



JAMES BOWIE HIGH SCHOOL

June 29, 2021

Greetings, Bulldog Nation!

RETURNING TRADITIONS: As we continue to prepare for school in the fall, I wanted to share some important dates with you for planning purposes. As you know, we have a couple of big campus-wide events with PTSA and/or Student Council every year that we are excited to bring back with a fresh, new look post-pandemic!

- **Bulldogs & Hotdogs** has been confirmed with PTSA for **Saturday, 9/11/21, from 5-8 pm**. Bulldogs & Hotdogs is a community-wide festival providing entertainment and activities to students of all ages and their families and creating fundraising opportunities for booster clubs and Bowie student organizations. The 2021 Bowie PTSA Bulldogs & Hotdogs co-chairs Stacey Ankele and Laura Bond Williams and event host Darlene Sullivan look forward to creating a magical night for our Bowie community! Submit the [information request form](#) to learn how your Bowie organization can participate in Bulldogs & Hotdogs.
- **Homecoming** is scheduled for our home football game v. Del Valle at Burger Stadium on **Friday, 10/1/21**, and will include the announcement of the homecoming court on the field during halftime. We recognize that this is the first weekend of ACL but definitely the best weekend for our homecoming football game.
- Student Council is collaborating with PTSA on a **fall social** to be named to take the place of the traditional homecoming dance/event at Bowie on **Saturday, 10/23/21**. This weekend was selected to avoid the conflict with ACL and Longhorn football, so we hope that students will attend as they have pre-pandemic.

NO VIRTUAL LEARNING NEXT YEAR: With COVID cases at a record low, Austin ISD plans to return all students to on-campus learning for the 2021-22 school year, with no virtual learning option. The district had been weighing its options after the [failure of HB 1468](#), which would have allowed some virtual learning. However, with cases continuing to decline in Austin/Travis County and across the country, AISD officials decided conditions will be safe enough for all students to return in August.

REGISTRATION: If your student is returning to Bowie this year, please make sure you have registered them using the registration tile in the [AISD Portal](#) at portal.austinisd.org. If you need assistance with the process or are new to Austin ISD, you are invited to Bowie's in-person registration Monday, August 2 through Wednesday, August 4 (8:30am-5:30pm) and Thursday, August 8 (1:00-8:00pm). Bowie plans to host orientation events to start the school year as campus bond renovations allow. Information about these events can be found [HERE](#) on the JBHS website.

INFORMATION ABOUT THE 2021-22 SCHOOL YEAR: Planning for the 2021-22 school year is well underway, and we are excited to welcome our students back in person in August. With all of the AISD offices closed next week for the July 4th holiday, and with most of our campus leadership team off contract until mid-to-late July, **detailed back-to-school plans and instructions will not be disseminated until August**. This is also when our incoming 9th grade students and parents are rolled into our communication systems and can start receiving these important campus messages.

Knowing many of you are eager for some details about the start of school, however, I want to preview a few pertinent items:

- The 2021-22 Parking Plan will be shared in a few weeks. **Online parking permit sales will commence the first week in August.**

- The 2021-22 Bowie AB Calendar, bell schedules, and semester exam schedules are being finalized and will be posted to the JBHS website and shared in the Bowie Star newsletter in a couple of weeks. **One noteworthy change to the A/B Calendar will be the transition from six report card grading cycles (each approximately 6 weeks in length) to four report card grading cycles (each approximately 9 weeks in length).** I will share the implications of this change, including the impact on grading, as those decisions are made by district leaders.
- Because the master schedule continues to change up to the start of school as new students enroll, there are staffing changes, summer course credits are reported, etc., student schedules for the new year will not be available until a few days before school starts. Once published, students and parents will be able to see the student's class schedule in the Frontline tile in the AISD Cloud.
- Because of the Covid disruptions of the past year, the Bowie staff is planning lots of transition and orientation events and activities at the start of the new school year for students in every grade level. To ensure all students can participate, most of these will be conducted during FIT and through students' classes in the first two weeks of school. However, we are also tentatively planning a **Let's Meet at the Tree Campus Preview from 1:00-4:00 PM on Saturday, August 14.** This students-only event will allow our Bulldogs to explore the campus and the newly constructed facilities, reconnect with their classmates, and locate their classes in advance of the first day of classes. Stay tuned for more information!
- **The annual Back-to-School Night is scheduled for the evening of Thursday, September 9th.** This event allows parents and guardians the opportunity to meet their child's teachers and to learn more about the Bowie programs and initiatives.

IPHONE GMAIL APP: All students will need to upgrade to the latest version for Gmail iOS app versions 6.0.210221 and 6.0.210222 on their iPhones or they will lose access to school (or any) email after July 7. Students can either respond to an upgrade prompt they will receive on July 7 or they can preemptively download and install the latest version of the Gmail iOS app from the Apple App Store.

COMMUNITY RETREAT #4: Austin ISD appreciates the community's engagement in conversations and action steps to dismantle the school-to-prison pipeline and eliminate racial disparities in discipline and punishment in AISD. To further the work, the district will host [Community Retreat #4](#) Monday, July 19, from 5:30 PM to 7:30 PM. The virtual program will include a keynote speaker, a generational AISD graduate, who will share the history of the city of Austin, the history of Austin ISD schools, and how this history informs our work to eliminate racial disparities in discipline and punishment. Additionally, each work group will share its goals and progress to eliminate racial disparities in discipline and punishment. Use the [Zoom link](#) (meeting ID 947 6801 3592 and passcode 880948) to join the July 19 conversation.

In closing, don't forget that Austin ISD is currently operating on its summer efficiency schedule, 7:30 AM – 5:30 PM Monday through Thursday with all district facilities closed on Fridays. This schedule will be in effect through August 6. Throughout the summer, the Bowie campus is closed due to construction. For assistance in the summer, please call Bowie's main number 512-414-5247x0, or email Katie Gilman (katie.gilman@austinisd.org) during the days and times indicated above.

Go Dawgs!

Mark Robinson
Principal
James Bowie High School