



James Bowie High School

❖ Pride In Performance ❖

Tuesday, August 20, 2019

Greetings Bulldog Nation,

It has been a great start to the school year! We are having a **great first day of the 19-20 school year** at James Bowie High School! It is wonderful to have the campus full of students again. It has been exciting to see all of our returning students, as well as meet everyone new to JBHS!

All this week, and especially **during Flexible Instructional Time (FIT)**, **Advisory** teachers are reviewing rules, procedures, and programs with students so that everyone is set up for success this year. This morning, students watched a [welcome message](#) video that outlined the day's schedule, lunch procedures, bus pick-up, Chromebook checkout, and student ID distribution. Tomorrow students will watch a video about the new [academic integrity policy](#) and a video about [safety procedures](#). The topic for Thursday's advisory will be [attendance rules and incentives](#). On Friday, students will learn more about [Flexible Instructional Time](#) and how to sign-up for sessions in the FIT portal.

Students received their official schedule during Advisory this morning and were asked to email their counselor with any questions. Schedule changes are only considered due to inappropriate placement, lack of prerequisites, an error in enrollment, or a scheduling conflict. **All schedule change requests are initiated through the counselor's offices, require parental approval, and will only be made until August 30th.** We are unable to accommodate "change of mind" requests. The "Level Down" process (moving from Pre-AP/AP to Academic) is from September 3 to October 8, 2019. Again, please have your student email their counselor regarding any questions about scheduling. The counselors sent out a Naviance email on Monday with a lot of helpful tips for navigating back to school.

Drop off traffic went smoothly this morning! Remember, as soon as you arrive on campus please have your student exit the vehicle and walk along the sidewalk to the main canopy entrance. If you are planning on picking up your student after school, the process will be very similar. Pay close attention to the directional signs that are posted, control your speed, and **exercise caution when picking up and dropping off.** The school day will end at 4:30 p.m. Be sure to follow all instructions from the staff, and don't forget that state law prohibits holding a cell phone to your ear in active school zones. Student safety is our primary goal.

We have **2900 students enrolled at Bowie High School** this year! With that many people in one place, all trying to learn where to go and when, patience is essential. The good news is that students found their classes, met their B-Day teachers, had lunch, and are leaving ready to come back tomorrow! Note that teachers are allowing students some grace regarding being on time to class this week while they find their way around campus. Please help us **reinforce this lesson of patience** after school today. We expect bus routes and traffic through the parking lot to run a little slower than usual after school as routines and routes are being established.

As some of you may know, Austin ISD and Bowie High School have partnered with the University of Texas at Austin for the last few years in a study to test whether having a **growth mindset** could positively impact how high school students cope with stress. The results of the study demonstrate that students who were explicitly taught about growth mindset were better able to cope with stressors related to their

academic and social lives. This is a major breakthrough at a critical time in students' lives. Learn more about how our students benefited directly from our collaboration with Dr. David Yeager and his team and about what the Bowie data reveals in articles such as [this one](#) that help educators and parents support their students. If you are worried about your student's stress level please feel free to reach out to their school counselor for resources.

I hope everyone is having a great day. I have seen a lot of smiling faces today and enjoyed the excitement and optimism of a new school year! The "vibe" on campus is very positive and enthusiastic. This is going to be a **great school year** at Bowie High School!

Go Dawgs!
Mark Robinson

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

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4103 W. Slaughter Lane • Austin, Texas 78749 • 512-414-5247 • FAX 512-292-0527