



# JAMES BOWIE HIGH SCHOOL

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March 22, 2023

Greetings, Bulldog Nation!

**OPPORTUNITY TO SERVE** - The Bowie Parent Teacher Student Association (PTSA) needs YOU! The PTSA supports the staff by hosting staff appreciation events, and by funding instructional materials, teacher training, and various campus purchases. It also enriches the educational experience for students by sponsoring student events, programming, and post-secondary scholarships. My perspective is that PTSA offers parents and guardians an easy and meaningful avenue to get involved in their child's school life and to better understand Bowie's mission, vision, goals, and strategies.

Many of the PTSA Board members are stepping down soon because their youngest child is graduating this year, which means there are ample opportunities for YOU to get involved! Bowie's PTSA is fun, casual, and accepting of anyone who is willing to support our amazing Bowie community. The time commitment varies depending on the position, but none are overly burdensome, and prior experience is not necessary. The PTSA is currently seeking volunteers to serve as President, Treasurer, Build Up Bowie/Sponsorship VP, Communications VP, Programming VP, Bulldogs and Hot Dogs co-chairs and committee members, and Homecoming committee members. If you are willing to serve on the PTSA Board or just want to learn more about getting involved, please contact Jill Stachura ([jillstachura@gmail.com](mailto:jillstachura@gmail.com)). Thank you!

**FREE SAT PRACTICE TEST FOR NEW ONLINE FORMAT** - In the 2023-2024 school year, College Board is moving all SAT and PSAT exams to an online format. To help students prepare for this transition, Bowie is partnering with Revolution Prep to administer a free online practice SAT from 11:00-3:00 on Saturday, April 1. Students will take the test remotely at home. This opportunity is geared toward juniors but is also open to sophomores. There is no cost for the exam, but students must register for it in advance. Please refer to [this flyer](#) for more information.

**STUDENT VAPING PROBLEM** - According to a [2022 CDC survey](#), about 14 percent of high school students report using vapes (aka e-cigarettes). With flavored varieties, teen-focused marketing, and easy access from online vendors and local retail operators, vaping appeals to many young people. Unlike cigarettes and marijuana, which have distinct smells that are easier to identify, vaping is more difficult to associate with a scent because products are available in a wide range of flavors, including ones that are unscented. Moreover, e-cigarettes are easily concealed, and the "vapor" exhaled by the user quickly dissipates. These combined traits make it extremely difficult to detect and interrupt the use of e-cigarettes by students.

**Bowie is not immune from the teen e-cigarette trend and is struggling to manage the issue.** Clandestine vaping sessions in the restrooms mean that plumbers and custodians routinely pull 4-5 vape pens at a time out of clogged toilets, teachers are frequently frustrated by student attempts to leave class to vape, and other students are inconvenienced, intimidated, or avoid using the restroom altogether. Additionally, Bowie's five assistant principals are spending an inordinate amount of time monitoring Bowie's twenty-two restrooms, watching security camera footage to investigate reports of e-cigarette use, and processing multiple vape-related disciplinary actions every single day. Of greater concern is that of student health and safety, particularly because of the number of vape pens seized that contain THC, the psychoactive component of marijuana. These pens are potentially being shared with or sold to other students, some of whom may not even be fully aware of what they are consuming. We are also

concerned for the health of those students who do not use e-cigarettes but may be exposed to the exhaled chemicals of others. The danger of e-cigarettes to students exceeds what experimentation with smoking may have posed to their parents, as evidenced by recent incidents of students using vapes and then experiencing serious adverse reactions that required medical attention.

**Here's what you can do** to protect your child and to support Bowie's efforts to address this persistent campus problem:

1. Take time to talk to your child about the health dangers of vaping. The CDC's [Tip Sheet for Parents](#) offers suggestions for how to manage these conversations. Warn your child about the dangers and consequences of taking or trying something another student may offer them at school.
2. Review the [disciplinary consequences](#) for using e-cigarettes at school. Vaping can result in the student's assignment to in-school suspension (ISS) or a placement at [Austin ISD's Alternative Learning Centering \(ALC\)](#) before the student can return to classes at Bowie. Those in possession of THC devices or cartridges also face arrest on felony criminal charges, with those 17 and older to be processed as adults.
3. Ensure that your child does not have access to e-cigarettes. Secure any e-cigarettes that you may have in your household and be open to the possibility that your child may have e-cigarettes on their person, among their possessions, and/or in their vehicle.

**AISD FAMILIES SURVEY** - To ensure we continue to provide high-quality, rigorous learning experiences that meet the needs of our learners and prepare them for college and career, your feedback is requested. AISD has partnered with Panorama Education to conduct the 2022 Family Survey. Panorama safeguards your privacy, keeping your responses confidential. You may complete the brief survey online between March 21 and April 8, 2023, using a computer, tablet, or smartphone by visiting the [surveys.panoramaed.com/austinisd/family](https://surveys.panoramaed.com/austinisd/family). We thank you in advance for your thoughtful responses.

**NATIONAL HISPANIC COLLEGE FAIR** - All interested 10th and 11th grade students are invited to participate in a field trip to the National Hispanic College Fair at the Austin Sports Center on April 5. To sign up for the field trip, students should submit this form: <https://forms.gle/V4Ft4yv3uef1wZ2r7>. Contact Bowie's College & Career Counselor Ms. Valverde ([carli.valverde@austinisd.org](mailto:carli.valverde@austinisd.org)) with any questions.

## **AISD EVENTS**

- **Austin ISD will participate in the Annual ¡Sí Se Puede! César Chávez March & Day of Action!** Saturday, March 25, at Parque Zaragoza, 2608 Gonzales St., Austin, TX 78702. Students, families and staff are invited to march along with the Crockett ECHS Marching Band and TexAnns Dance Team, Eastside ECHS Marching Band and the Martin MS Band. Austin ISD participants should meet no later than 9:30 a.m. The march will begin at 10 a.m. and will end at approximately 10:30 a.m. Participants are encouraged to wear comfortable walking shoes, sunscreen and to bring water. Click [HERE](#) for details.
- **Special Education Engagement Opportunities** - Families, community members, and staff are invited to attend the upcoming Spring Parent and Community Engagement learning opportunities hosted by the Austin ISD Special Education Department. The Department is hosting a virtual Power Hour with national speaker, Dan St. Romain, on the topic of Avoiding Power Struggles. Also, the Department has partnered with VELA for a three-part series in April focused on Autism. Click [HERE](#) for more information.

Go Dawgs!

Mark Robinson

Principal

James Bowie High School