



JAMES BOWIE HIGH SCHOOL

February 2, 2021

Greetings, Bulldog Nation!

STUDENT & PARENT SURVEYS - With a strong commitment to continuous improvement, Bowie relies on feedback from the annual Student Climate Survey and Family Survey. Bowie students in grades 9-11 will begin taking the Austin ISD 2020–2021 Student Climate Survey in their English classes on February 10, 2021 (click [HERE](#) to preview the student survey). If you would like to opt-out your child from participating in this survey, please submit the form linked [HERE](#) and inform your child so they understand that they will not be able to access the survey. The [2020-21 Family Survey](#) can be submitted by parents and guardians until March 5, 2021. Participation in these surveys is voluntary and all answers are confidential. If you have any questions, please contact the Department of Research & Evaluation at survey@austinisd.org.

TEA REPORT CARDS - The State of Texas 2019–20 School Report Card and the Federal Report Card for Bowie High School are now available [HERE](#) or in the main office. These reports are required by law and are prepared by the Texas Education Agency. Both report cards provide information concerning student performance on the State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness (STAAR®) and information on enrollment, class size averages, and financial expenditures. **Due to COVID-19 related cancellation of STAAR testing in the 2019-20 school year, STAAR results from the 2018-19 school year are included in the 2019-20 reports.**

BLACK HISTORY MONTH AT BOWIE - In celebration of the nation’s bicentennial in 1976, President Gerald Ford first recognized Black History Month and urged Americans to "seize the opportunity to honor the too-often neglected accomplishments of Black Americans in every area of endeavor throughout our history." In this spirit, and in support of Bowie’s mission to “celebrate diversity” and its vision for students to “engage in and contribute to a diverse global society,” the Bowie staff and students have planned a number of innovative ways to amplify Black voices and highlight Black accomplishments throughout the month of February. I invite you to read [Working Toward Equity at Bowie](#), explore the Black History Month resources in the [BLEND Bowie Community course](#), and enjoy the daily “Your Moment in Black History” videos included with the morning announcements.

SAT FOR JUNIORS MARCH 3 - All juniors are invited to participate in the SAT School Day at Bowie on Wednesday, **March 3, 2021**. On this date, Austin ISD administers the SAT college entrance exam free-of-cost to junior students. Due to COVID-19 and our current circumstances this year, parents can choose whether they want their juniors to come to school to take the test. Parents of juniors wanting their child to come to campus to take the SAT on Wednesday, March 3, 2021, must submit the [SAT Participation Form](#) by **Friday, February 12**. More detailed information about this opportunity, including links to practice tests, can be found [HERE](#) on the JBHS website.



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STAAR EOC TESTING UPDATE - You may have seen recent local news stories about the 2020-21 STAAR exams and may be curious if the five high school End-of-Course (EOC) exams for Algebra 1, English 1, English 2, Biology, and U.S. History will be administered at Bowie this year given local health conditions. While the Texas Education Agency (TEA) is allowing districts to extend the testing window by a few weeks, it is still requiring that tests be administered to students in person for test security purposes and requiring that students pass the exams in order to meet graduation requirements.

TEA issued Covid waivers to last year's EOC testers who earned credit in the respective EOC courses. Students who received a TEA Covid waiver last year will not be required at any point to pass that specific EOC exam in order to graduate. However, **TEA has not waived this year's EOC exams as a requirement for graduation.** This means that a student currently enrolled in an EOC tested course, but because of safety concerns does not take their EOC exam(s) in the spring of 2021, will have to make up the missed EOC exams next year or when local health conditions improve in order to graduate. Please note that without the issuance of a TEA waiver, there is no parent "opt-out" of the EOC as a graduation requirement. Click [HERE](#) for a more comprehensive explanation from the Texas Association of School Boards about the no opt-out policy.

The EOC exams for English 1 and English 2 will be offered at Bowie in late April, and the EOC exams for Biology, Algebra 1, and U.S. History will be offered in late May (specific dates TBD). Just as it did for PSAT and SAT testing, Bowie will likely ask that parents register their students in advance and will endeavor to ensure social distancing for testers. Each family must determine if sending their child to campus for this year's EOC is appropriate given the specific circumstances within their household. More information will be provided as we get closer to the testing dates.

Go Dawgs!

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Principal

James Bowie High School

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