



JAMES BOWIE HIGH SCHOOL

August 17, 2021

Greetings, Bulldog Nation!

This morning we welcomed 2629 students to campus for the start of the 2021-22 school year. I am pleased to report that in spite of the necessity of Covid-19 protocols and slight inconveniences of ongoing construction, we have had a GREAT first day of school! Thank you for sending your Bulldog to us ready to learn and ready to collaborate with their peers, teachers, and other staff in establishing an inclusive and friendly environment as we reimagine Bowie together!

TRAFFIC & PARKING: While traffic was heavy throughout the community, the flow of traffic through campus was efficient overall. Here are a few observations and requests for our parents and students driving to school this week:

- Allow extra time and be patient while everyone learns the campus procedures. Please pay attention to directional signage and follow any instructions from the staff.
- The parent drop-off loop enters and exits on Slaughter Lane. The entrance from Wolftrap is intended solely for faculty, buses, and students permitted to park in the garage. Only faculty and buses are allowed to drive around behind the school.
- When dropping off your student, **please pull forward past the crosswalk and canopy at the main entrance and let them out of the car to use the sidewalk alongside the parking garage.** Parents are encouraged to pull up to the stop sign at the northeast corner of the parking garage to double the number of students that can be picked up or dropped off at one time. This includes athletics. Pulling more cars onto the campus will ease congestion on Slaughter Lane.
- Additional parking permits will be available for purchase by Juniors and Seniors after Labor Day. We are issuing permits slowly and carefully as we work to keep the marching band lot available as an instructional space as long as there are Covid concerns and construction-related space constraints.
- The distribution of RFID tags to students with a Lot B permit has been suspended until further notice. As long as students display their red Lot B permit on their windshield, they will be able to enter and park in the garage.

WELCOME INFORMATION: Today during Advisory class, students had the opportunity to hear from Bowie's administrators about campus operations and expectations (click [HERE](#) to watch the video), connect their personal devices to the Education network, and determine their lunch assignment. Freshmen and sophomores were welcomed to advisory by upperclassmen who were there to answer questions and connect them to resources and one another. Beginning of the year orientation activities

will continue with the Advisory teacher for the rest of the week during the Flexible Instructional Time (FIT) period from 10:41-11:03.

HEALTH & SAFETY: Our students arrived this morning wearing their masks as requested. Thank you for supporting us as we endeavor to stop the spread of Covid-19 with frequent hand washing, mask-wearing (required), social distancing whenever possible, and self-screening. Each classroom is equipped with a HEPA air-purifying system and a sanitizing station. It is imperative that students exhibiting Covid-19-like symptoms remain home. Unfortunately, if your child is exposed to Covid-19, it may be necessary for them to quarantine. While quarantining is not ideal, know that our teachers will be providing instructional materials via BLEND so your child can keep up with their learning. Thank you in advance for your cooperation should an administrator reach out to you about a possible exposure and/or need for your child to quarantine.

MESSAGE FROM THE CAFETERIA: Bowie's cafe manager Lorrie Thomas and her team are excited to be able to provide free breakfast and lunch for all AISD students this year and encourage all students and staff to dine at school. As a federally funded program, Austin ISD food services receives reimbursement for each meal served; the more meals are served, the more funding is available to invest in the quality of food, maintain local jobs, and support the Texas economy. Lines in the cafeteria today were a little long and limited to four as we work to fill vacant positions and resume full service operation. Daily menus may be viewed at [SchoolCafe.com/AustinISD](https://austinisd.schoolcashonline.com/) or by downloading the SchoolCafe mobile app. AISD menus are filled with fresh produce, vegetarian options and locally grown, sustainably raised, clean label ingredients. Menus regularly feature chef prepared, scratch-cooked recipes made here in our kitchen.

LAST CALL FOR BULLDOG NATION UNITED T-SHIRT: The last opportunity to purchase a Bulldog Nation United t-shirt is tomorrow (Wednesday, August 18) by the end of the day. Purchases can be made using the link <https://austinisd.schoolcashonline.com/>. Any t-shirt ordered in July can be picked up from 8:15-9:00 a.m. and during lunch this Friday, August 20 in front of room C102. T-shirts ordered in August can be picked up at Bulldogs & Hotdogs on September 11 or 8:15-9:00 a.m. and during lunch on Monday, September 13. **To demonstrate our collective gratitude for the return to in-person learning and for our shared commitment to being a school where everyone belongs, all students are asked to wear their Bulldog Nation United t-shirt to school on Friday, September 17.**

Go Dawgs!

Mark Robinson
Principal
James Bowie High School