



James Bowie High School

❖ Pride In Performance ❖

Thursday, September 19, 2019

Greetings Bulldog Nation,

We have a **new school nurse** at Bowie! Nurse Smith worked in Northside ISD in San Antonio and obtained her M.A. in Educational Psychology / Special Education to start her career in public education. Mary moved to Corpus Christi and taught as a Content Mastery / Inclusion teacher at Flour Bluff High School. During this time, she obtained a M.S. in Educational Administration and even worked as an Assistant Principal for one year.

Nurse Smith has been a psychiatric nurse with children and adolescents, so becoming a school counselor was a natural transition. Mary worked as a school counselor for 25 years while working as a PRN (as needed) nurse on the side. Nurse Smith worked in Austin ISD at two elementary schools, as well as the Alternative Learning Center. She spent the last 20 years as a counselor serving 9th graders at Westlake High School and worked briefly at a private school before returning to public education in Del Valle ISD. Please stop by the clinic or call with any questions or concerns. Ms. Smith has an open door for students and parents, or you may email her at mary.smith2@austinisd.org. We are excited to have Ms. Smith at Bowie!

Now that Austin ISD provides every high school student with a Chromebook, teachers are increasing the use of technology in their courses. The platform from which Bowie teachers manage curriculum and assignments is called BLEND. Parents can create their own accounts in BLEND that allow them to see the syllabus, access some pages and assignments, and view the course calendars. Assessments for courses, such as tests, quizzes, and projects, will always be noted on the course calendar. However, a teacher may or may not opt to post homework on the BLEND course calendar. Students are encouraged to manually add any homework to their BLEND calendars. If you are **struggling to navigate BLEND or need help setting up your BLEND account**, please go to <http://bit.ly/BLENDparentTOUR>. By selecting “Modules” in the navigation bar on the left side of this page, you will find a menu of topics. Just click a topic to learn more!

Free and Reduced Meal benefits for families that qualified last year will expire Tuesday, October 1, 2019. A new meal benefits application must be submitted each school year. It is important to either go to www.schoolcafe.com or come by the front office for a meal application for the 2019-2020 school year. Even if you are not sure you qualify for the free or reduced meal program, it is worth going online and checking. The information collected on these forms helps determine the funding needs at each school and throughout Austin ISD. By completing a meal benefits application families can help ensure schools receive more of the funds needed to support students. This may qualify students for scholarships or things like discounts on exams. One application is needed per household. If you have any questions, please contact Joanna Willard at jwillard@austinisd.org or 512-414-7314. You can also visit www.austinisd.org/nutrition-food-services/applications-payements.

September is Suicide Prevention Month. We care about our Bowie family and want to make sure you have the resources to take care of your students and loved ones. It's OK to ask hard questions and talk about mental health with your students. Please encourage them to save the crisis text line "741741" into their contacts and use it when in need for a family member or friend. Our school counselors can also assist with mental health concerns. Please feel free to reach out to your student's alpha counselor if you want to check in, ask questions, or get help with resources for your family.

This Friday, September 20, 2019, is the end of the first six weeks. Please look for report cards to go out in email next week.

Go Dawgs!
Mark Robinson

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

A Recognized School of Excellence

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