



JAMES BOWIE HIGH SCHOOL

August 6, 2021

Greetings, Bulldog Nation!

NEW STAFF: Yesterday, we had the pleasure of welcoming our new staff for orientation, and I can't wait for you to meet them. This talented group of professionals are each uniquely positioned to touch the lives of our students and to bolster the Bowie legacy of "pride in performance." Among our new hires is Assistant Principal Jerry Smith, who will be working closely with teachers in the Social Studies Department and students with last names that begin with letters A - Dar. After leaving the U.S. Army (Chemical Operations Sergeant - Airborne) in 2001 and after several years in the classroom, working in various teacher-leader positions, Mr. Smith completed his M.Ed. in Educational Leadership. He joins the Bowie leadership team as a highly experienced administrator, eager to serve in Bulldog Nation. Jerry and his wife, Heather, have two sons and a daughter, and they are fostering a toddler who they hope to adopt soon. In his spare time, Jerry loves to spend time with his family, teach classes at his church, do woodworking, build Lego Star Wars sets, and research his Choctaw heritage. Welcome to Mr. Smith and all the new Bowie staff!

CAMPUS ADVISORY COUNCIL APPLICATIONS: Per state law (Texas Education Code, §11.251), each school must maintain a Campus Advisory Council (CAC). The CAC is a committee of parents, students, business and community representatives, teachers, principals, and other campus staff who meet to review and provide feedback on the campus educational program, performance, improvement plan, staff development plan, waiver requests, and budget. Bowie's CAC meetings are usually held on Tuesdays at 7:30 a.m. each month. If you have an interest in serving a two-year term as a parent representative on the Bowie CAC for the 2021-22 school year, please download and complete the district's [standard membership application](#) and submit it using Bowie's [CAC Application Submission Form](#). Applications will be considered knowing that our entire community is best served when its structures represent diverse perspectives. If you would like to offer your voice as a champion for all students in our community, please apply!

COVID HEALTH & SAFETY INFORMATION: In response to COVID-19 infections and hospitalizations continuing to surge to pre-vaccine levels, Austin Public Health (APH) raised the area's risk-based guidance to Stage 5, its highest level, stressing the importance of individual responsibility in halting the spike of infection and severe illness caused by the COVID-19 Delta variant. Austin ISD will continue to monitor local conditions and adjust health and safety protocols accordingly. **To mitigate the spread of the virus, I ask that all parents support us in strongly encouraging students to practice the four recommended strategies to limit the spread of infection when they return to campus: wash your hands, keep your distance, wear a mask, and self-screen.**

In accordance with the updated district protocols for on-campus learning (click [HERE](#) for details), Bowie will forgo temperature checks and screenings upon entry, but we will continue to employ rigorous cleaning protocols and implement steps for contact tracing when necessary. We also strongly

encourage you to have your child vaccinated against the virus, if eligible, particularly in the context of the Delta variant's impact on younger people.

HAPPENING NEXT WEEK: We will host a come-and-go Parent Meet and Greet on Monday and Tuesday (August 9 and 10) from 8:00-9:00 a.m. in the library. There, you can meet your child's counselor and administrator and ask any questions you may have. On Thursday, August 12, we will host Freshman Parent Orientation Night in the cafeteria at 5:30 p.m. and via Zoom at 7 p.m. The Zoom link will be emailed to all parents of 9th grade students next week, and the meeting will be recorded and made available to all parents. Also, students are invited to see the campus from 1:00-4:00 p.m. on Saturday, August 14 at the Meet at the Tree Campus Preview. For more information about all of these events, check out the [Back-to-School Buzz flyer](#). Detailed information about the first day of school will be sent before the end of the week.

PREPARING FOR LEARNING: In advance of the first day of school on August 17, students should complete any summer assignments they have for their advanced and Advanced Placement (AP) classes. Summer assignments can be found [HERE](#) and on the JBHS website in the Counseling Department section under the Departments tabs. Students should also make sure their technology is up to date and working. We recommend that all students have an AISD-issued Chromebook. Click [HERE](#) or locate the Chromebook page under the Students tab on the JBHS website for more information about requesting, refreshing, or exchanging a broken Chromebook.

BACKPACK GIVEAWAY: With the cancellation of the AISD Back to School Bash, the district's annual backpack distribution is shifting to individual campuses. If your child qualifies for free and reduced lunch services, or if your family is simply in need of a little extra assistance right now, we would love to provide your child with a new backpack full of school supplies to start the year. Parents are welcome to contact their [child's counselor](#) or to swing by the Bowie main office daily from 7:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. to pick up a new backpack.

SENIOR PORTRAITS: Senior portraits for the yearbook will be taken **August 9-13 at Bethany Lutheran Church** across Wolftrap from Bowie on Slaughter Ln. The portraits will be taken by Photo Texas Photography and will include a tuxedo or drape portrait and the cap & gown graduation photo. All of those clothing items will be provided for the photos and will be steamed between each use to sanitize. For the photo they want in the yearbook, seniors can select from the tuxedo, drape, or graduation gown. You **must** have an appointment to take your portrait at Bethany ([SIGN UP HERE to reserve your spot](#)). MANY thanks to Bethany for hosting as Bowie prepares to welcome back students on August 17! Yearbook photos for other grade levels will be taken in English classes during the second week of school.

WHERE'S THE BUS APP: AISD's transportation team offers families the "WheresTheBus" app, which provides timely information about the location of their student's bus, including when it will arrive at their stop. The free app is available on any device with internet access (smartphone, tablet, personal computer, iPad), and takes less than five minutes to install. Instructions are available [HERE](#).

2021-22 CAMPUS OPERATIONS: On Monday, our office staff, administrators, and counselors will transition from their temporary summer work space in the portables back to the main office. The Bowie main office is open 7:30-5:00, Monday through Friday. We are in the process of updating our staff

contact information on the website for the new school year, so for now, you may reference the contact information linked [HERE](#) if you need assistance. It will be a very busy and exciting week with the entire staff reporting to work on Thursday to prepare for the arrival of our students!

Go Dawgs!

Mark Robinson
Principal
James Bowie High School