



James Bowie High School

❖ Pride In Performance ❖

Tuesday, February 20, 2018

Recent events in Florida, as well as other similar events, are all too frequent reminders as to why schools and staff must be constantly hypervigilant to safety and security. We are painfully aware that mental health, gun control, and politics are issues bigger than any of us individually, but will require all of us collectively because our inaction continues to plague America's public schools. I have spoken to a number of students, staff, and parents with concerns and feedback. I appreciate the communication and would like to share what I told the students and what I would like to ask of you.

Safety and security depend on both systems and people. We have entered a number of work orders for repairs to reinforce campus security. Exterior doors remain locked at all times and the gate entrance to the courtyard will now be closed, requiring everyone to use the canopy entrance. Students can help by being on time to class, using the courtyard entrance to enter the buildings on campus, and not propping doors open. We have all heard, "If you see something, say something." Students need to talk – to us, to you, and to each other. I asked students to report anything that is a concern to an adult on campus. Anonymous reports can be made by calling Crime Stoppers at 512.499.8477. I reminded students that following the school rules for parking, dress code, etc. are important since safety/security is often the reason that the rules are in place.

If you haven't already, please take time to talk to your kids about school and how they are feeling. As hard as it is for us to do as parents, we have to monitor screen time and content. Please don't hesitate to follow up with Bowie staff. If you have to pick your student up early for an appointment, please allow plenty of time for us to get him/her out of class. And finally, vote.

My personal response to recent events is to focus on the relationships that I have with students and the larger school community. Even though we have a large school, I want each and every student to know that they are valued and cared for as an important member of Bulldog Nation. The most important thing in education is that each and every student feels a connection to JBHS.

With the recent distribution of student Chromebooks, the launching of BLEND with student and parent access, and the expansion of applications in the AISD cloud, it's more important than ever that parents can navigate the various AISD web-based systems, can understand the role of technology in the Bowie classroom, and can effectively promote healthy tech usage. With this in mind, Bowie's Campus Innovation Coach Matt Flickinger and AISD Instructional Technology Specialist Howard Martin will host a Parent Technology Night on Thursday, March 8th from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. in the Bowie library. All Bowie parents are encouraged to participate. For planning purposes, please use the following link to let us know if you would like to attend: <https://goo.gl/forms/kxkzaPuKDRdcEEIw2>.

Finally, a reminder to take the AISD parent survey. It was mailed out a few weeks ago and is also available online <https://www.austinisd.org/parents>. The survey links are also available on the parent cloud as well.

Go Dawgs!

Mark Robinson, Principal

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