



James Bowie High School

❖ Pride In Performance ❖

Wednesday, November 28, 2018

Greetings Bulldog Nation,

I hope everyone enjoyed the Thanksgiving Break. We only have a few weeks left of school before Winter Break so we want to be sure we make the most of them! With final exams, projects, papers, and everything due before the end of the third six weeks, please check in with your student to be sure he/she is prepared to finish the semester strong. We are almost halfway through this school year!

In an effort to account for all students and maintain campus security and safety, at the beginning of this school year Austin ISD required that all students arriving after the 9:00 a.m. tardy bell rings check in through the main office with the Raptor system before to going to class. AISD uses the Raptor system to document all traffic to and from campus during the school day. Students who are not in their classroom as scheduled by 9:00am obtain a pass through the Raptor system in the front office in order to enter their classroom. We were told to use the RAPTOR system to document student's who were tardy to 1st and 5th period. This does not communicate that students are tardy in TEAMS attendance, and therefore parents were not able to see that their students were tardy to 1st and 5th. **In an effort to more accurately communicate student's attendance to parents, we will be merging the two systems this week.** You may notice a change in your student's attendance with the new addition of tardies to their 1st and 5th period classes. We are hoping that after this glitch is fixed there will no longer be issues with documenting student tardiness to 1st and 5th periods.

The [final exam schedule](#) is available online. Please contact your child's assistant principal if you foresee a conflict with the schedule for exams. Finals are 25% of the semester grade; therefore, it is important that students prepare, and we maintain a fair and consistent process for exams. All exams must be taken on the days scheduled for finals. Students who are absent for an exam will receive an incomplete and must make up the exam in January. Students with good attendance throughout the Fall semester may earn an exam incentive certificate to use in 1 or 2 of their classes during exams. The specifics of this [attendance incentive program](#) can be found on the JBHS website.

Advanced Placement (AP) exam registration with the College Board will begin on Monday, January 14, 2019, and will run through Saturday, February 23, 2019. Students interested in taking an AP exam will need to register online through Bowie's AP exam website: <http://bit.ly/BOWIEAP>. The AP exam fee is \$97 which includes an administration fee. Students who are eligible for Free and Reduced Lunch may receive a discount. For more information about the exam and how to prepare, please visit the website: <http://bit.ly/BowieAPPrep> or contact Ms. Valverde at carli.valverde@austinisd.org.

The state priority **deadline for the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) has been moved up to January 15, 2019.** We encourage ALL seniors to complete the FAFSA no later than December 15, before final exams, to be considered for any state or federal financial aid for college. Please remember, financial aid is on a first come first served basis. Ms. Valverde will be hosting several FIT sessions for students throughout December if your student needs help completing the FAFSA or creating a FSA ID.

For the last eight months, Bowie's Campus Architectural Team (CAT), comprised of teachers, administrators, staff, parents, and community members has been diligently working with architects from Page to develop a master plan for the complete modernization of the campus. The 2017 bond will be used to pay for the first phase of the master plan which will include solutions to the parking shortage and right-sizing the athletics and fine arts instructional spaces, as well as updating technology, HVAC, and plumbing across the campus. **If you were unable to join us for the community meeting on Wednesday, November 14, 2018, the information is now available online.** A [video of the meeting](#) has been posted to YouTube and the [slide presentation](#) is available on [jbhs.org](#). For more information in general about the AISD 2017 bond go to www.austinisd2017bond.org.

Austin ISD's **sustainability team has created a utility data dashboard** to ensure school communities, including students, are informed about the district's electricity, natural gas, and water usage and costs. The dashboard presents monthly utility data for each AISD facility, as well as performance indicators to compare costs and usage among facilities. You can view information about Bowie HS by visiting the dashboard at: <https://www.austinisd.org/sustainability/energy>

Bowie's Spanish Club, in collaboration with our campus SROs, is collecting new toys for the Blue Santa toy drive. If you wish to participate please bring an *unwrapped* new toy to A224, A225, or to the front office. The toy drive runs November 26 through December 12. ¡Muchas gracias!

There are several important dates to note coming up in the next few days and weeks. **Thursday, November 29, 2018, is a late start for students this semester.** We will run a C Day bell schedule on Friday, December 14, 2018, so that students will see all of their teachers on a compressed bell schedule before final exams. Final exams start the following Monday and last through the last day of the third weeks and first semester on Thursday, December 20. Finally, Winter Break starts on Friday, December 21, 2018!

Sincerely,

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

A Recognized School of Excellence
