



JAMES BOWIE HIGH SCHOOL

June 5, 2020

Dear Bulldog Nation,

Austin ISD Superintendent and Board of Trustees issued a [statement](#) on the killings of George Floyd and Mike Ramos at the June 2, 2020, board meeting. Bowie High School stands with the district in response to recent events in our city and nation. **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. **[Cultural Proficiency and Inclusiveness \(CP&I\)](#) has been identified as one of our Values and Initiatives since the 2017-2018 school year** and shapes not only the professional learning of our campus and district staff, but also the Social and Emotional Learning of our students. This year we are proud to get to share some of our CP&I work that we have done as a [SEL Seed Model Campus](#) with our colleagues in the district at the Austin ISD SEL Symposium on June 11, 2020. Given our current conversations as families and as a nation, I wanted to **share our [video](#) with you** to provide a frame of reference to connect with your student.

We are proud to have the best counseling team ever at Bowie! The counselors greatly appreciate your patience and flexibility over the COVID-19 pandemic and wish you a wonderful summer. **Counselors will be out of the office after June 5** and will be returning messages when they are back on contract after summer break on July 27.

The counseling resources below will be available (Monday-Thursday) until Thursday, July 2. Please allow for longer response times, as summer staff is working limited hours. For the most recent updates on re-opening procedures or COVID information, please visit <https://www.austinisd.org/>.

Questions or Need Info about...	Contact
Course Scheduling Registering a New Student Credit Recovery Summer DELTA Social/Emotional Referrals	Through July 2: Counselors Kim Gilbert and Laura Loza kim.gilbert@austinisd.org laura.loza@austinisd.org *please contact BOTH counselors
Garza Online Courses	Available all summer: Garza Online Coordinator, Diane Sidoroff diane.sidoroff@austinisd.org

College/Career Questions	Through June 30: College and Career Counselor, Carli Valverde carli.valverde@austinisd.org
Vida Clinic Therapy Information	Available all summer: https://vidaclinic.org/virtualvida/

Congratulations again to the Class of 2020! **Our virtual graduation ceremony will be on Monday, June 15 at 3:00 P.M.!** You can view the ceremony on AISD.tv, the district Facebook page, and on Channel 22. The virtual ceremony will showcase many of the same things as traditional graduation ceremonies including speeches from the principal, superintendent, valedictorian and salutatorian, as well as a presentation of each of the Bowie Class of 2020 graduates. Make sure to have your cap and gown ready for the tassel turn!

The virtual graduation event will be a **pre-recorded ceremony**. The ceremony will be posted after the initial airing if you are not able to make this time. With this new virtual format, friends, family, and community all over the country can tune in and watch with you! Please check the official [Bowie Twitter account](#) or the JBHS website for more information. If you have any questions, please contact Katie Gilman at katie.gilman@austinisd.org.

Tuesday, August 18, 2020, will be Austin ISD's first day of school of the fall semester. This is in line with the previously released 2020–21 academic calendar, selected through community input and approved by the Board of Trustees in January. The AISD reopening task force—which is composed of teachers, parents, staff, and community members from a variety of backgrounds—evaluated the possibilities of earlier or later start dates.

Further task force recommendations will be made with guidance from health officials and in consideration of aspects such as school capacity and social distancing. Coming into the fall semester of 2020, we may see in-person learning, an extension of continuous learning practices, or a blend of both approaches. If there is at-home learning in the fall, we will continue to gather and share information, as well as best practices to support student learning.

We do know that the task force is actively discussing possibilities, developing standards, and working to make the best determinations for students, teachers, and families. Please stay tuned to this newsletter as well as austinisd.org as decisions around reopening are made.

Finally, due to COVID-19, a Verification of Enrollment is not available at this time due to school closures. If you are unable to obtain a VOE statement this summer, the Texas Department of Public Safety has announced that other types of documents verifying enrollment such as a report card of student ID may be accepted.

Until we can meet at the tree,

Mark Robinson
Principal, James Bowie High School

Follow me on [Twitter](#) @robinson_mark_a