



JAMES BOWIE HIGH SCHOOL

December 4, 2025

Greetings, Bulldog Nation!

LIBRARY SOFTWARE SYSTEM TRANSITION - AISD is changing its library systems to provide essential tools that allow us to comply with SB13 parental rights requirements. The transition will impact access to books from December 5 to January 20. All books for the current, first semester are due December 5. Parents may look in Blend for messages sent to your student if your child has an overdue library book. Please reference [this video](#) on how to access materials from the Austin Public Library so your student can continue reading during the disruption of library services at Bowie. To log into APL student accounts use the **Login: aisd (input student #, no S) and Password: aisd4books**

90% ATTENDANCE - Attendance is crucial to student success, and it's key to state funding for our schools. Did you know that if a student misses two days a month, they will miss 30 hours of math instruction and 60 hours of reading and writing instruction by the end of the school year? According to state law, students whose attendance falls below 90% will not earn credit for that course. (You can [view the Attendance page](#) on the Bowie website for more information.) **Students who are below 90% for any individual class period for the fall semester have received an email with how many hours they currently owe and will have their credit revoked by the district in January.** To avoid that outcome, students who have dropped below 90% can pick-up a yellow attendance log in the front office and attend tutoring with any teacher, any subject, before or after school or during their off period. Students can also sign-up for attendance recovery sessions through Enriching Students, Tuesdays and Thursdays after school. Completed logs are to be turned in to the student's assistant principal who can also answer any questions on attendance.

ATTENDANCE INCENTIVES FOR EXAMS - Bowie offers exam incentives to reward excellent attendance. The exam incentive allows eligible students to replace their exam grade with a higher semester average in either one or two of their classes. The [Understanding Incentives document](#) provides a helpful overview of the exam incentive program. Some things to keep in mind:



JAMES BOWIE HIGH SCHOOL

- **All absences count, regardless of the reason.** The only exceptions are absences for school-related activities (coded SCH, FLD, or UIL) and absences for healthcare appointments when the student attended school for part of the day (coded MED).
- The incentive eligibility list is based on the official attendance record you see in the AISD Portal's Self-Serve tile. **The student should contact the teacher regarding any attendance errors as soon as possible.** Only the teacher of record can initiate an attendance correction.
- Students should be on the lookout for more information in the coming weeks regarding how many attendance incentives they earned for this semester and how to apply them.
- This week during Monday's FIT, students reviewed end-of-semester procedures, including how to check attendance in Frontline, semester exam reminders, and the exam attendance incentive pilot program. Parents can watch the video [HERE](#).

SEMESTER EXAMS - Semester exams are scheduled for December 16-19. Students must take a semester exam (or complete a culminating activity) in every course. The exam grade counts 20% toward the semester average, with each 9-week report card grade comprising 40%. *Note: if a student is absent for an exam, they will receive a zero until they are able to make up the test during the second semester. Students are not permitted to take semester exams early.*

Two exams are scheduled for each day of the exam window, with students being released from school at 1:05 PM to allow them to go home and study for the next day's assessments (see the [2025 Fall Sem Exam Schedule](#)). Bus schedules will be adjusted accordingly. Keep in mind that in order to respect the testing environment, we need to limit disruptions. Please schedule appointments around the exam window and do not pick up your child early during the semester exam days since they are already released early.

LEVEL CHANGE APPLICATION - Students interested in a level change must [submit the application form](#) between **Wednesday, December 3 and Monday,**



JAMES BOWIE HIGH SCHOOL

December 15 (by 5 PM). Level changes are only possible for courses that have another level option available. To apply, students must first speak with their current teacher, attend FIT/tutoring, and have all coursework submitted. Applications are **not guaranteed** and depend on committee review and course availability. Approved changes may require schedule adjustments. Counselors will email new schedules on **January 5, 2026**, for approved requests. Teachers will notify students if a request is denied.

EMPOWER HOUR - Empower Hour continues this December with two virtual sessions to support families and caregivers. On **December 10**, the *Coach to Communicate* team from Texas A&M will share practical ABA strategies to strengthen communication at home for children with autism spectrum disorder, along with information on accessing one-on-one parent coaching. On **December 17**, presenters Courtney Gregori and Judith Leblanc will provide an overview of TEA's Texas Transition and Employment Guide, offering tools and resources to help families plan for education, employment, and independent living after high school. Both sessions are offered **12–1 PM or 6–7 PM** via Zoom. **Zoom:**
<http://bit.ly/SPEDsessions> | **Registration/Interpretation Request:**
<http://tinyurl.com/33u78ec7>

GRADUATION ORDERS - Graduation ordering time is officially here! Please take the time to go online & order your official Bowie graduation items as soon as possible. Items can be ordered individually or as a graduation package as seen online. **All orders should be placed online by Friday December 19.** Please use [this link](#) to order your items today. Congratulations to the Class of 2026 & Go Bulldogs!!

Go Dawgs!

Mark Robinson
Principal