



JAMES BOWIE HIGH SCHOOL

July 22, 2021

Greetings, Bulldog Nation!

This week, several of Bowie's campus leaders returned from their summer breaks and are enthusiastically planning for the upcoming school year. Lots of detailed information about the start of the new year will be shared over the next few weeks in the Bowie Star newsletter, via Twitter @AISDBowie, and on the Bowie website JBHS.org. **Rising freshmen and their families should begin receiving Bowie communications next week following the district's roll-over of student data for the new school year.**

NEW ADMINISTRATORS & COUNSELORS: Two outstanding administrators will be joining the Bowie staff this year. I am excited to announce that Kaylin Brett will be serving as Bowie's new Academic Director. Ms. Brett has been a social studies teacher since 2011 in Houston and then at Bowie before making the leap to a campus administrator at Gorzycki Middle School. She is excited to return to Bowie to put to use her Master's degrees in Curriculum and Instruction and Educational Administration. We are thrilled to have Ms. Brett on the team as we build back from the pandemic and design exemplary instructional experiences for our students.

Additionally, Mr. Joel Espinoza has been selected as an Assistant Principal at Bowie. Mr. Espinoza has roots in the Rio Grande Valley and began his career as an elementary bilingual/dual language teacher at Sunset Valley Elementary here in Austin. Mr. Espinoza then transitioned into administration in Del Valle ISD, serving at both the middle and high school levels. No doubt, Mr. Espinoza will be a valuable asset to the Bowie community.

We also hired two awesome new counselors over the summer, and in doing so, we increased the counseling team from six to seven staff! Changes to the counseling team will necessitate some slight adjustments to the group of students and families each counselor will serve. You are invited to identify and learn more about your child's new counselor [HERE](#).

PARKING PLAN & PERMITS: Licensed juniors and seniors wishing to drive to school will be required to purchase a permit through the online permit vendor. **Students who purchased a permit last year will not be charged for this year's permit but must still request their new permit through the online vendor.** Staggered online permit sales will begin between August 2 and August 5. Bowie anticipates having plenty of permits available throughout the school year, so students may delay the purchase of their permit if needed. Licensed sophomores with a demonstrated need to drive a personal vehicle to school may request special authorization to purchase a permit using the form linked in the [2021-22 Parking Plan](#). Sophomore permit requests will be considered on a case-by-case basis and are dependent on existing lot capacity.

Juniors and Seniors have the choice to purchase a permit for Lot A or Lot B. The Lot A permit allows students to park in the marching band lot or the student parking section at Bethany Lutheran Church, while the Lot B permit allows students to park on levels 2 and 3 of the garage. With most of the fine art, former athletics facilities, and courtyard currently closed for construction, **the marching band lot will be closed to parking for the entire fall semester, so it can be used during the school day as an instructional and rehearsal space for large group programs.** Therefore, students with a Lot A permit will only have access to the student lot at Bethany for the fall semester. We will monitor the number of permits sold and make any necessary adjustments as we learn more about our needs and facilities usage.

For more information about on-campus student parking and how to purchase a permit, please refer to the [2021-22 Parking Plan](#) on the JBHS website. Next week, juniors and seniors will be notified by email of their assigned priority attendance group.

SUMMER EOC RESULTS: Results from the STAAR End-of-Course (EOC) retake and makeup exams administered in June will be available in the Parent Portal on July 30. As a reminder, per state law, students are required to pass five STAAR End-of-Course exams prior to graduation. Students needing to retake or make up one of the STAAR EOC exams will be automatically registered for the December 7-10 administration. Bowie will also be hosting EOC prep camps later this fall and will directly notify all the parents of all students who might benefit.

CONSTRUCTION: JE Dunn, the contractor working on Bowie's modernization, is poised to turn over the new athletic facilities to Bowie within the first couple of weeks of August, just in time for the start of the school year. You have probably also seen that the roof of the new auditorium is now the towering new campus skyline landmark. Over the course of the upcoming school year, our new auditorium will be completed, and the former gyms and locker rooms will be transformed into new band and orchestra halls, visual arts classrooms, dance studios, theater workshops, and more. Parents will have an opportunity to explore the new athletic facilities at Back-to-School Night on Thursday, September 9, 2021.

SOME NOTES ABOUT BOWIE'S WATER USAGE: From time to time, we receive calls from parents and other community members expressing concern over wasting water through the use of sprinklers across the Bowie campus. Please help us get the word out that these sprinklers are simply redistributing the run-off and rainwater that accumulates in the retention ponds, and that operating the sprinklers does not require drawing from water lines. The re-irrigation system can take up to five days of continuous redistribution to draw down the retention ponds. This is why the sprinklers are at times running continuously-- or why you may even see the sprinklers actively distributing water while it's raining. The retention pond and re-irrigation system are working as designed, and it's helping Bowie in its commitment to using sustainable systems in order to preserve our environment.

Go Dawgs!

Mark Robinson
Principal
James Bowie High School