



JAMES BOWIE HIGH SCHOOL

August 20, 2024

Greetings, Bulldog Nation!

This morning, we welcomed 2941 students to campus for the start of the 2024-25 school year. I am pleased to report that we have had a GREAT first day of school! Thank you for sending your Bulldog to us ready to collaborate with their peers, teachers, and other staff in owning their own learning and establishing an inclusive and friendly environment at Bowie High School! The energy on campus is great so we are all excited, optimistic, and poised to have an amazing year.

WELCOME INFORMATION- Today during Advisory class, students had the opportunity to [hear from Bowie's administrators](#), receive their class schedule and student ID, and determine their lunch assignment. Beginning-of-the-year orientation activities will continue with the Advisory teacher for the rest of the week during the Flexible Instructional Time (FIT) period from 10:41-11:07.

STUDENT ID BADGES - Everyone on campus - visitors, staff, and students - are required to wear an ID badge. Wearing an ID is an important part of our overall campus safety plan. Therefore, Bowie High School issues student IDs and a lanyard for all students to wear when they are on campus during regular school hours. All students received their ID for the 24/25 school year during Advisory this morning, so please remind your child to bring their ID to school every day. **Replacement lanyards are available for \$2 and replacement IDs are \$5.** Both may be purchased in room A117 with cash or check. Online payments will be available soon.

TRAFFIC & PARKING- While traffic was heavy throughout the community, the flow of traffic through campus was efficient overall. Here are a few observations and requests for our parents and students driving to school this week:

- Allow extra time and be patient while everyone learns the campus procedures. Please pay attention to directional signage and follow any instructions from the staff.
- The parent drop-off loop enters and exits on Slaughter Lane. The entrance from Wolftrap is intended solely for faculty, buses, and students permitted to park in the garage. Only faculty and buses are allowed to drive around behind the school.
- The right lane is for pickup and drop off and the left lane is designated as drive through only. **Please do not let your child out of the car in the left lane** to cross the pickup and drop off lane on the right.
- When dropping off your student, **please pull forward past the crosswalk and canopy at the main entrance and let them out of the car to use the sidewalk alongside the parking garage.** Parents are encouraged to pull up to the stop sign at the northeast corner of the parking garage to double the number of students that can be picked up or dropped off at one time. This includes Athletics - please do not stop traffic to let your child out of the car at the athletic building. Pulling more cars onto the campus will ease congestion on Slaughter Lane and keep our students safe as they arrive on campus.
- If you have any questions about parking permits, please contact Ms. Amanda Pfeiffer at amanda.pfeiffer@austinisd.org.

BACK TO SCHOOL PARENT NIGHT - Bowie's annual open house event for parents and guardians will be **6:00-7:30 p.m. on Monday, August 26**. Bowie offers a flipped format, meaning that the teachers' informational presentations for parents are pre-recorded and posted to their BLEND course homepages, allowing you to access that information at your convenience. Those parents wishing to come to campus in person will join me for a Principal's Welcome in the auditorium, with doors opening at 5:30 p.m. The student section of the parking garage will be open for parent parking during the event. Teachers will be available in their classrooms to greet parents from 6:30-7:30 p.m. in a come-and-go format. Parents can also opt to attend some general informational sessions during this time. Prior to coming to campus on Monday, please preview the [Back to School Night schedule](#) and note your child's classrooms on their schedule.

MARTHA (the Comfort Dog) RETURNS - Martha is a Comfort Dog affiliated with Bethany Lutheran Church. She is a working dog whose role is to provide comfort to everyone she meets, especially those who are hurting. She only goes where she is invited, working in schools, rehab hospitals, and with veterans. When an emergency occurs, she will respond to bring comfort to all impacted by the event. As an example, she has been visiting the Uvalde schools and community over the past two years. Her first visit is August 23, and she will be visiting on select Fridays throughout the year. She is once again looking forward to seeing all her friends at Bowie.

AISD Family Empower Hours - We are excited to share the details of our upcoming [Family Empower Hour sessions](#), which provide valuable information and support to our students' families. The topic for our next meeting is Child Find and is scheduled for September 18 at 12:00 pm and then again at 6:00 pm on [Google Meet](#). This session will explain how our district identifies and supports students who may need special education services. We will cover the steps from referral to evaluation, and how we determine eligibility for special education services.

LOCKDOWN DRILL - Texas state law requires Bowie to conduct several safety drills per year, including two lockdown drills. **Bowie will conduct a lockdown drill for this year on Tuesday, August 27**. The Texas School Safety Center provides [information to parents](#) about what to expect during a lockdown drill:

"During a lockdown drill, an announcement will be made, generally over the public address system, and the school will go into lockdown. Language should be clear that a drill is taking place and not an actual emergency. Teachers will scan the hall and pull any students, staff, and visitors into their classrooms, and lock their classroom doors. The lights will be turned off in the classroom and the students and teacher will hide out of view from the window. The door to the classroom may not be opened by anyone inside the classroom, regardless of what is said from someone that might be trying to get in. The occupants of the room are taught to remain quiet."

Campus administrations in collaboration with the School Resource Officer (SRO) at Bowie will "clear" the campus before classes return to normal instruction.

Go Dawgs!

Mark Robinson
Principal