



James Bowie High School

❖ **Pride In Performance** ❖

Dear Bowie Parents and Guardians,

As the new principal at Bowie High School, it has been exciting to introduce myself to the students, meet the faculty, and learn about the school. I know that I will draw on my six years of experience as the Principal of Hudson Bend Middle School in guiding Bowie through some of the same types of changes in the upcoming years. Over my career in education, I served Lake Travis ISD for a total of ten years, including three as the Associate Principal for Curriculum and Instruction at Lake Travis High School, and one year as Assistant Principal at Lake Travis Middle School. I also worked for eleven years in Arlington ISD, where I taught high school World Geography, World History, 8th grade American History, and held a position with that district as a Staff Development Specialist. I am thrilled to be in Austin ISD and have the opportunity to learn and lead at Bowie High School!

As a school scheduled for full modernization in AISD's Facility Master Plan, Bowie will transform in the next decade. Modernization means bringing the school up to "like new" condition and will include state-of-the-art technology, flexible learning spaces, and dedicated community space on the campus. With the support of our community on the upcoming bond initiative, Bowie will undergo major renovation to better serve our students.

Some of the changes will be in how schools work in a 21st century learning environment. Blended learning, or a blend of traditional brick and mortar classroom with online learning, will change teaching strategies to connect with today's learners. Technology allows teachers to differentiate instruction and personalize curriculum to engage students in learning customized to them. Homework will look different as students use a computer instead of a textbook to learn. Teachers will use data from assessments to provide meaningful feedback on progress in learning.

It is important to remember that we teach the whole child. That includes social and emotional learning, as well as academic development. When students develop a growth mindset, they are better able to grow and persevere. They see success as a result of effort instead of ability. Failure becomes an opportunity to learn, not a condemnation. The growth mindset is the belief that abilities can be cultivated. High school is the time for students to find out what they like and what they want to become in the future.

I am excited, honored, and humbled by the opportunity to serve the students, staff, and school community at James Bowie High School as your new Principal. I know that JBHS is an outstanding school with great students and a phenomenal faculty, and I look forward to being a part of this vibrant community. I understand that high expectations are placed on a school with so many strengths, and I'm confident that we will continue to cultivate a culture of excellence.

Sincerely,

Mark Robinson

A Recognized School of Excellence

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