



James Bowie High School

❖ Pride In Performance ❖

Friday, February 2, 2018

Congratulations go to Ms. Dana Stiles on being named the **James Bowie High School Teacher of the Year for 2017-2018!** Ms. Stiles graduated from the University of Texas at Austin with degrees in math and psychology before receiving her Master of Arts in Mathematics in 2008. Dana has taught math at Bowie for 13 years and is currently a Statistics Instructor in the UT OnRamps program. Ms. Stiles is also a National Board Certified Teacher in Adolescence and Young Adulthood for Mathematics. We are very proud of Ms. Stiles!

National School Counseling Week is coming up next week, February 5 through February 9, 2018. To focus public attention on the unique contribution of school counselors within the U.S. school system, the theme for this year is "School Counselors: Helping Students Reach for the Stars." National School Counseling Week highlights the tremendous impact school counselors can have in helping students achieve school success and plan for a career. Please help me thank our JBHS Guidance & Counseling Office for making a difference at Bowie!

The **flu remains a significant problem** in the Austin/Travis County area. If your child has been diagnosed with the flu, the absence of fever can be a good indicator of a child's readiness to return to school, but parents should consult with their child's pediatrician to determine the child's return to school date. Persistent symptoms like excessive coughing and sneezing, which spread germs even without fever, may still warrant the child staying home from school.


Given the uptick in flu and other illnesses among our students, it is very important that you **keep your student at home if they are sick** to ensure their recovery and the health of other students and the Bowie staff. If your student raises concerns with you about semester exam attendance incentive eligibility, please remind them that the incentive only involves 1 or 2 of their 8 classes, and therefore, isn't worth jeopardizing their health by attending school before they recover. A couple of parents have asked if absences from the flu can be excluded for purposes of the exam attendance incentive, and unfortunately, that's not possible. Because **the state does not differentiate between excused and unexcused absences for the purposes of awarding course credit or school accountability,** excluding absences doesn't help Bowie reach its attendance goals. Knowing that it's really a choice between eliminating the exam incentive pilot program and accepting the possibility that there could be a semester when they become ineligible because of "legitimate" absences, our students and parents previously indicated in surveys that they prefer to keep the exam incentive policy. As we move forward, we will continue to solicit feedback from staff, students, and parents to determine whether or not the exam attendance incentive is effective in sustaining good attendance and beneficial to students. The semester exam attendance incentive policy is posted on the Bowie website. **We will continue to monitor average daily attendance** and coding, and make a determination closer to finals if adjustments to the metrics in the program are warranted for this semester. If you have additional questions or would like to discuss your specific concerns, please contact me so I can put you in touch with staff members who have spearheaded the pilot program and can best explain the ins and outs.

JBHS will hold an **Incoming Freshmen Orientation & Showcase Night** for our current 8th grade students and parents on **Wednesday, February 7, from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.** Bowie staff members, as well as current Bowie students, will be showcasing elective classes including Fine Arts, CTE (Career-Technology Education), Foreign Languages, and Athletic Sports & PE classes. From 6:00 to 7:00 p.m., 8th grade students and parents can see elective classes in the library area, the F-Hall area, and the Fine Arts area. Those 8th grade students interested in joining specific special groups such as cheer, band, orchestra, choir, color guard, pre-drill, theatre, and athletics can choose to attend a break-out session occurring at 6:30 p.m. All students and parents will then attend a general session covering academics & course registration in either the theatre or the cafeteria from 7:10 to 8 p.m. Hope to see our middle school families there!

JBHS will conduct a **lockdown drill next week** as part of our emergency management plan. The drill is currently scheduled for the afternoon of February 7, 2018. Even though the drill will be announced, please keep this in mind if you receive a text message from your student or visit campus at that time. We will conclude the drill as quickly as possible in order to resume normal campus operations.

Report cards for the 4th six weeks will be emailed out on Thursday, February 15, 2018. This year is flying by!

Go Dawgs!



Mark Robinson, Principal
James Bowie High School
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A Recognized School of Excellence
