



James Bowie High School

❖ Pride In Performance ❖

Monday, August 20, 2018

Greetings Bulldog Nation,

It has been a great start to the school year! [The Texas Education Agency](#) recently announced distinction designations for campuses and districts. Distinction designations are awarded to campuses based on achievement in **performance indicators relative to a group of 40 campuses of similar type**, size, and student demographics. Depending on campus grade levels and type, the number of potential distinction designations can vary. Up to seven distinction designations can be earned for:

- Academic Achievement in English Language Arts/Reading;
- Academic Achievement in Mathematics;
- Academic Achievement in Science;
- Academic Achievement in Social Studies;
- Top 25 Percent: Student Progress;
- Top 25 Percent: Closing Performance Gaps; and
- Postsecondary Readiness.

This year **James Bowie High School earned six of the possible seven distinctions!** According to the Texas Education Agency's preliminary ratings, Austin ISD has earned an 89, or an overall B performance rating, which is a Recognized rating. Individual campuses do not receive a letter grade yet, however, **Bowie earned an overall score of 97**, which makes JBHS one of the top performing schools in the region and state! Thank you, parents, for everything that you do to support your child learning and performing at such high levels!

We are having a great first day of the 18-19 school year at Bowie High School! We have gotten the year off to a **fantastic start**. It is wonderful to have the campus full of students again. It has been exciting to see all of our returning students, as well as meet everyone new to JBHS!

All this week, and especially during FIT, teachers are reviewing rules and procedures with students so that everyone is set up for success this year. Teachers are allowing students some grace regarding being on time to class this week while students find their way around campus. Staff members are also **reminding students about [school dress code](#)**. Please take a moment to review the guidelines in the [student handbook](#) posted on the JBHS homepage with your student.

The most frequent dress code reminders include:

- Skirts, dresses, and shorts must be at least fingertip length (with relaxed shoulders);
- Slogans and graphics on clothing must be appropriate for school
- Midriffs must be covered and halters and spaghetti straps are unacceptable.
- Hats are not to be worn in the building.

Also outlined in the student handbook are the guidelines for schedule changes. Students receive their official schedule during advisory this morning. They will be expected to follow these schedules for the entire year. Schedule changes will be considered only in the event of inappropriate placement, lack of prerequisites, an error in enrollment, or a scheduling conflict. We caught a few mistakes today that will be corrected tomorrow! **All schedule change requests are initiated through the counselor's offices, require parental approval, and will only be made the first week of school.** "Change of mind" requests will not be honored. Several classes are full making changes extremely difficult. Movement between Pre-AP and academic classes must occur between the third and seventh week of the semester.

Drop off traffic went smoothly this morning! If you are planning on picking your student up after school, the process will be very similar. Please pay close attention to the directional signs that are posted, control your speed, and **exercise caution when picking up and dropping off.** The school day will end at 4:30 p.m. Be sure to follow all instructions from the staff and don't forget that state law prohibits holding a cell phone to your ear in active school zones. Please see the [map](#) posted for directions. Student safety is our primary goal.

We have **2964 students enrolled at Bowie High School** this year! With that many people in one place, all trying to learn where to go and when, patience is essential. The good news is that students found their classes, met their A-Day teachers, had lunch, and are leaving ready to come back tomorrow! Please help us **reinforce this lesson of patience** after school today. We expect bus routes and traffic through the parking lot to run a little slow after school as routines and routes are being established.

Austin Independent School District is enforcing a **clear bag policy at district athletic events.** The policy will be enforced at Burger Stadium, Delco Center, House Park Athletics Facility, Nelson Field and Noack Sports Complex. We want to be sure everyone is aware of the changes before our **first home football game on Friday, September 7, 2018,** vs. San Antonio Madison.

Bags that are permitted include:

- Bags that are clear plastic and do not exceed 12" x 6" x 12"
- One-gallon clear plastic freezer bags
- Bags must be clear plastic, vinyl or PVC and have a maximum of one logo imprint not exceeding 4.5" x 3.4"
- Small clutch bags or purses with or without a strap that are the size of a hand.
- Exceptions will be made for medically necessary items after proper inspection at designated areas.

More information and examples are on the [flyer at AISD Athletics](#). Please note that this policy only applies to athletic facilities in district but **not** games or events on the JBHS campus.

The City of Austin is inviting the Bowie school community to their upcoming [Slaughter Lane Corridor Open House](#), on Wednesday, August 22, 2018, at Bethany Lutheran Church from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. At the open house, city staff will be present to meet with community members, share information, and answer questions about the improvements planned for the Slaughter Lane corridor. This event is a great opportunity to learn more about the City's vision for improving

Slaughter Lane's mobility, safety, and connectivity, and there will also be opportunities for the community to share their feedback on the preliminary design plans.

As some of you may know, Austin ISD and Bowie High School has partnered with the University of Texas at Austin for the last two years in a **study to understand how students are able to deal with stress effectively**. The primary reason for the study was to test whether having a growth mindset about social life in high school could relate to how high school students cope with stress. Our students who were given an intervention on applying growth mindset to people's ability to change were better able to cope with stressors. This is a major breakthrough at a critical time in students' lives. Not only have we benefited directly from our collaboration with Dr. David Yeager and his team, but also the data from the student at Bowie is referenced in articles like [this one](#) that help educators and parents support their students.

I hope everyone has had a great day. I have seen a lot of smiling faces today and excitement is in the air! The "vibe" on campus is very positive, enthusiastic, and optimistic as we begin the year anew. This is going to be a **great school year** at Bowie High School!

Go Dawgs!



Mark Robinson, Principal

James Bowie High School

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