



James Bowie High School

❖ Pride In Performance ❖

Tuesday, September 24, 2019

Greetings Bulldog Nation,

Parents, please be on the lookout for the 1st six weeks **report cards**, scheduled to be emailed on Thursday, September 26, 2019. Contact Bowie Data Processing in the main office if it does not arrive by this weekend, but please check your junk mail first!

Last October, over 1.5 million juniors entered the 2020 National Merit Scholarship program by taking the 2018 PSAT exam. Out of this number, 16,000, or less than one percent of U.S. high school seniors, are identified as **National Merit Semi-finalists**. The following seniors have qualified as National Merit Semifinalists: Kathryn Cole, Eva Dwelle, Luke Leifker, Caroline Myers, Vishnu Ranganath, and Jacob Rasmussen.

About 34,000 students are recognized as **National Merit Commended Students** for their exceptional academic promise. Commended Students placed among the top 50,000 scorers. The following seniors were commended in the 2020 National Merit Scholarship program: Hannah Cherukuri, Sarah Darbar, Haley Harris, Sydney Heim, Connor Hurd, Iqra Khurram, Scott Krabbenhoft, Julia Krebs, Alekhya Kuchimanchi, Adelynn Lemoine, Jack O'Brien, Lila Peredo, Xander Redheendran, Arik Suez, and Lilian Vo.

Congratulations are also in order for the 2020 **National Hispanic Scholars**. Bowie has seven students in the top 5,000 scoring students in the nation of the 250,000 Hispanic/Latino seniors who took the 2018 PSAT exam. The College Board's National Hispanic Scholar program is an academic honor used by colleges to identify academically exceptional Hispanic/Latino students. With great pleasure, we announce our National Hispanic Scholars are: Carlos Canepa, Sophia Cantu, Sarah Darbar, Emily Morales, Lila Peredo, Andre Plackis, and Chance Valdes.

To ensure that students are positioned to be competitive in the college application process, Austin ISD pays for every 9th grader to take the **PSAT 8/9** and every 10th and 11th grade student to take the **PSAT/NMSQT**. These exams will be administered at Bowie on Wednesday, October 16, 2019, from approximately 9:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Rosters listing testing locations will be posted in front of the library and in the fine arts hallway on the morning of the exam. In advance of the exam date, students are encouraged to visit the [College Board website](#) to learn more about the exam's structure and to access sample exam questions. The [Khan Academy website](#) also has great PSAT practice materials which, for 10th and 11th grade students, can be personalized when linked to their prior PSAT scores.

Although not a requirement of the College Board, students in grades 9-11 are encouraged to bring a graphing calculator to the PSAT on October 16 (you might consider putting a reminder on your phone). A list of approved calculators is available on the [College Board website](#). Please note that Bowie does not have enough graphing calculators for all students who will be testing that day. Juniors will be given priority in the distribution of available calculators because they are the only grade-level

competing for the National Merit® Scholarship Program. **Students should also bring their fully charged computer or Chromebook to complete the career exploration and growth mindset activities planned for after the exam.** Please let your student know that it's important they give their best effort on the PSAT on October 16 so they are in the running for scholarships and/or are on-track in their SAT preparations.

We have **several special activities planned for Seniors** on October 16 while the 9th, 10th, and 11th grade students are taking the PSAT. On this day, Seniors will be the first grade level to participate in a small-group lesson titled "SpeakUp" from [Teaching Tolerance](#) (all students in grades 9-11 will participate in this lesson by the end of the fall semester). The SpeakUp lesson: (1) introduces students to the [Pyramid of Hate](#) to emphasize the importance of challenging all manifestations of prejudice and discrimination; (2) teaches students the four speak-up-to-hate strategies "interrupt, question, educate, and echo;" and (3) allows students to discuss and role-play the four strategies. As a second activity, motivational speaker Kacy Benson will moderate a student panel during which Bowie students will share their personal experiences of discrimination. Seniors will also select from among five documentaries recommended by [Common Sense Media](#) on various equity-related topics: [He Named Me Malala](#), [I Am Not Your Negro](#), [Miss Representation](#), [The Mask You Live In](#), or [Inequality for All](#). Seniors who still need to pass the TSI College Readiness Exam will take it in lieu of watching the documentary. Finally, Seniors will be directed in the creation of their [FAFSA](#) student accounts using their fully-charged computer or Chromebook. Seniors considering using October 16th as one of their two allowed college-visit days are reminded to carefully review Bowie's [college visit form and requirements](#) prior to their absence.

We are gearing up for the **5th Annual AISD Central Texas Dyslexia Conference**. This conference is a free event for community members, parents, and educators. This year, the conference will be held on Saturday, October 19th. Please visit the [conference website](#) for speaker information, schedule, and registration.

Austin ISD is committed to providing better learning environments and inspiring academic opportunities for all students. This means working together to reimagine how our schools could be used to benefit students and communities, reinvesting resources to bring the visions into reality and reinventing how students are educated in Austin ISD. [School Changes Scenarios](#) are ideas that may affect the entire district and specific campuses through new programs, increased accessibility to new programs, and the closure or consolidation of some campuses. Join us for a **conversation on School Changes**. Attend a [districtwide meeting](#) for a community conversation on all the scenario options. The next **late start** is coming up on Thursday of next week, October 3, 2019. We will have a **student holiday** on Friday, October 11, and Monday, October 14, while teachers are in staff development. We hope everyone enjoys the long weekend!

Go Dawgs!
Mark Robinson

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