



JAMES BOWIE HIGH SCHOOL

August 29, 2024

Greetings, Bulldog Nation!

We are only two weeks into the new school year, and it is almost September! This year has gotten off to a great start at Bowie. It was nice to see many of you at Back to School Night. The [deck from my presentation](#) is available online, and please be sure to check out your teachers' welcome videos posted to the Blend courses for their classes. Thank you all for your support of Bowie High School!

FIRST WEEK RECAP - We had a wonderful back to school week at James Bowie High School! To get all of our students acquainted (or reacquainted) with our systems and structures, on-boarding lessons in their Advisory classes during Flexible Instructional Time (FIT) included a [welcome video](#) from our administration team, instruction regarding our [Attendance Incentive program](#), an introduction to [AISD's Student Code of Conduct](#), including educational materials about the hazards and consequences of vaping, and a [how-to guide for FIT](#).

In addition to those lessons, part of our efforts to help our students feel that they belong at Bowie included our third annual 9th grade Bulldog Spirit Training! This pep rally is designed specifically with our freshmen in mind to fully initiate them into Bulldog Nation: they learn the school song with our choir and their class yell with the cheerleaders and Silver Stars, meet their Class of 2028 sponsors, and connect with upperclassmen in various leadership roles across campus. (They even leave with a cookie!) Thank you to the faculty and students who helped make this spirited event possible.

CREDIT BY EXAM - Credit by examination (CBE) is one method for students to demonstrate proficiency in grade-level or course content. Secondary students may earn course credit towards graduation requirements. The Quarter 1 testing window for Credit by Exam occurs September 16 - September 27, 2024. Please [contact your counselor](#) if you are interested in Credit by Exam.

DROP OFF & PICK UP REMINDERS - [Traffic and parking information for Bowie High School is available online](#), so that everyone is aware of the systems we have in place for the safe and efficient flow of pedestrians and wheeled traffic around campus. It is vital for all of our students and staff, but especially our new student drivers, for traffic on campus to follow the established pattern and model safe and legal best practices for driving. Whenever you are dropping off or picking up your student, please enter using the Slaughter Lane entrance, and do not attempt to enter from Wolftrap.

Entering from Wolfrap and dropping off your student near the parking garage entrances impedes traffic flow and creates hazardous conditions for pedestrians. In addition, we have also received complaints about parents parking along Wolfrap at the end of the day blocking the northbound lane. Additionally, local apartment communities have contacted us about parents parking in their guest and residents' spaces at the end of the school day and then becoming non-compliant when they are asked to move. Thank you for helping us maintain good relations with our neighbors and keeping our campus safe by respecting the established protocols for traffic and parking. Reckless student driving is also concerning, particularly at the end of the day as some students attempt to exit campus quickly before traffic backs up. Our team of staff members who direct traffic during this time report and follow up with consequences for students when they observe dangerous drivers in the moment or through security camera footage.

If your student does not ride the bus, please speak with your child about dismissal time, and make sure they have a plan to get home safely every day. I will be messaging students about this problem as well, and I will continue working with my traffic team to discuss the improvement of traffic safety and enforcement.

DRIVING PASS - *This is only for students with valid Driver's Licenses* - To authorize a student to check out without a parent/guardian present, please fill out the [Driving Pass Request Google Form](#) 24 hours in advance (the form will be open daily from 4:30 pm to 7:30 am).

- The student will be sent a pass at their departure time. The student will need to come to the office to sign out and to pick up their "Permit to Leave" (driving pass) prior to leaving campus.
- Upon returning to campus, students may go directly to class after buzzing in at the main entrance. There's no need to check-in at the front office. Attendance notes can be [submitted online](#).

H-E-B Excellence in Education Awards - Let's lift up and recognize the professionals at James Bowie High School for the exceptional work being done to serve students! [The H-E-B Excellence in Education](#) program awards cash grants to finalists, winners, and their schools. A nomination starts a journey that can lead to impactful benefits for the teachers and staff in your community.

CALENDAR REMINDERS - Austin ISD and Bowie High School will be closed for the Labor Day Holiday on Monday, September 2. Classes will resume on Tuesday, September 3. I hope that everyone enjoys the long weekend!

Go Dawgs!

Mark Robinson
Principal