

February 9, 2021

Greetings, Bulldog Nation!

2021-22 COURSE SCHEDULING - On Tuesday, February 16, students in grades 9-11 will be guided by their 5th period teachers in the official submission of their course requests for the 2021-22 school year. Over the last few weeks, all students participated in classroom presentations with the counselors to learn about graduation requirements and various factors to consider when choosing courses. Teachers then followed up with class discussions about course options for their respective subjects and advised students one-on-one as to the recommended level of rigor based on their academic progress this year. Curious about the wide variety of courses Bowie offers? Click HERE to watch some informational course videos.

Prior to entering their official course selections in the Scheduling Self-Serve platform on February 16, students will submit a draft of their course choices using a counselor-provided Google Form. Upon submission of their draft, the student's parents receive a confirmation email with an attached PDF of the draft course selections. Please review the draft with your child and have them resubmit the Google Form with any changes.

The counselors will be available via Zoom to meet with current Bowie students and parents for course advising for the 2021-2022 school year on Monday, February 15th (student holiday) from 7:30a.m.- 12:00p.m. and 1:30p.m.- 4:30p.m. Please use this Zoom link to log in for advising day. Parents and students will be placed into a breakout room for a one-on-one advising session with one of the Bowie school counselors. Please note that depending on the number of families present, there may be a short wait before your meeting.

For more information about the course selection process, visit the <u>Course Scheduling</u> page on the JBHS website.

SPEAK UP LESSONS - <u>Learning for Justice</u> (formerly Teaching Tolerance) seeks to be a catalyst for justice by providing resources to educators as they create inclusive school communities where students are "respected, valued and welcome participants." Last year we shared Learning for Justice's Speak Up strategies to equip Bowie students and staff with easy-to-remember ways to halt biased language and hate (click <u>HERE</u> to watch a video created by Bowie students about Speak Up). Recognizing the power of a common vocabulary and purpose to create an inclusive campus climate, our staff designed new grade-specific lessons to reinforce and extend learning around the Speak Up strategies. Throughout the month of February, these lessons will be taught by our amazing social studies teachers (click <u>HERE</u> to preview the Speak Up lessons in the BLEND Bowie

Community course). Thank you for echoing to your child the importance of taking action in the face of injustice.

CAMERAS ON CAMPAIGN - Most Bowie teachers agree that one of the more dreary consequences of virtual learning is teaching one's heart out to a screen of black Zoom boxes. What really lifts a teacher's spirit is seeing the bright-and-shining faces of their students light up the Zoom grid, so the Bowie PALS set out to convince their classmates to turn on their cameras during class to help humanize the learning experience for everyone. I thought I would share with you the <u>PALS Cameras On Campaign video</u> that was shown to students in their social studies classes last week. Remember, students are encouraged to turn their cameras on when they can, and let their teachers know when they can't!

UNDELIVERED EMAILS - Bowie is occasionally contacted by parents who say they aren't receiving important email communications from Bowie. If this is happening to you, first check your email account's junk or spam folder(s) to determine if emails are being misdirected. It is also possible that you blocked Bowie email at some point and will need to unblock Bowie in your email account settings to start receiving messages. In some instances, parents blocked Bowie emails several years ago and just don't realize that the block is still in place. Finally, verify that Bowie has your correct email address. Click <u>HERE</u> for PDF instructions to check your contact information in Frontline SIS Parent Self-Serve. Be sure to indicate that you would like to receive "Campus" notifications.

IMPORTANT DATES - The deadline for Juniors to sign-up for the free SAT at Bowie is this Friday, February 12th (click <u>HERE</u> for registration information). Monday, February 15, is a student holiday to allow our teachers and staff to participate in professional development. Upcoming 100% asynchronous remote learning days include February 26 (district-wide), March 3 (Bowie only for SAT administration), and March 5 (district-wide).

Go Dawgs!
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