



JAMES BOWIE HIGH SCHOOL

September 4, 2024

Greetings, Bulldog Nation!

NEW ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL - I wanted to take the opportunity to introduce our new Assistant Principal, Mr. Phil Morgante, who will supervise the Science department in addition to being the point of contact for families with last names LAK-OR. Mr. Morgante was raised in Youngstown, Ohio and graduated with a Bachelor's from Kent State University in 1980. Phil got to Texas as fast as he could, like many Yankees at the time, and started teaching social studies at Landrum Middle School in Spring Branch ISD. As his career progressed and he earned his Master's in Administration, Hightower High School assigned Mr. Morgante his first Assistant Principal position until he was transferred to Clements High School by Fort Bend ISD. Phil spent 21 years at CHS and was honored as the Assistant Principal of the year for the state of Texas in 2014 by the Texas Association of Secondary School Principals. Phil has been married to his best friend, Veronica, for 24 years, and knew he was going to marry her the first time he met her. They have one daughter, Jaime, who is a highly successful interior designer, and one granddaughter, Isabell. Mr. and Mrs. Morgante are proud to announce that Jamie also just graduated from culinary school! The Morgantes share their home with a puppy, Jasper, their poodle of joy.

BULLDOGS & HOTDOGS - On Saturday, September 7, Bowie's PTSA invites you to our annual [Bulldogs and Hotdogs](#) event, located in the Bowie courtyard under the shade of the second-best tree in Austin. The event will be from 5:00 - 8:00 pm, and it is a collective fundraiser for Bowie boosters, student clubs, and school programs that features a pep rally in the competition gym at 6:30, plus games, food and drink, and spirit wear sales. Admission is free, but be sure to bring cash or your checkbook to purchase food, drink, and spirit items.

CLUB FAIR - Joining a school club is a great way to meet new friends, have fun, and demonstrate school involvement in those college applications! **Bowie will host a Club Fair in the courtyard during both lunches on Friday, September 13**, so students can learn more about how to get involved. Students interested in starting a new club must first identify a teacher sponsor, and then submit a completed club application to the main office for approval. Have your student take some time to view the [complete list of Bowie's clubs](#) or fill out a [new club application](#) on the Bowie website.

ADVANCED ACADEMICS - Advanced Academics at James Bowie High School propels students toward college, career, and life readiness. There are a number of course options for students including Advanced Courses (formerly Pre-AP), Advanced Placement (AP), and Gifted and Talented services.

- [Austin ISD Advanced Academics](#) will offer an online information session for families of current, new, and/or prospective AP students on September 19 from 6 to 7 PM. This session is ideally for current or new AP students as it will outline support and timelines for this current school year. The session will be offered in English and Spanish. This session will include information about:
 - AP Exams - Schedule of exams and deadlines for ordering
 - Benefits of AP participation and taking the AP Exam
 - Free AP resources such as AP Classroom
 - General overview of AP outcomes in Austin ISD

The [session will be held on Zoom](#) on September 19 from 6 to 7 PM. For more questions, please contact Cody Pruitt, AP/IB Coordinator at cody.pruitt@austinisd.org.

- **Secondary Gifted and Talented (GT) services** include instruction by a teacher with the appropriate GT Foundations training for students participating in the following course options: Advanced Courses, Advanced Placement, Dual Credit, or Advanced-level CTE courses. The GT referral window is now open! This year's referral window is August 20-October 7, 2024. Anyone can refer students using this [form](#). If you are interested in seeing whether your child demonstrates a need for Gifted and Talented Services, please complete the form link above.

ATTENDANCE MATTERS - Attendance is crucial to student success, and it's key to state funding for our schools. Please review the ["Attendance Matters" slide deck](#) for important information about the compulsory attendance laws in Texas, the 90% rule, how to report an absence (webform or physical notes), different types of absences, and some recommendations to set your student up for success.

Go Dawgs!

Mark Robinson
Principal