



JAMES BOWIE HIGH SCHOOL

October 27, 2021

Greetings, Bulldog Nation!

NEW AUDITORIUM NAMING - I am excited to announce that Austin ISD is beginning the naming process for our new auditorium which will open at the start of the 2022-23 school year. You can visit the AISD [facility renaming website](#) to submit your nomination, now through Monday, November 8.

I want to thank our Campus Advisory Council—composed of staff, parents, and community members—for graciously volunteering to serve as the renaming committee. The CAC recently voted in favor of naming the auditorium in honor of Ms. Betsy Cornwell. Diane “Betsy” Cornwell has been the head director of the James Bowie High School Starlight Theatre Company since the school’s opening in 1988, making her name synonymous with the program. However, in accordance with Board policy, the CAC must review and consider all submissions that meet the [criteria outlined in board policy](#). The CAC will make its recommendation to the AISD Board of Trustees who make the final decision.

The next CAC meeting is at 7:30 a.m. Tuesday, November 9. The meeting is open to the public and you can find [further details](#) at JBHS.org. Thank you for your input on this important decision. I hope you will please help me spread the word to others in our community who might like to weigh in.

PSAT DAY REPORT - Yesterday students in grades 9-11 took the Preliminary S.A.T., courtesy of Austin Independent School District. This assessment helps students and parents determine where students are in their learning journey and how they need to prepare for the actual S.A.T. college-entrance exam. PSAT scores will be available in about 4-6 weeks. Students who provided a non-AISD email address on their answer document as they were instructed to do, will receive an email notification when the scores are ready to view online. If students did not provide an email address they will need to create a College Board account or access an existing one. For more information about accessing and interpreting scores, click [HERE](#) for the PSAT/NMSQT (grades 10 and 11) and [HERE](#) for the PSAT 8/9 (grade 9). We will be sharing more PSAT information with you in the newsletter and during a PSAT score interpretation-and-next steps parent meeting to be scheduled for January. **Parents of juniors, it is important for you to know that Austin ISD will also be paying for your child to take an official S.A.T. during the school day this spring (tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, April 13, 2022).**

While the rest of the campus was taking the PSAT, our seniors participated in a variety of college- and career-readiness activities. They used the day to visit local universities, complete the TSI exam used by colleges for course placement, create their **Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA®)** account, watch equity-focused documentaries, and/or listen to a presentation from Bowie alum Matt Worthington. Matt shared his story about overcoming some significant personal difficulties to graduate from college debt-free. He challenged students to avoid assuming debt to pay for college, and to instead, consider attending community college first, selecting affordable schools, living at home for some or all of college, and working part-time during college for companies that offer tuition assistance. Matt and the Bowie PTSA partnered to give his book *Ultra Productive: Graduating Debt-Free and Getting Ahead* to

our seniors. Copies of the book are available in the Library's College and Career Center to any senior who didn't receive one yesterday.

With the shortened school day, we also had the time in the afternoon to engage our students in some whole campus learning. To draw attention to Teen Driver Safety Week, teachers showed the video "[What Do you Consider Lethal?](#)" from the Austin Municipal Court to their 7th period classes. Then, during the 4th period, our teachers delivered a lesson developed by our counseling team called "Let's Talk, Bowie!" to address the importance of empathy and inclusiveness, the meaning of community, and how to access support: whether it's to report harassment or to identify mental health resources.

CELEBRATION - We are thrilled to announce that Bowie High School will be honored by the Austin Chamber of Commerce at the [State of Education and Talent](#) awards ceremony on Thursday, October 28, 2021, for Greatest Improvement in Direct-to-College Enrollment for a High School Campus! This award is the result of the hard work by College and Career Advisor Carli Valverde and the counseling team at Bowie.

Go Dawgs!

Mark Robinson
Principal
James Bowie High School