



James Bowie High School

❖ Pride In Performance ❖

Monday, August 26, 2019

Greetings Bulldog Nation,

Bowie will host its annual Back-to-School Night for parents/guardians on Wednesday, September 4th. However, this year we've "flipped" the event because we just don't have enough parking to accommodate all the parents who typically attend. "Flipped" learning refers to an instructional model in which the presentation of basic information happens before class (often in the form of watching videos or accessing online materials) so that the valuable class time with the teacher can be used for deeper learning and understanding of the information.

So how does a "flipped" Back-to-School Night work? In the past, parents attending Back-to-School Night would walk their child's schedule and attend an information session in each of their child's classes. Teachers would present general information and review the course syllabus. Now that information will be shared with you online in the form of a video. Each teacher has created a brief presentation and will post it on their course landing page in BLEND by Wednesday, August 28, 2019, to give you the same information you would have received by attending the event in previous years. If those presentations answer all of your questions and give you all the information you would like to receive to start this school year, you don't even have to leave your house on Wednesday! You can see your child's courses and the teachers' presentations by accessing BLEND in the AISD Parent Portal (<https://portal.austinisd.org>). If you're not familiar with BLEND or need more explicit instructions about accessing it, go to the BLEND introduction at <http://bit.ly/BLENDparentTOUR>.

If you would like to personally visit the campus on Back-to-School Night you are welcome to do so. **For those who choose to attend the event in-person, we will offer an open-house format allowing for three 20-minute presentations about various aspects of Bowie student life selected from a menu of options from 6-7:30pm.** Teachers will not be making presentations in their classrooms and will not be able to discuss individual student issues, but they will be at their doors to greet you and invite you to look around their classrooms. To plan your evening, please reference the [campus map](#) and the [Back-to-School Night Parent Flyer](#).

Current research shows that students who feel they belong in a school benefit in a multitude of ways (more information [here](#)). One strategy to foster that belonging mindset is to encourage participation in school clubs, organizations, and programs. **Bowie's annual Club Fair will be held in the courtyard on Friday, September 13th during both lunches.** Students will have the opportunity to explore Bowie's many club offerings and speak to members about the club's meeting times, requirements, and activities. I encourage you to take a few minutes with your child to review Bowie's current list of clubs (also posted on the JBHS website): <http://bit.ly/JBHSclubs>. If your child has an interest not currently represented, they are invited to find a faculty sponsor and submit a [club application](#) for consideration.

Starting today, **students are required to bring a fully-charged computer** to their classes every day. As teachers increasingly migrate instructional activities to BLEND, your child's access to a

Chromebook or laptop is important to their success in the classroom. Bowie does not have extra computers to loan your child if they forget to bring their device, so please emphasize to your student the importance of routinely bringing their charged computer to school each day.

Students will be **taking their yearbook pictures and getting their student IDs** this week. Everyone at Bowie is required to wear an ID badge during regular school hours: staff, students, and visitors. Students must wear their ID so that it is visible from the front at all times. Beginning on Tuesday, September 2nd, students without their ID will not be admitted to class and will be sent to the office to procure a temporary ID or to purchase a replacement ID.

Go Dawgs!
Mark Robinson

Principal
James Bowie High School
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A Recognized School of Excellence

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