



JAMES BOWIE HIGH SCHOOL

November 10, 2021

Greetings, Bulldog Nation!

FOOD DRIVE - The Bowie Student Council will be working with the Central Texas Food Bank to host a canned food drive from November 8-18. The Central Texas Food Bank helps provide services for roughly 65,000 Central Texans. About 80 % of Central Texas Food Bank clients had to choose between paying for food and paying for medicine or medical care in the past year. The Student Council is asking Bulldog Nation to donate canned foods (such as peanut butter, canned chicken or tuna, and brown rice, etc.) to help them reach their goal of 4,000 lbs of food and surpass last year's total of 2,704 lbs! Donations can be placed in the collection bin located under the front canopy near the main office entry. Please help us make sure that everyone has a reason to be thankful this Thanksgiving season!

MORE STUDENT PARKING - With the conclusion of marching band contest season, the front surface parking lot will be open for student parking beginning on Monday, November 15, 2021 to those with a green Lot A parking permit. Because various groups will continue to use the front parking lot before and after school for rehearsals and practices, access to the lot will be restricted to the hours of 8:30 AM to 5:00 PM. The Bethany student parking section will continue to be available to students with a green Lot A permit who need to be on campus outside of these established hours. Additional green Lot A parking permits will be released for online sale to juniors and seniors on December 1, 2021 (see the [2021-22 Parking Plan](#) for more information).

Opening the marching band lot for student parking will impact parents who pick up their student at the end of the day. **If you have been waiting for your student in the front parking lot at the end of the day, please anticipate a full parking lot and difficulty finding a space to wait for your student.** The loop at the front of campus around the marching band practice lot is designed for all student pick up and drop off. You may park in any available parking space around the loop. **To pick up and drop off, please pull all of the way up to the stop sign at the northeast corner of the parking garage and wait in the right lane.** (The left lane is for thru traffic entering and exiting the campus, so please do not stop exiting traffic to load or unload in this lane.) We encourage everyone to plan accordingly and appreciate your patience as new traffic flow patterns are established in the weeks to come.

PLUMBING REPAIRS CONTINUE - Yesterday, Bowie experienced another pipe break, necessitating shutting off the water for the day. Similarly to the two days of repairs last week, we were able to redirect students to the athletics building to access working sinks and toilets, and the cafeteria was able to provide lunches. Portable toilets and hand-washing stations were delivered to campus, along with bottles of drinking water.

As I'm sure you understand, there are many challenges to quickly assessing the scope of damage and needed repairs, balancing student learning and health concerns, and communicating pertinent, timely, and accurate information to staff, students, and parents. Because of the challenges, district officials excused student absences on Monday, allowing parents and guardians to determine whether or not their child should remain on campus. If your student left campus on Monday but did NOT check out through the main office, please submit the [Water Leak Excuse Form for 11/8](#) in order to correct the attendance record. If your student checked out in the main office, you do NOT need to also submit this form.

The recent rash of plumbing problems are primarily the result of last year's winter storms-- the depth of the freeze was highly unusual, resulting in damage to pipes and valves that were previously safe from such conditions.

However, while sections of pipe have been replaced over the last few years, and portions of the campus have been updated through the 2017 Bond projects, the age of the campus infrastructure means that until a significant investment can be made, on-going problems and repairs are likely. Representatives from the AISD facilities and operations departments attended Bowie's Campus Advisory Committee meeting this morning to address these concerns. They discussed the steps their respective departments have taken and will take to mitigate problems, and they explained the funding obstacles that have delayed more comprehensive and permanent solutions. The bottom line is that the district's operations budget is inadequate to fully remediate the facilities issues plaguing Bowie and other campuses across the district, particularly because of the implications of the school finance recapture system in which Austin ISD must surrender about \$700 M annually to the State coffers. A change to the state's school finance system and/or a voter-supported bond are currently believed to be the best way to increase the capacity for greater infrastructure repairs.

CLASS OF 2022 GRADUATION - Austin ISD has announced the graduation dates and times for the Class of 2022! Bowie's graduation is scheduled for 5:00 PM on Friday, June 3, 2022. The ceremony will be indoors at the Burger Activity Center. Now that a venue, date, and time has been determined, our campus staff will commence with planning. More details about Bowie's graduation will be provided as those decisions are made.

LAST CHANCE TO REGISTER FOR AP EXAMS - Students who are currently enrolled in a year-long or fall semester Advanced Placement course and who plan to take the corresponding AP exam later this year must register and pay for the exam by Friday, November 11, 2021. Click [HERE](#) for more information.

DISTRICT EQUITY RETREAT #5 - Community partners, district leaders, and the Office of Equity invite you to attend Community Retreat #5 today, November 9, from 5:30 PM to 7:30 PM. Learn about the district's work to identify and implement solutions to eliminate racial disparities in discipline, hear from Drs. Elizalde and Hawley about this past year's work, hear updates from the six work groups, and learn about the history of Austin ISD's student code of conduct. To join the Zoom meeting, go to:

<https://zoom.us/j/95977727740?pwd=QkplZE5HODRqWGordFZJTmNrQ3ZiUT09>

Meeting ID: 959 7772 7740

Passcode: 176344

RESEARCH REQUEST - Austin ISD has partnered with the Annette Strauss Institute for Civic Life at The University of Texas at Austin to conduct a research study about parental and family attitudes on topics in education. Parents and guardians are requested to complete the 8-minute online survey by December 10, 2021. Participation is completely voluntary, and all answers will be anonymous. If you are interested in participating, please click on [this link](#) for the survey and additional information. Research results will be shared during the 2022-23 school year. If you have any questions, please contact heather.vaughn@austin.utexas.edu.

RALLY FOR KINDNESS - Please join in support and solidarity with the Jewish community at Austin's Rally for Kindness on the Capitol South Steps from 2:00-4:00 pm on November 14, 2021. Our city has recently weathered multiple incidents of hate. This event will be an opportunity to heal, get inspired, and take positive action. We will feature a wide range of speakers from different communities and faith groups. Austin students will display banners with positive messages, and attendees can learn more about volunteer and donation opportunities with Central Texas nonprofits. We are stronger together!

Go Dawgs!

Mark Robinson
Principal
James Bowie High School