



# JAMES BOWIE HIGH SCHOOL

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December 4, 2023

Greetings, Bulldog Nation!

I hope everyone enjoyed the Thanksgiving holiday! We only have a few weeks until the next break, so I wanted to send out some reminders and some other need-to-know information.

**8TH GRADE DAWG SHOW** - On Tuesday, December 5, 8th graders from Bailey, Gorzycki, Kealing, Covington, Small, and Lively middle schools will visit Bowie from 9:30 to noon for the annual Dawg Show. A cross-section of Bowie students will lead campus tours, serve on a Q&A student panel, facilitate team-building activities, and hold a pep rally to provide these future Bulldogs with a glimpse of high school life. Thank you to the staff at the middle schools for sharing their students with us for a few hours and to our various student organizations for all of their work to make Dawg Show a success! Do you know the parent of an 8th grader? Please be sure they've read my [8th grade parent letter](#) and watched the [You Belong at Bowie video](#). And, let them know all the benefits of being a part of Bulldog Nation!

**ARRIVING ON TIME TO CLASS:** Being on time to class isn't always easy for students. Socializing is a natural and important part of development, and having only six minutes to get from class to class means that sometimes students have to forgo time with friends between classes. However, research indicates that when students miss out on important directions or concepts at the beginning of class, their learning suffers. Plus, late arriving students are disruptive to the learning environment and cause teachers to waste time repeating instructions or correcting the attendance record. While the vast majority of students are punctual, we are working to reduce tardiness overall. Thank you for checking your child's attendance in Parent Self-Serve from time to time for any patterns of tardiness and letting your child know that you expect them to arrive to class on time.

**ATTENDANCE INCENTIVES FOR EXAMS** - Bowie offers exam incentives to reward excellent attendance. The exam incentive allows eligible students to replace their exam grade with a higher semester average in either one or two of their classes. The [Understanding Incentives document](#) provides a helpful overview of the exam incentive program. Some things to keep in mind:



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- **All absences count, regardless of the reason.** The only exceptions are absences for school-related activities (coded SCH, FLD, or UIL) and absences for healthcare appointments when the student attended school for part of the day (coded MED).
- The incentive eligibility list is based on the official attendance record you see in the AISD Portal's Self-Serve tile. **The student should contact the teacher regarding any attendance errors by Wednesday, December 6.** Only the teacher of record can initiate an attendance correction.
- Students should be on the lookout for more information in the coming weeks regarding how many attendance incentives they earned for this semester and how to apply them.

**SEMESTER EXAMS** - Semester exams are scheduled for December 15-20. Students must take a semester exam (or complete a culminating activity) in every course. The exam grade counts 20% toward the semester average, with each 9-week report card grade comprising 40%. Two exams are scheduled for each day of the exam window, with students being released from school at 1:05 PM to allow them to go home and study for the next day's assessments (see the [2023-24 Fall Semester Exam Schedule](#)). Bus schedules will be adjusted accordingly.

**AISD HONOR STORIES** - Austin ISD Special Education Appreciation Week is December 4-8. Let's shine a light on our Austin ISD Special Education staff members! Share your **#AISDHonorStory** about a Special Education staff member who has positively influenced your life. Join us in celebrating these dedicated educators who make a world of difference. [Submit your story today!](#)

Go Dawgs!

Mark Robinson  
Principal