



# JAMES BOWIE HIGH SCHOOL

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February 7, 2023

Greetings, Bulldog Nation!

**LAST WEEK'S SCHOOL CLOSURE** - Many in Bulldog Nation suffered loss of power and/or significant property damage because of last week's inclement weather. On the heels of last week's challenges, I was grateful that we were able to welcome students and staff back to campus yesterday with functioning heat and plumbing. While losing four days of instruction is unfortunate, the district's calendar does already include two-days of surplus instructional minutes in the academic calendar. On Thursday evening, the school board will vote on [a resolution](#) to pursue a waiver with the Texas Education Agency (TEA) allowing the district to forgo making up the additional two instructional days. I will be sure to let you know if there are any changes to the [instructional calendar](#) as a result of their decision and any subsequent TEA action.

**BLACK HISTORY MONTH** - Black History Month is a time every year that we intentionally highlight and celebrate the contributions of Black Americans to our nation. We would not be where we are today if it were not for historical figures like Harriet Tubman and Frederick Douglass, the Freedom Riders and other changemakers of the Civil Rights Movement-- but we also wouldn't be here without talented Black teachers, scientists, doctors, athletes, artists, activists, mothers and fathers, and more. We celebrate the people whose accomplishments shape our society, and we grieve the people whose names and contributions we don't know because of the darkness of racism.

- **Bowie Activities** - To celebrate Black History Month, teachers will highlight the contributions of a Black Americans during morning announcements and participate in a Black History Month door decorating contest. As part of Black History month, the library will be featuring some [documentaries and movies](#) to celebrate African American voices during FIT and lunch. Students will also be invited to a live poetry reading and open mic event on February 24. Thank you for fostering awareness in your student about the value of these activities.
- **District Activities** - You are invited to the African American Heritage Celebration at the Austin ISD Performing Arts Center on February 24, 2023, at 6:30 p.m. The program will be hosted by students from Travis Early College High School and feature student performances.

**HELP WITH COURSE SELECTIONS** - Students will be submitting their course selections for the upcoming school year during their math class Feb. 14-21. Counselors and teachers are currently providing course advising and answering student questions. Counselors will also host open office hours in the Bowie Library from **4:45-6:15 pm on Monday, Feb. 13** to meet with students and their parents or guardians and to answer any last-minute questions they may have.

**AISD CHROMEBOOK SHORTAGE** - Currently, district-issued student Chromebooks are backordered. This means that Bowie is limited in its ability to replace lost, stolen, and broken devices, and that loaner devices are not available to students who forget to bring their Chromebook to school. Knowing that state-required testing necessitates the use of an AISD Chromebook, here's how students can ensure Bowie manage its Chromebook supply:

- Always keep track of the Chromebook and store it in padded bag.
- Immediately report lost, stolen, or damaged Chromebooks. The replacement fee is \$50 if the device was lost or has excessive/intentional damage.
- Bring in broken Chromebooks for repair (there is no charge for repairs related to regular wear and tear).
- Update the Chromebook's operating system to the latest version (Chrome OS 107) for better functionality. Click [HERE](#) for instructions.
- **Seniors** who use a personal device and who no longer use or need an AISD-issued Chromebook are encouraged to return their Chromebook to help replenish the inventory for students who will need one for upcoming testing.

**CHROMEBOOK SUPPORT** - I am pleased to welcome Tanya Snow as Bowie's new Library Clerk and Chromebook Device Manager. As a volunteer in the vertical team and the parent of an alum and current student, she is a long-time supporter of Bulldog Nation. She is looking forward to working with students in the library and to supporting them with their technology needs. Students can seek her out for technology assistance at the following times and locations:

**Front Office** - 8:35 am - 11:45 am

**A117 Bookroom** - 12:35 pm - 1:15pm

**A117 Bookroom** - 2:30pm - 4:30pm

**UPCOMING SAT FOR ALL JUNIORS** - Before scheduling a Saturday SAT exam for your junior, please be aware that they will be **automatically registered to take an official SAT at Bowie on Wednesday, March 1**. This school-day SAT is paid for by Austin ISD to support your child's college readiness. All Bowie juniors are required to participate in SAT testing on March 1 beginning at 9:05 am and concluding around 1:30 pm. They will be released for lunch after the SAT and then will resume a regular A-Day schedule. Please avoid scheduling any medical appointments during the scheduled testing time, so that your junior doesn't miss out on this opportunity. If your student would like to take an additional SAT exam, they will need to [register and submit payment](#) on their own. Encourage your student to prepare for their upcoming SAT using the [great test prep resources](#) provided by the College Board. Students are welcome to drop by Bowie's College & Career Center or reach out to Bowie's College & Career Counselor Ms. Valverde ([carli.valverde@austinisd.org](mailto:carli.valverde@austinisd.org)) with questions about taking the SAT or anything else related to their college and career planning.

Go Dawgs!

Mark Robinson  
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James Bowie High School