



# JAMES BOWIE HIGH SCHOOL

---

October 15, 2021

Greetings, Bulldog Nation!

**EXAM INCENTIVES RESUME:** To promote attendance, Bowie implemented a semester exam incentive program several years ago. The program allows qualifying students to replace their exam grade with a higher semester average in up to two classes. However, to stress the importance of individual responsibility in halting the spike of infection and severe illness caused by Covid-19, Bowie suspended the semester exam attendance incentive program for the 1st nine weeks grading cycle of the 2021-22 school year.

On October 12, 2021, Austin Public Health lowered the area's risk-based guidance to Stage 3. **As a result, Bowie will resume the semester exam attendance incentive program for the 2nd nine weeks grading cycle. The fall semester exam incentives will be based ONLY on the student's attendance record beginning on Monday, October 18th and continuing through the end of the semester.** All of the program's guidelines will remain the same as previous years, and as outlined in the policy, with one exception: Covid-related absences, as defined by district guidelines and coded as "QT" in the Parent/Student Self-Service SIS Frontline system, will NOT count against the student for the purposes of attendance incentives.

We will be making announcements to let our students know that we will have exam incentives this semester. If you or your student have questions about exam incentives, please refer to the [Exam Incentives page](#) at JBHS.org.

**ON-GOING VANDALISM AND SOCIAL MEDIA CONCERNS:** As I explained in a [previous newsletter](#), Bowie is one of many schools across the country struggling to stop acts of vandalism encouraged by and shared on social media. While we have been able to hold some students accountable and have doubled the amount of time our teachers are monitoring the campus, our student bathrooms in particular continue to be targeted. These brazen acts have caused significant damage all around Bowie. We are deeply concerned about the trend, particularly given the "slap a teacher" challenge circulating on social media this month and news that this type of assault has already occurred once on another AISD campus. I want to be very clear that students will be held accountable for any of the destructive and dangerous types of behaviors in which they become involved. Additionally, parents may be financially responsible for damages. No doubt you are similarly dismayed and concerned about these events. Therefore, I respectfully request that each of you take time to discuss these matters with your child and outline in no uncertain terms your expectations for their appropriate and respectful behavior while at school. We need all of our students to discourage and hopefully prevent their peers from trashing our school and disrespecting our faculty and staff.

**NEW "LUNCH BUNCH" GROUP:** To help students connect with each other and hopefully avoid having to eat lunch alone, the counselors are starting a new group. Every Tuesday, they will host students in the counseling office during both lunches to help them meet others and participate in fun

activities to connect and develop bonds. Students can sign up for Lunch Bunch using the QR code on flyers posted around campus and posted [HERE](#) on the JBHS.org website. We hope Lunch Bunch will be a great option for students who choose to participate.

**NATIONAL SCHOOL LUNCH WEEK:** October 12-15 is National School Lunch Week. Did you know school meals provide the healthiest meals and most equitable access of all US food sources? A 2021 study found that school meals are crucial to the healthy diets of children in the United States, especially those experiencing food insecurity. Researchers found that of all major US food sources, meals served at school are the healthiest. Austin ISD is committed to exceeding the federal nutrition guidelines to provide students with healthy, tasty, and high quality foods each day. Bowie staff and students will be honoring and celebrating its cafeteria team next week. If you would like to drop off a note of thanks to the main office, we will gladly make sure it gets to our hard-working cafeteria staff!

**FRESHMAN PARENTS:** The Class of 2025 Project Graduation Booster Club is launching planning efforts for a Project Graduation event. Project Graduation is a commitment by JBHS families, friends, and local businesses to provide a safe, alcohol-free and drug-free celebration for our students on their graduation night. This special event is funded by Booster Club membership fees, fundraising, and donations. Membership prices will increase each school year, so join now to take advantage of this year's pricing! For information about how to register your student, get connected on Facebook, or volunteer, refer to the [Class of 2025 Parent Booster Club](#) page at JBHS.org.

#### **SOME REMINDERS ABOUT CAMPUS OPERATIONS:**

- **Bowie sprinklers** - When you see Bowie sprinklers activated, know that we are NOT watering the grass. Rather, the sprinklers serve to redistribute rain water from the retention ponds in order to draw down the water levels. We've recently had people from the community turn off the water valve to stop the sprinklers, which had the unfortunate consequence of turning off the water supply for our farm animals at the Bowie ag farm. Please know that 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.
- **Dropping-off your student** - All parents should use the Slaughter Lane entrance and front loop to drop off their child for school. In the morning, the Wolf Trap entrance is ONLY for student-drivers, buses, and faculty. We currently have some parents who are attempting to drop off their students in front of the parking garage entrances which is creating traffic flow problems and dangerous conditions.
- **Marching band lot** - Please keep in mind that for the fall semester, the front marching band lot is opened briefly from 4:00-5:00 for after school parent pick-up ONLY. It is then closed at 5:00 PM to all parking so the band, Silver Stars, and other programs can use the space for rehearsal. If you are coming to campus for an after school or evening athletics event, fine arts performance, or for any other reason during the fall semester, please do NOT park in the front marching band lot. Instead, please utilize the front visitor parking spaces, the small parking lot on the other side of the garage, campus perimeter parking, or the spaces along Wolf Trap Dr..

Go Dawgs!  
Mark Robinson  
Principal  
James Bowie High School