students/family will click the update profile picture button on Facebook, select the frame option, and then search for their school name or AISD. This will give them a drop down menu where they can easily find the frames to celebrate a senior in their life!

Teachers are currently working to **finalize grade reporting for the spring semester**. The official **last day of school for this year is Tuesday, May 26, 2020**. As you know, while students' coursework prior to Spring Break will not be calculated in their rank or cumulative GPA, students must still receive "P" (proficient) for the 10-week grading period and subsequent continuous learning online in order to receive credits in the course and to remain on track for graduation. Please check your child's 10-week averages for each course in Teams, the official gradebook tool for AISD. If your child is failing any of their courses (with an average less than 70), contact your child's teacher if you haven't already done so about grade remediation opportunities. Thank you for double-checking your child's grades! We want everyone to learn whatever is required for success in the next grade level or course.

Millions of people feel more stressed than ever as the result of the Coronavirus pandemic, and while it's easy to succumb to fear, there is still room for optimism. **May is Mental Health Awareness Month** so I wanted to share this short two-minute [video message](#) from Joey Hubbard, Thrive Global's Chief Training Officer. These healthy strategies to help reduce our anxiety are more important now than ever. I hope that everyone in our school community can benefit from Mr. Hubbard's thinking!

Until we can meet at the tree,

Mark Robinson
Principal, James Bowie High School
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