



JAMES BOWIE HIGH SCHOOL

April 9, 2021

Greetings, Bulldog Nation!

Invitation to Return to Bowie for On-Campus Learning - While we all must remain vigilant in our battle against the spread of Covid-19, there are signs of hope and progress as vaccines become more widely available, and UT's Covid modeling suggests that Austin could move from Stage 3 to 2 by Monday, April 19. At Bowie, things are looking good as well, remote teachers are returning to campus, and there has been no community spread of Covid as a result of on-campus instruction. As a result of these positive signs, we are seeing more students return to the Bowie campus each week for in-person learning because they are eager to enjoy the associated academic and mental health benefits.

Leaders in Austin ISD recently started making the community aware that your child's return to campus for in-person learning could also positively impact district finances. In order to receive approximately \$30M in TEA funding, Austin ISD is hoping to meet the benchmark of 44% of district students participating in on-campus learning during the last six weeks of the school year. To be included in this measure, a Bowie student would need to be on-campus during the official attendance time of 10:15 a.m. for a total of at least 13 days. Whether for the academic, social, and mental health benefits to your child, the financial benefits to the district, or all of the above, please know that Bowie welcomes your child's return to campus on a full-time or part-time basis this year. For more information about switching your child to on-campus learning, reach out to your child's counselor (click [HERE](#) to email a counselor).

National Assistant Principals Week - This week is National Assistant Principals Week in honor of the enormous contributions that assistant principals make to the success of students. This year, our celebration takes on even greater significance as we recognize all that assistant principals have conquered amid the pandemic and consider what their ever-expanding and evolving role might look like moving forward. I applaud Bowie's own talented [team of assistant principals](#) who continue to demonstrate unwavering leadership and commitment to the success of each and every Bowie Bulldog.

Upcoming AISD Pride Week - This year AISD Pride Week will be April 19-23, 2021, to align with GLSEN's student-led [National Day of Silence](#) on Friday, April 23. Be on the lookout for information and interactive materials and resources related to Pride. For more information regarding AISD Pride week, visit <https://www.austinisd.org/respectforall>.

Upcoming STAAR EOC Exams - All 9th graders are registered to take the English 1 STAAR EOC on April 20, and all 10th graders are registered to take the English 2 STAAR EOC on April 22. By now, all parents of 9th and 10th graders should have submitted their child's participation form. If you have any questions about the upcoming STAAR EOC exams, please click [HERE](#). Email Ruth Ann Widner (ruth.widner@austinisd.org) if you need assistance submitting your child's participation form.

SENIOR UPDATES

Caps & Gowns - Herff Jones will be at Bowie from 11:00 am to 3:00 pm on Friday, April 30, to distribute graduation caps and gowns in a drive-through event. Other graduation regalia such as cords and stoles will also be distributed at that time.

Prom Ticket Payment - Parents of seniors who submitted the digital parent permission form are now able to purchase prom tickets via [SchoolCashOnline](#). Prom ticket sales close on Sunday, April 11th.

Senior Exit Survey - Each year AISD sends out an Exit Survey to check in with all graduating scholars. The information provided will help improve the campus environment and program supports that will be available for upcoming graduates. It's also used to see if graduating seniors will need any support during the summer. We are encouraging all seniors to complete this 10-15 minute survey by May 19: <http://bit.ly/AISDExitSurvey>. Parents, please nudge your senior to complete the Exit Survey.

Graduation Shout Outs! We want to celebrate all of our seniors and their accomplishments! One of the ways we do this is by listing all seniors and their awarded scholarships in the graduation program. Later this semester, we will also be highlighting all of our graduates and their future plans -- this includes students taking a gap year, enlisting in the military, attending a 2yr or 3yr college, starting a career, etc. Parents, want to make sure your senior receives the shout outs they deserve? Make sure they submit their form using this link: <https://bit.ly/BowieClass2021> (students must be logged in with their AISD credentials to access the form and upload the documents).

AISD Scholarship Newsletter - If your Senior is looking for additional scholarships, please view AISD's [Scholarship Newsletter](#), the [list of additional scholarships](#), which is updated regularly by Ms. Valverde, the [Austin Community Foundation](#) scholarship, and [College Board's scholarship database](#). You can also search for local scholarships through Naviance.

- Log in to Naviance
- Click on "Colleges"
- Click on "Scholarship List"
- Click on "Local/ Regional Scholarships"

FAFSA/ TASFA Reminder - The state priority deadline for the FAFSA/ TASFA was January 15, 2021. However, for most schools, you are still able to submit your FAFSA/TASFA. Please check your future school and see if they have set deadlines for either the FAFSA or TASFA. All seniors are encouraged to complete the FAFSA/ TASFA as soon as possible to ensure they will be reviewed for all awards (scholarships, grants, loans, and work-study). If you do not plan on completing the FAFSA, we do ask that you please complete a [waiver form](#) for the district so we can maintain that documentation. For a step-by-step FAFSA guide, please click [here](#).

Go Dawgs!

Mark Robinson
Principal
James Bowie High School