



James Bowie High School

❖ Pride In Performance ❖

Tuesday, January 22, 2019

Greetings Bulldog Nation,

As you are probably aware, **attendance is a priority** for the entire district because it reinforces student learning and works to maximize funding to offset losses caused by recapture. Because Bowie has prioritized attendance for years, we have not only noticed an increase in attendance, but also academic achievement as a result of students simply learning from being in class consistently. Several data points, including Level III EOC mastery scores, AP results, TEA distinctions, and other areas of pride in performance have increased, along with Bowie's improved attendance. Our average daily attendance (ADA) goal for the 2018-2019 school year is 96.5%, and I am pleased to share with you that we are on track to meet or exceed that goal. The average daily attendance rate for grades 9-12 for the fall semester was 97.1%! This is the highest fall semester attendance rate in Bowie's history.

Fall semester ADA rate for each grade level:

- 9th Grade = 97.79%
- 10th Grade = 97.64%
- 11th Grade = 97.06%
- 12th Grade = 96.14%
- **Overall = 97.17%**

Thank you JBHS families and community for your ongoing efforts to convey the importance of good attendance to your student! It will be important that students continue to attend school when they are well enough to do so during the second semester to reach our goal of 96.5% for the year. Your support is very much appreciated!

Beginning on Monday, January 28, 2019, the Bowie Student Leadership class will be facilitating the second of three [No Place for Hate Activities](#) they have planned for this school year. **Bowie will be celebrating *Unity Week*** by focusing each day on one of the NPFH pillars. A key historical figure will be highlighted each morning on the announcements, and a special musical playlist will be enjoyed in the courtyard during both lunches. To participate in support of Bowie as No Place for Hate and celebrate *Unity Week*, **students are invited to wear a specific color each day**. The goal of the Student Leadership class is to emphasize the importance of unity in recognition of each individual's diversity.

- January 28 Racial/Ethnic Equality - Yellow
- January 29 LGBTQ Pride - Rainbow
- January 30 Feminism/Gender Equality - Purple
- January 31 Mental/Physical Disabilities - Blue
- February 1 Bowie Pride - Bowie school shirts

At the end of the week, Student Leaders will be handing out *Unity Week* buttons to students across the campus to keep as a reminder of their importance in Bulldog Nation!

Core Belief #1 of the Austin ISD Strategic Plan for 2015-20 is that "All students will graduate college-, career-, and life-ready." With this in mind, Bowie staff continues to refine how to best support students as they prepare for the college admissions process, including those all-important college entrance exams. We have established a PSATeam, made curriculum alignments in applicable courses, and organized new information events for students. **This year, for the first time, Austin ISD will also pay for all Juniors to take an official SAT,**

saving each student and their families the \$65 registration fee. The official SAT exam will be administered to Juniors on Tuesday, April 9, 2019, at Bowie. Juniors will be automatically registered for the exam, so they only need to show up to school on April 9 with a calculator and two pencils, ready to do their best! Juniors are encouraged to link their PSAT score report to Khan Academy (<https://www.khanacademy.org/sat>) at least one month prior to the exam administration to access personalized SAT practice activities. Please take a few minutes to talk to your child about the importance of preparing and doing their best on these exams.

The Preliminary SAT (PSAT) was administered to all Bowie Sophomores and Juniors in October 2018; Freshmen will take the PSAT 8/9 at Bowie on Thursday, April 11, 2019. For more information about **how to interpret the PSAT score report** and use the results to inform future test prep strategies, students and their parents are invited to watch the [recorded More Than a Teacher presentation](#) filmed on campus earlier this month and posted to the JBHS website.

[More Than a Teacher \(MTAT\)](#) is a private test-prep company that offers SAT and ACT prep courses that meet at Bowie throughout the school year. While there are other test prep programs out there, MTAT has partnered with Bowie to provide free materials and training to our staff and parents, as well as free practice SAT and ACT exams to students. MTAT is hosting two upcoming events:

- **Brown Bag PSAT Score Interpretation** - MTAT staff will be available in the VC Room of the main office from 11:00-1:30 pm on Thursday, January 24, to review PSAT scores with students and/or their parents and explain various test prep strategies and options.
- **Free Mock ACT** - The ACT is another entrance exam accepted at most colleges. Some students find that the ACT is better aligned to their academic strengths. To see if the ACT is right for them, highly motivated Sophomores and all Juniors are invited to take a practice ACT administered by More Than a Teacher in the Bowie cafeteria from 3:00-6:30 pm on Sunday, January 27, and may register [here](#) for the Mock ACT exam.

The AISD Family Survey is now available to parents/guardians. This is an important tool that the district uses to gather valuable input from families on the services we provide. The survey will be open through March 8, 2019. Campus and district reports of survey results will be posted on the AISD website by the end of June. Please contact Carla De La Rosa at 512-414-7324 or carla.delarosa@austinisd.org should you have any questions.

This Friday, January 25, 2019, is the **first three week progress report** for the second semester. Please take a moment to check in with your student to be sure this year is off to a good start!

Sincerely,

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

A Recognized School of Excellence

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