



# James Bowie High School

❖ Pride In Performance ❖

Tuesday, May 14, 2019

Dear Bowie High School Community,

Please join Austin ISD and Bowie High School for a **groundbreaking ceremony** to celebrate the first phase of the modernization project that includes improved parking, as well as additions and renovations to the athletics and fine arts facilities. The groundbreaking is scheduled for Thursday, June 6 at 9:00 a.m. Parking will be available on site and refreshments will be provided by AISD Food Services. Work related to the HVAC system and parking improvements as identified in the 2013 and 2017 bond will continue this summer and throughout the next school year.

As much as we are looking forward to breaking ground on Bowie's new parking garage on June 6, we also know that it marks the beginning of a year-long parking squeeze as construction consumes a big section of our current student parking lot. We encourage you to start thinking about the adjustments you might make next year to ease your child's commute between home and Bowie and to help ease the traffic congestion around campus. You may consider organizing parent carpools, utilizing the AISD bus service, adjusting drop-off and pick-up times, biking or walking to campus, etc. We appreciate all efforts to help reduce the number of vehicles on campus next year! While there will certainly be challenges, there will also be some immediate improvements, such as the expansion of the exit lanes at the Slaughter Lane stoplight and the reduction of about 250 cars on campus, both of which will **greatly improve dismissal** at the end of each school day.

For those of you wanting your child to drive to school next year, carefully read the recently **revised 2019-20 Parking Plan** linked [here](#) so you and your child can make an informed decision about where (and if) your student is eligible to park and how to secure the appropriate permit. Note that there are several firm deadlines indicated in the document and that some of the links embedded in the parking plan are only accessible by your student. (They will need to completely log out of all personal gmail/google accounts and log-in with their AISD gmail/google credentials.) We realize that the parking situation next year is less than ideal and that the plan may not meet the needs of every student and family, but anything you can do to encourage flexibility and patience within our Bowie community would be really helpful! With input from the architects, parents, staff, and students, we have tried our best to create a parking plan that is equitable and manageable, prioritizing seniors and rewarding those with good attendance, but you are encouraged to also read the FAQs on page 3 of the parking plan for a better understanding of some of the parameters and rationale.

Bowie's semester exam **attendance incentive program** continues to be popular among our students and is an effective strategy to support attendance. See the [policy](#) in its entirety and the [FAQs](#) posted on the JBHS website for more information. To ensure equity and fairness, the TEA absence codes are used to determine eligibility for the exam incentives. See the complete list of TEAMS codes [here](#) (codes with "yes" in Present column DO NOT count against the student, codes with "no" in Present column DO count against the student.) Please encourage your student to take a few minutes to check their attendance record in TEAMS and resolve any errors immediately (tip: for accuracy, use a computer and not a phone to check the codes.) Per AISD board policy, **students are required to take**

**a semester exam in every class** – even in classes for which they intend to use their exam incentive. We expect students to give their best effort on every exam no matter what! The final exam schedule can be found [here](#).

**Semester exam incentive certificates will be distributed on Monday, May 20**, in downstairs C-hall. Students can claim certificates before school, during lunch, or after school. Certificates will not be distributed during passing periods. Students with library obligations will not be allowed to pick up their certificates, so library books and fines should be taken care of right away. Monday is the **ONLY** day that certificates will be distributed – students who don't pick up their certificates will lose the right to use it.

**Bowie computer science teachers need your help!** We are partnering with the Microsoft Philanthropies TEALS Program (Technology Education And Literacy in Schools) for the 2019-2020 school year. TEALS volunteers work directly with classroom teachers to help them build their computer science teaching capacity through yearlong support and training. Volunteers work with teachers and other industry professionals to help teach introductory and AP CS curriculum and inspire the next generation of computer scientists. If you are a computer science professional, find out how you can help grow our computer science program by attending a TEALS Volunteer Information Webinar. Register to attend at <https://aka.ms/austinTEALS>.

All students enrolled in a PE or a PE substitution are **required to take the Fitnessgram assessment**. The assessment includes a variety of health-related physical fitness tests that assess aerobic capacity, muscular strength, and body composition. Scores from these assessments are compared to Healthy Fitness Zone standards to determine students' overall physical fitness and suggest areas for improvement. **Parents can access fitnessgram scores through the Cloud**. Once logged in search for the "Fitnessgram" tile to view your student's results.

**Bowie's [2019-20 A/B calendar](#) is now available** on the Bowie website. Please note the color key at the bottom of the calendar. I hope you'll find this information helpful in planning for the next school year.

Sincerely,

Mark Robinson  
Principal  
James Bowie High School  
Follow me on [Twitter](#) @robinson\_mark\_a

*A Recognized School of Excellence*

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