



JAMES BOWIE HIGH SCHOOL

August 25, 2021

Greetings, Bulldog Nation!

Thank you for your feedback and for working with us as we continue to make adjustments to improve efficient operations and reconnect your child and family to learning at Bowie. Our enrollment has grown to almost 2900 in the last week. Despite the challenges associated with Covid-19 and bond renovations, both the staff and student climate on campus are overwhelmingly positive. You belong at Bowie and we're so happy you are here!

HEALTH & SAFETY: Thank you for supporting us as we support the development of healthy habits including frequent hand washing, mask-wearing (currently required), social distancing whenever possible, and self-screening to avoid the spread of disease. We are continuing to monitor campus procedures to bring down Covid-19 numbers and actively contact tracing when a student or family reports symptoms or a positive test. It is imperative that students exhibiting Covid-19-like symptoms remain home. Please notify Nurse Petersen (shari.petersen@austinisd.org) if your student has symptoms of Covid, has tested positive for Covid, or has been directly exposed to someone who has. If there is a possibility that your child was in close contact with someone that has tested positive, you will receive a phone call to gather information about vaccine status and advice regarding next steps. Unfortunately, if your child is exposed to Covid-19, it may be necessary for them to quarantine. TEA has created a new absence code (QT) to create a record of students who are confined to their homes due to quarantine. The absences will be reported as excused absences.

BLENDED LEARNING: While quarantining is not ideal, please know that our teachers will be providing instructional materials via BLEND so your child can keep up with their learning. Students can access all learning materials in their teacher's BLEND course, including enough directions and context for students who must be remote to keep up with the course. There is no longer concurrent teaching, so Zoom is not an option for remote students during the class period. For students who are understandably too ill to complete schoolwork remotely during their absence, we will follow the make-up work policy for work submission. Students will have the same number of calendar days as they were absent, plus one additional day, to turn in their make-up work; however, beyond the make-up work policy, late penalties may apply. If students in quarantine are able to complete schoolwork, they are encouraged to access BLEND for learning materials daily so that work may be submitted the same day it is due for classmates attending in person. Students are welcome to communicate with teachers via email to ask questions and gain understanding of course material.

NUTRITION & FOOD SERVICE: As part of the AISD Covid-19 protocol, all water fountains on campus are covered so that they are not used, but water bottle filling stations are available. Students are encouraged to bring their own refillable water bottle so they can stay hydrated and Bowie can stay green! All students are also encouraged to take advantage of free school meals. As part of the federally-funded school lunch program, Austin ISD receives reimbursement for each meal served; so the more students who eat with us the more funding we have to invest in the quality of our food, maintain local jobs, and support the Texas economy.

TRAFFIC & PARKING: Here are a few observations and requests for our parents and students driving to school this week:

- The loop at the front of campus around the marching band practice lot is designed for all student pick up and drop off. Please pull all of the way up to the stop sign at the corner of the parking garage and wait in the right lane. The left lane is for thru traffic entering and exiting the campus.

- Drop off for athletics is also designated to occur in front of the campus, not the athletic building which causes an immediate backup at the entrance to campus. Please pull all the way up and allow your child to use the sidewalks and crosswalks on campus to get wherever they need to go.
- To access the athletics facility after school, you will need to follow the one-way drive around the back of the campus. Note that upon entering the campus from Slaughter Lane there is no right turn in front of the athletics building.
- The entire front loop is two lanes wide leading up to the final turn which becomes three lanes. The right lane joins traffic eastbound on Slaughter, the middle lane allows traffic to cross Slaughter Lane or turn left, and the left turn lane sends traffic west on Slaughter.
- When picking up or dropping off, please be kind, early, and patient.

MARCHING BAND PRACTICE LOT: With most of the fine arts and the former athletics facilities under renovation, 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. We have been opening this lot at 4 pm for additional parking for families when picking up their student after school. Please note the marching band practice schedule below so we can ensure that the lot is closed and available for the band to use:

- Monday 5:15pm – 7:45pm Bowie OPE Rehearsal @ Bowie Band Lot
- Tuesday 5:15pm – 7:45pm Bowie OPE Rehearsal @ Bowie Band Lot
- Wednesday Off
- Thursday 7:00am – 8:30am Bowie OPE Rehearsal @ Bowie Band Lot
- Friday 7:00am – 8:30am Full Band Rehearsal with Silver Stars @ Bowie Band Lot

CHECK-OUT/CHECK-IN PROCEDURES: Students must always be officially checked-out and check-in through the Main Office when they arrive or leave campus during the school day. To allow time for processing and to avoid confusion, the administrative staff have identified the following major points:

Parent/Guardian Pick-Up: The release of a student to leave with a parent/guardian must be processed in person at the Main Office. A valid photo ID is required. Only parents/guardians and individuals documented and approved in our student records, may check-out a student from school.

- After the parent/guardian completes the check-out process in the Main Office, a call will be made to the classroom to request the student be released. *Note: submitting a note to the office at the beginning of the day is not required for parent/guardian pickup and does not expedite the process.*
- Please allow at least 10 minutes for students to be released from class and report to the Main Office. To minimize the amount of time out of the learning environment, students are not called out of class early to wait in the office.
- Upon returning to campus, the student may, without a parent/guardian, sign themselves back in at the Main Office and drop-off their excuse note to document the absence. Students will then be issued a pass to proceed to class.

Students Driving Off-Campus (on their own): To authorize a student to check-out without a parent/guardian present, a note from the parent/guardian must be submitted at least two hours prior to the requested dismissal time. Notes can be dropped off to the Main Office or emailed to Elisa.Nguyen@austinisd.org and Teri.Trevino@austinisd.org. The note must include the requestor's name and phone number, student's name and **student ID number**, the exact time to be released, reason for leaving, and include how they will be leaving campus (i.e. driving, walking, biking, etc).

- The student will be sent a pass at their departure time. The student will need to come to the office to sign-out and to pick up their "Permit to Leave" (driving pass) prior to leaving campus.
- Upon returning to campus, the student may, without a parent/guardian, sign themselves back in at the main office and drop off their excuse note to document the absence. Students will then be issued a pass to proceed to class

Go Dawgs!
 Mark Robinson
 Principal
 James Bowie High School