



JAMES BOWIE HIGH SCHOOL

December 8, 2022

Greetings Bulldog Nation,

In August 2019, Bowie teacher leaders and instructional staff crafted this statement to articulate the purpose, meaning, and focus of our work with students.

The mission of James Bowie High School is to nurture all learners in their academic and career goals, social needs, and personal interests while celebrating diversity and preparing students for their futures.

Our ongoing charge is to design programs, make decisions, and foster a culture oriented to and grounded in this mission. We are excited that our incoming students will reap the benefits of our commitments and focus, while experiencing and enjoying the traditions built over Bowie's 35-year history of "Pride in Performance."

Having served as a middle school principal before I came to Bowie, I am very much aware of the anticipation and anxiety that accompanies the transition to high school. I am excited to share what we have planned to make this process as smooth as possible.

THE BOWIE DAWG SHOW (MIDDLE SCHOOL CAMPUS VISIT) - On Thursday, December 15, all 8th graders from Bailey, Covington, Gorzycki, Kealing, and Lively who live in the Bowie attendance zone will be transported by bus to Bowie for a campus visit from approximately 9:30-11:45 am. Junior and Senior student leaders will enthusiastically welcome their arrival, and then accompany small groups of 8th graders as they meet students from other middle schools in team-building activities, get their questions about high school answered by a student panel, and explore Bowie on a campus tour. Our hope is that they discover that high school is not as big and scary as they may think!

SHOWCASE NIGHT - We know that our parents and students want to know more about classes and clubs at Bowie before selecting courses for freshmen year. We will host our annual 9th Grade Showcase Night on the evening of January 18, 2023, from 5:30-7:30 pm. Eighth-grade students and their families will be able to walk the Bowie campus, attend informational presentations, visit club and program booths, and chat with current students and staff.

COURSE SELECTION GUIDANCE - Sometimes the process of selecting courses in high school creates significant angst for students and families. Navigating the graduation requirements, pondering potential career pathways, anticipating the impact for college applications, determining the appropriate level of course rigor, and ensuring school-life balance, is a lot to take into consideration. To support our families with decision making, the [Course Scheduling section](#) of the Bowie website

(bowie.austinschools.org) provides a wealth of information and course videos to help you and your student better understand the courses and programs offered.

Students must submit their 9th grade course requests by February 3, 2023. In advance of this deadline, our amazing counseling team will be meeting with students at each middle school campus to review graduation requirements, highlight some programs, and explain the course selection process for next year. For last minute course advising, the counseling team will host evening office hours at Bowie from 5:30-7:30 pm on January 31, 2023 for Bailey, Covington, Kealing, Lively, and Small students, and from 5:30-7:30 pm on February 1, 2023 for Gorzycki students.

After 35+ years of excellence, James Bowie High School continues to innovate and improve. Your student will enjoy the completed modernization of our fine arts and athletic facilities, as well as experience thriving STEM and CTE pathways, state- and nationally recognized extracurricular programs, and top-tier teachers! These students will also be joining a campus community that is growing its cultural proficiency and intentional in its efforts to ensure safety and inclusiveness for all. And still ... there is so much more!

To learn more about everything Bowie has to offer, I enthusiastically encourage all the 8th graders and their families in the Bowie vertical team to participate in the upcoming transition activities and to be on the lookout for more specific information to come from me and our wonderful counseling staff.

Welcome to Bowie!

Go Bulldogs!

Mark Robinson
Principal
James Bowie High School