



James Bowie High School

❖ Pride In Performance ❖

Monday, May 21, 2018

The end of the year is almost here! Students will soon be preparing for **spring semester exams**. These important assessments reflect learning over the entire semester and comprise 25% of the student's semester grade in each course. The exam schedule is as follows (daily early release time of 1:10 pm):

- May 24 – 5th period & 6th period final exams
- May 25 – 1st period & 2nd period final exams
- May 29 – 7th period & 8th period final exams
- May 30 – 3rd period & 4th period final exams

Because Bowie's graduation is scheduled for May 30, 2018, at 7:00 pm, Seniors will take two of their exams early. Their 3rd and 4th period final exams are scheduled during the regular class time on Monday, May 21. Seniors are not expected to attend school on May 30, and **attendance for seniors on May 30 will be taken at graduation** instead.

All students who have textbooks checked out must check them in to the book room at the end of A hall on Monday, May 21 or Tuesday, May 22, between 8:00 and 9:00 am. Please note this Wednesday, May 23, we will run a C-day schedule. The last day of school is Wednesday, May 30, 2018!

Students with excellent attendance may qualify for a **semester exam attendance incentive certificate** which allows them to replace their exam grade with their semester average if the exam grade fails to benefit their overall semester average. Note that the student is required to take the exam in the class for which they opt to apply their certificate – they are not “exempt” from the exam. We encourage students to study for every exam with the goal of possibly improving their overall semester average. [Attendance incentive certificates](#) will be available outside of C102 and distributed between the hours of 8:15 am and 5:00 pm on Wednesday, May 23. Students are welcome before/after school, during both lunches, or excused from class with a pass from a teacher. Students must have an ID to pick up their certificate.

As the semester comes to a close, I want to share some important information with you about the **Bowie-issued student Chromebooks**:

- **Seniors must turn-in their Chromebooks prior to graduation.** Chromebooks will be collected in the library before and after school May 24 through May 29, 2018, between 8:00 and 8:50 am, or 1:10 to 2:20 pm. The Chromebook, charger, and case must be returned in good working condition to avoid a fine. The student's final transcript and diploma will be held until the Chromebook is returned. Please contact Debby Theis in the office if you have questions/concerns.
- **Rising 10th, 11th, and 12th grade students will keep their Chromebooks** over the summer. With an understanding that the district provides these devices as an on-going investment in student learning, we will soon share some useful and meaningful activities for our students to complete using their devices over the summer.
- **Rising 9th grade students will be issued Chromebooks on August 22 and 23, 2018.** In order to receive a Chromebook, the parent/guardian must log-in and submit the online consent form within the Parent Cloud: <https://my.austinisd.org/apps/Devices/consent.jsp>. If you do not have a Parent Cloud Account, you can register for one online.

You are encouraged to **continue carefully guiding and monitoring your student's access to online materials and the amount of time they are spending interfacing with technology in general.** AISD has installed filters on the Bowie-issued Chromebooks, but these filters are not foolproof. I invite you to read "[The Parent's Guide to Educational Technology](#)" from Connect Safely to help you better understand how technology is changing our school landscape and your child's academic experience. This website is also a wonderful resource with tips and advice on a variety of subjects, including ways to help keep your child safe while online.

Even though summer is almost here, the work continues in Austin ISD. In response to our growing budget deficit, AISD is forming a **Budget Stabilization Task Force.** The group will meet Wednesdays this summer to explore how the district might balance the budget in the next two to three years. The product of this work will be the development of annual deficit reduction targets and options, and a summary of findings, with rationales, for the superintendent's consideration. Task force membership will be a combination of board nominated and non-nominated individuals with the intent of ensuring representation from diverse backgrounds, perspectives and expertise, reflective of the AISD community at large. Tentative meetings are scheduled from 5:30 to 8:30 pm, including June 20, July 11 & 25, August 8, and September 19. Applications can be submitted at: <https://www.austinisd.org/advisory-bodies/application>. Please do not hesitate to contact Ali Ghilarducci at 414-4487 with any questions.

Bowie High School will begin bond renovations with a major project this summer involving hydronic pipe replacement required for the climate control system. Therefore, **the campus will be closed beginning Friday, June 1, and re-open on Monday, August 6, 2018.** Office staff will be relocating to Akins High School as soon as school is out for summer. We encourage anyone who has business to take care of through the office, to contact us prior to June 7, 2018. We advise anyone who needs to reach someone in the office after that date to please call ahead for more information. Updated information will also be posted on the website at jbhs.org. Please find camp locations on the website, as most have been moved to other locations. In addition, please be reminded that all AISD offices are closed the week of July 4th holiday, as well as Fridays from June 8 through August 10, 2018.

On a personal note, I have to say "thank you." I've been an educator for 21 years, but this one has been exceptional. While I think we will all remember the year that started with a solar eclipse and ended with another horrific school shooting, this was my first year as the principal at James Bowie High School. I have been overwhelmed by the warm welcome and support from students, parents, and staff. We have a very special school community at Bowie. Not only do I understand and appreciate that even more now, but I also have tremendous gratitude for the dedication, spirit of collaboration, and pride in performance. Thank you for making this a great year for me, and a great year at JBHS. I am proud to be your principal!

Go Dawgs!



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