



JAMES BOWIE HIGH SCHOOL

November 3, 2021

Greetings, Bulldog Nation!

FACILITIES UPDATE - As you know, Bowie lost water pressure on Monday morning due to a water pipe break, and portable restrooms were brought to supplement the working restrooms available in the new athletics building. Students were also supplied with bottled drinking water. Despite a repair, a second major break was discovered on Tuesday morning. Crews worked late into the night to repair the second break and restore campus-wide water service. I am so appreciative of the AISD's maintenance crews and administration for their support and problem-solving over the past three days. We are also grateful to our students, teachers, and parents and guardians for their patience and understanding.

For those of you curious about Bowie's infrastructure challenges, be assured that the district is executing a multi-year plan to update and modernize the Bowie campus, including the HVAC and plumbing systems. The phasing of repairs is necessary to coordinate the improvements with the bond construction timeline, which acknowledges that the summer months don't provide enough time to complete all of the projects. Over the last three summers, individual classroom A/C units and large sections of underground plumbing were replaced. Unfortunately, last year's winter storms caused further damage to bathrooms, underground pipes, and our HVAC chiller plant. Those problems have either 1) been repaired as they are identified or 2) are being intentionally postponed to the summer months (if possible) to limit interruptions to instruction. Repairs, routine maintenance, and scheduled updates and modernizations are being carefully monitored, coordinated and planned. We look forward to all of the systems working as they should, and we appreciate your support of the district's bond efforts to ensure that current and future Bowie students have a comfortable, safe, and modern learning environment.

ABSENCES RELATED TO WATER OUTAGE - Knowing that access to bathrooms and hand-washing facilities was diminished on Monday and Tuesday, district officials are excusing students' absences with parent/guardian documentation. Absences for students who officially checked out of school through the office *or* whose parent/guardian submitted a note to the attendance office validating the student's absence from school will be coded as "OTH." Absences for students who left without officially checking out through the office or submitting a follow up note from the parent/guardian will be coded as "UNX." While the "OTH" code usually counts against students for exam incentives, Bowie is making special provisions to exempt the code for Monday, November 1 and Tuesday, November 2, meaning that "OTH" absences on these two dates will NOT count against students for exam incentives. **If your student was absent on Monday or Tuesday with your permission, and they did NOT officially check out *or* you did NOT already submit an excuse note, please fill out this [Water Leak Excuse Form](#) by the end of the day tomorrow to avoid the absence being coded as "UNX."** (You also have the option of submitting a hard-copy note to the attendance office if you are unable to fill out the Water Leak Excuse Form.) Please note that it will take our attendance clerk several days to update attendance records to reflect the documentation submitted by parents and guardians. Shout-out to Ms. Pedraza and the entire front office staff for processing check-outs and notes for hundreds of students!

WELCOME ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL WHITNEY BLACK - I am pleased to announce that Ms. Whitney Black will be joining the Bowie administration team, working closely with the teachers in the Science and P.E. departments and students with last names Holx-Monr. Ms. Black has served for 17 years in education as a Reading teacher, instructional coach, and most recently, as an assistant principal at Gorzycki Middle School. She received her Master's in Reading Education from Southwest Texas and undergraduate from Baylor University. Her daughter is a senior at Texas A&M, and her son Jackson is a sophomore at Tarleton State (also a Bowie High School graduate!). Ms. Black enjoys spending time with her family and volunteering at *Austin Pets Alive!* on the weekends. She hopes to help facilitate a welcoming learning environment for all students, teachers, and staff and is looking forward to working with us to continue the tradition at Bowie of giving our students a top-quality education that will prepare them for success in college or career and life.

Ms. Black will be replacing Assistant Principal Carla De La Rosa who has been recruited to the Austin ISD headquarters to work with the Department of Student Support Services. We are tremendously grateful to Ms. De La Rosa for her 9.5 years of dedicated service to Bulldog Nation and steadfast commitment to students and staff. Soon, students and families across the district will benefit from her professional experience and expertise!

NEW PICNIC TABLES - The Austin ISD service center and community volunteers recently constructed and delivered over 1300 picnic tables to area schools in support of outdoor learning and dining spaces. Bowie received 25 of those tables for its courtyard to help offset some of the diminished dining space during construction. Please help us share gratitude to the AISD Service Center staff for their generous and heartfelt efforts by sharing words of thanks or photos in this [Kudoboard](#) by Monday, November 8.

DUAL LANGUAGE VIRTUAL FAMILY ACADEMY - Interested in learning more about Dual Language programming? Whether your child currently participates in Dual Language or you're exploring options, Austin ISD invites you to attend virtual workshops facilitated in English, Spanish, Mandarin and Vietnamese. For more information, check out the [information flyers](#) or contact Janeth Medrano at 512.414.9648 or janeth.medrano@austinisd.org.

Monday, Nov. 15, 6–8 p.m. (join via Zoom: <https://bit.ly/DLNOV15>)

Saturday, Dec. 4, 10 a.m.–noon (join via Zoom: <https://bit.ly/DLDEC4>)

Wednesday, Jan 12, 6–8 p.m. (join via Zoom: <https://bit.ly/DLJAN12>)

Go Dawgs!

Mark Robinson
Principal
James Bowie High School