



James Bowie High School

❖ Pride In Performance ❖

Tuesday, January 09, 2018

Greetings Bowie High School Community,

Happy 2018! I hope everyone has had a peaceful and joyous new year. Despite some cold weather, we have been able to get this semester off to a great start at Bowie High School!

January is School Board Recognition Month. I hope you will join me in expressing appreciation to the Austin ISD School Board for their dedication and hard work. Serving as a board member is a significant commitment which makes a huge impact on our school and community. We have a tremendous board with great vision, and their wise stewardship has made AISD an outstanding school district. Thank you, Austin ISD School Board!

To ensure AISD creates modern learning spaces for 21st-century learning at its schools, the district is introducing new educational specifications, or “Ed Specs.” Trustees approved the design standards and concepts that will guide new school construction and major space renovations at their regular board meeting on December 18, 2017. The educational specifications are available [online](#).

The parents of all current Bowie 9th to 11th grade students who will be attending Bowie next year are invited to attend our parent night from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. on Monday, January 22, 2018. The program will begin with the counseling staff reviewing graduation requirements and the course registration process for next year’s classes. We will offer two break-out sessions to attend. One will be our “Movin’ On Up” session, which will describe the ins and outs of our advanced academics program (PreAP and AP, ACC’s Dual Credit program, and UT’s OnRamps classes.) The other break-out session will be a PSAT Score Interpretation session presented by a representative from More Than a Teacher. Both breakouts will be offered twice, so parents can attend both if they desire. An outline of the evening is below:

January 22nd Parent Night Outline
For current 9th-11th grade JBHS parents
6:00-8:00 p.m.

	Cafeteria	Theater	Foyer
6:00-6:30	Course Registration, graduation requirements, endorsements, CTE and other elective options, PSAT intro and prep options	Course Registration, graduation requirements, endorsements, CTE and other elective options, PSAT intro and prep options	
6:30-7:10	Movin’ On Up: Dual Credit, OnRamps, AP courses	PSAT Score Interpretation	Counselors at tables available for course registration Q&A
7:10-7:50	Movin’ On Up: Dual Credit, OnRamps, AP courses	PSAT Score Interpretation	Counselors at tables available for course registration Q&A
7:50-8:00	All available for Q&A		

Rising freshmen (current 8th graders) will have a separate event to be held on February 7, 2018, from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. More details will be sent to current 8th grade parents through the middle schools soon!

We are excited to confirm that Chromebooks will be issued to Bowie students on Friday, January 12, 2018, as part of the district's [Everyone: 1](#) program. Please be aware that Bowie must have a parent consent form on file for your student before their Chromebook will be issued. If you haven't yet submitted the consent form electronically or in hard-copy form, or if you want to change your designation on the consent form, please send your student to school with a hard-copy of the consent form on or before this Friday. You may use this [link](#) to access a hard-copy of the consent form. After Friday, January 12, all students will be required to bring a device with a screen that is at least 10 inches (i.e. a Bowie issued Chromebook or their personal laptop) to school every day. While smartphones are useful, most of the students' textbooks and many other classroom materials will only be available in a digital format, for which a smartphone screen and keyboard are not adequate.

We estimate that it will take about 3 hours to distribute Chromebooks to our almost 3,000 students. For this reason, we will have a special bell schedule on Friday, January 12, 2018. From 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., students will be assigned alphabetically to classrooms in the academic wing. These alpha group locations will be posted on wall rosters in front of the library and in the Fine Arts wing before school. During the three hour Chromebook distribution window, students will be issued their new devices and participate in lessons on digital citizenship and features of the Chromebook with a Bowie teacher. Students who typically have 1st period or 2nd period "off" will need to report to Bowie at 9:00 a.m. Students who attend classes at other campuses as part of the Student Sharing program will attend those classes first and then return to Bowie, at which time they will be directed to a classroom to receive their devices. After 12:00 noon, students will attend their four A-Day classes.

BELL SCHEDULE – JANUARY 12TH

Chromebook Distribution: 9:00 - 12:00

1st Lunch

Lunch: 12:06 - 12:48 (42 minutes)

2nd period: 12:54 -1:42 (48 minutes)

2nd Lunch

2nd period: 12:06 - 12:54 (48 minutes)

Lunch: 1:00 -1:42 (42 minutes)

1st period: 1:48 - 2:38 (50 minutes)

3rd period: 2:44 - 3:34 (50 minutes)

4th period: 3:40 - 4:30 (50 minutes)

If your student is absent on Friday, January 12, or decides at a later date that they would prefer to use a Chromebook rather than their personal device, they will be able to sign up for a FIT session with Ms. Theis and check out a Chromebook.

In addition to rolling out Chromebooks, we are also prepping for a campus-wide initiative. This year, as in previous years and in coordination with its Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) campus goals, Bowie is seeking to be recognized by the Anti-Defamation League as a [No Place for Hate Campus](#). To achieve this designation, Bowie students must develop and implement three campus-wide activities that promote a positive school climate and culture. The first of these activities, an event to focus awareness on cyber-bullying, took place during the fall semester. We encourage you to visit with your student about the upcoming No Place for Hate campus initiative called "Beads for Deeds" which will reward students for demonstrating acts of kindness and

respect to one another and to the staff. Every Bowie student will be given a leather bracelet to wear. Throughout the week of January 16 through 19, 2018, students who are observed by staff or student leaders being helpful, kind, or respectful to others in word or deed will be given a bead to add to their leather bracelet. The goal is for all Bulldogs to fill their bracelet with beads as they become more thoughtful and intentional about their interactions.

The [ACT](#) is a standardized test used for college admissions in the United States. While the ACT hasn't been around quite as long as the SAT, it is accepted by every college in the United States. Students are not required to submit scores for both tests when applying to colleges, although some students may want to do so. Since the ACT and SAT are different, one may showcase your child's strengths better than the other. One of our campus goals at JBHS is to increase participation and performance on the ACT to support postsecondary readiness. In preparation for the Spring ACT/ SATs, "More than a Teacher" has offered to host a FREE mock ACT test on our campus and provide feedback to students who test. The mock ACT will be held on Sunday, January 28, 2018, from 3:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. in the Bowie Cafeteria. Please [register online](#) or contact Carli Valverde in the College and Career Center for more information.

Each January, Austin ISD honors the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. This year's community focused event will be held in the evening in order to make it easier for our families and neighbors to join us in the celebration. The event will feature keynote speaker Ms. Olyvia Green, the first African American teacher at Pease Elementary. Austin's own singer/songwriter SaulPaul will act as emcee while attendees enjoy performances by Thelma "Grandma Wisdom" Williams, FLAVA Dance Company, Eastside Memorial ECHS's Eastside Singers, Dobie Middle School Chorus and Roadrunner Band and Gus Garcia YMLA's drum line. Guests will also enjoy family friendly activities from Austin ISD partners. I hope that you can join the celebration on Friday, January 12, 2018, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at the Millennium Youth Entertainment Complex. (1156 Hargrave St. Austin, TX 78702) Light refreshments and Spanish interpretation services will be provided. For additional information, please contact Ali Ghilarducci, Community Engagement Coordinator, at alison.ghilarducci@austinisd.org or 512-414-4487.

Quick reminder that Monday, January 15, 2018, is MLK Holiday. School will be closed for the day and resume on Tuesday. Enjoy the three day weekend!

Sincerely,



Mark Robinson

Principal

James Bowie High School

Follow me on [Twitter](#) @robinson_mark_a

A Recognized School of Excellence

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