



JAMES BOWIE HIGH SCHOOL

May 3, 2021

Greetings, Bulldog Nation!

TEACHER APPRECIATION WEEK - Over the last 12+ months as the world turned upside down in the wake of the pandemic, the commitment and talents of the Bowie teachers shone brightly as they worked to make sure that our students could find some solid footing. While always a challenging job, teaching over the last year has required some extra “oomph,” so please join me in thanking and celebrating the Bowie teachers during Teacher Appreciation Week, May 3-7, 2021. This week, teachers will enjoy treats and activities organized by the campus leadership team in collaboration with the Bowie PTSA. In addition, I invite you to take a moment to reach out to your students’ teachers, and/or have your student reach out to say “thank you” for everything they do. I wanted to share this [website](#) with some great ideas for virtual teacher appreciation to help get you started.

Do you want to highlight a particularly awesome teacher for going above and beyond? Submit the teacher’s name for an [Austin ISD RAVES for Teacher Appreciation](#) award, or make a contribution to the [Austin Ed Crisis Support Fund](#) or [DonorsChoose](#) in honor of a teacher. To recognize teachers this year, DonorsChoose will partner with Sonic Drive-In to match donations made to teacher projects on Tuesday, May 4, starting at 6:00 am. Donations for approved projects will be matched 50%, up to \$1.5 million total! This means that a \$20 donation will become a \$30 donation, a \$100 donation will become a \$150 donation, and so on.

SUMMER SCHOOL HEALTH COURSE - Health Education is a one-semester course required for all students for graduation in Austin ISD. Some students opt to take the course over the summer in an online, self-paced format through AISD’s Garza High School to allow more room in their schedule during the school year for different electives. Click this [link](#) to sign up for the class (select Health). If you need more information about the program email diane.sidoroff@austinisd.org. Information about other in-person and virtual summer school opportunities and credit recovery programs is coming soon!

JOB OPPORTUNITIES FOR CTE SENIORS - Graduating seniors who have been involved in a Career and Technical Education (CTE) program or pathway are encouraged to apply for internships, jobs, and training programs created specifically for them by Austin area businesses in partnership with AISD. Upon applying, seniors will be directly contacted by employers to continue the application process, and if accepted, they will be invited to participate in a CTE (Virtual) Signing Day on May 20. For more information about this opportunity, check out the [CTE Virtual Signing Day Flyer](#).

WHAT’S NEXT IN TESTING - Planning is well underway for upcoming STAAR End-of-Course Exams (Biology, Algebra 1, and U.S. History), Advanced Placement Exams (remote/virtual and on-campus pen-and-paper format), and TSI Exams. To minimize disruption of classroom instruction, we have consolidated these tests on four days: May 19, 20, 21, and 24. Administering the various exams on these dates will require most of the staff’s participation. Therefore, while all students who are not

participating in testing are welcome to come to campus on these dates, they should anticipate being dislocated from their regular classroom and/or having a substitute teacher monitor them as they complete independent work.

Parents/guardians of students scheduled for STAAR EOC tests will receive communication for each test that includes detailed test-day information and a link to a response form to help us in our planning. Please take note of the following EOC testing dates, which are also noted on the 20-21 Bowie A/B Calendar (along with the AP exam dates) for specific courses:

May 19 - EOC Biology (9th grade students)

May 20 - EOC U.S. History (11th grade students)

May 21 - EOC Algebra 1 (9th grade students currently enrolled in Algebra 1)

TRUSTEE AWARDS - Each year, the Austin ISD Board of Trustees recognizes the 10% of students in each graduating class earning the highest grades for the first 5 grading cycles of the school year. I am pleased to announce that there will be an in-person Trustee Awards Program at 3 pm on May 18 in the Bowie cafeteria to honor these scholars. This students-only event will also be livestreamed and recorded via YouTube for parents and guardians to enjoy. Click [HERE](#) to learn more about the Trustee Awards. Our registrars are currently finalizing grade calculations, and they will soon notify approximately 350 Trustee Award Recipients and provide parents/guardians with additional information about the awards programs.

ON-CAMPUS LEARNING - In closing, I remind you that Bowie is open for on-campus learning. We are seeing a steady increase in the number of students returning to Bowie each week, and there has been great feedback about how much students are enjoying in-person learning. If you're ready for your child to benefit from more face-to-face learning, contact their counselor to initiate a return to campus.

Go Dawgs!

Mark Robinson
Principal
James Bowie High School