



James Bowie High School

❖ Pride In Performance ❖

Monday, September 25, 2017

Greetings Bowie High School Community,

Last October, over 1.6 million juniors from 22,000 high schools entered the 2018 National Merit Scholarship program by taking the 2016 PSAT exam. In April 2017, National Merit Scholarship Corporation identified the 50,000 highest scorers. Out of this number, 16,000 or less than one percent of the U.S. high school seniors were identified as National Merit Semi-finalists. About 34,000 students are recognized as National Merit Commended students for their exceptional academic promise.

With great pleasure, the administration, faculty, and staff would like to announce the seniors at James Bowie High School that have been recognized this 2018 school year by National Merit Scholarship Corporation for Semi-Finalist and Commended Student status. National Merit Semi-finalists who are continuing on in the scholarship competition for National Merit Finalist status are Daniel Baltoi, Lindsey Cottle, Tyler David, and Clara Martin. The Commended students are Matthew Ankele, Tasha Anslyn, Megan Bell, Hana Dole, Haroon Dossani, Diana Dunn, Hannah Erington, Jennifer Hoang, Zachary Houdek, Sean Lloyd, Shane Lockhoof, Emily Robinett, Kathleen Stephenson, and Reed Syzdek.

Congratulations are also in order for the 2018 National Hispanic Scholars. Bowie has five students in the top 5,000 scoring students in the nation of the 250,000 Hispanic/Latino seniors who took the 2016 PSAT exam. The College Board's National Hispanic Scholar program is an academic honor used by colleges to identify academically exceptional Hispanic/Latino students. With great pleasure, we announce our National Hispanic Scholars: Rose Eichelmann, James Garcia, David Huerta, Alejandra Rivera, and Marissa Warren.

Each of these 23 high achieving seniors has earned a recognition that will help broaden their educational and financial aid opportunities and encourage them as they continue their pursuit of academic success.

To ensure that its students are positioned to be competitive in the college application process, Austin ISD pays for every 10th and 11th grade student to take the College Board's Practice SAT (PSAT). This exam will be administered at Bowie HS on Wednesday, October 11, 2017, from approximately 9:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. In advance of the test, please encourage your student to visit <https://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/psat-nmsqt-psat-10/practice> to learn more about the test's structure and access sample test questions. Let your student know that it's important they give their best effort so they are in the running for scholarships and are on-track in their SAT preparations.

While our sophomores and juniors are testing on Wednesday, October 11, freshmen will participate in activities planned to empower them as high school students. Students will listen to author and motivational speaker Kacy Benson, complete an online Growth Mindset module, engage in team-

building activities with BHS student leaders, and attend a session to support mental health. We are very excited about what we have planned for our students!

One of our goals at Bowie High School is to have all students graduate college and career ready. Therefore, our seniors will have several opportunities to get one step closer on October 11. All seniors must complete one of the following field experiences: visit a local college, complete the Apply Texas application to Austin Community College, work on their college applications in Bowie's College and Career Center, or attend the Financial Literacy Summit in the Bowie band hall. Seniors will receive information about documenting their experience and are not limited to only one activity.

As you make appointments for your student please be mindful of the bell schedule for Wednesday, October 11, 2017:

9:00am-2:00pm PSAT & Grade Level Activities
2:15pm-2:45pm 1st period
2:50pm-3:20pm 2nd period
3:25pm-3:55pm 3rd period
4:00pm-4:30pm 4th period

The SAT and ACT are both viable options for college entrance exams. It is a good idea for students to take both as they prepare for college admissions. A practice ACT will be administered, free of charge, to interested 11th grade students at the Bowie cafeteria from 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on Saturday, October 28, 2017. This practice exam will be proctored by More Than a Teacher, a test-prep company that Bowie has partnered with for several years. Use the following link to sign-up for the practice ACT: <http://www.morethanateacher.com/practice-test/1028-bowie-act/>

Please talk to your student about his/her plans for what happens after high school and emphasize the importance of doing well on these exams. We want everyone to succeed and receive valid feedback. It could be your student identified by National Merit next year!

Sincerely,



Mark Robinson
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James Bowie High School
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A Recognized School of Excellence

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