



JAMES BOWIE HIGH SCHOOL

September 12, 2025

Greetings, Bulldog Nation!

NATIONAL MERIT RECOGNITION - Each year students are entered in the National Merit Scholarship Program, a nationwide competition for recognition and awards, by taking the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT®) during their junior year of high school. This week officials of the National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC®) announced the names of approximately 16,000 Semifinalists in the 2026 National Merit Scholarship Program. These academically talented high school seniors have the opportunity to continue in the competition for some 6,930 National Merit Scholarships worth nearly \$26 million that will be offered next spring. To be considered for a Merit Scholarship award, Semifinalists must fulfill several requirements to advance to the Finalist level of the competition. About 95% of the Semifinalists are expected to attain Finalist standing, and approximately half of the Finalists will win a National Merit Scholarship, earning the Merit Scholar title. **Please help us in congratulating the following three Bowie seniors on their accomplishment of earning the title of National Merit Semifinalist: Aaron Contreras, Seth Horton, and Andrew Lee.** We wish them the best of luck moving forward in the competition!

NATIONAL SUICIDE PREVENTION AWARENESS MONTH - September is Suicide Prevention Awareness Month, an annual observance dedicated to raising awareness, ending the stigma around mental health, and promoting resources for those in crisis. Suicidal thoughts, like mental health conditions, can affect anyone, regardless of age, gender, or background. While they may be common, they should never be seen as normal. More often than not, they signal deep emotional pain or an underlying mental health concern that deserves understanding, care, and professional support. Suicide Prevention Month reminds us that talking about suicide isn't harmful — silence is. One honest conversation can be a turning point in someone's life. Your voice matters. Start a conversation. Be the difference. Help is available:

- National Suicide Prevention Hotline - 1-800-273-TALK (8255)
- Crisis Text Line - Text HOME to 741741



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- Teen Helpline - 1-800-852-TEEN (8336)
- Travis County Hotline - 512-472-HELP (4357)

STUDENT PARKING UPDATES - Thank you for your patience and cooperation as we've navigated student parking this year. Overall, things have been running smoothly, but we want to share a few important reminders:

- **Towing enforcement is now in effect** on both the JBHS campus and at Bethany Lutheran Church. Vehicles without valid permits will first receive a written warning, and repeat violations may result in towing.
- We've recently seen an increase in parking violations, with as many as 35 cars parked illegally in a single day. Bethany has also begun towing vehicles without permits in their lot.
- **No additional parking spaces are currently available.** Another parking sale will take place in December/January when the band lot reopens after marching season. More details will be shared closer to that time.

For more information, please review our [JBHS Parking Plan](#). Thank you for helping us maintain a safe, organized, and fair parking system for all students.

PICTURE DAY REMINDER - Picture Day is coming up on **Wednesday, Sept. 17,** and **Thursday, Sept. 18** during students' ELA classes. These photos will be used for **student IDs** and will also appear in our **award-winning Lone Star yearbook**, so it's important that students can be easily recognized. Photographers, teachers, or administrators may ask students to remove hats or anything covering their face. Please be prepared to smile for the camera! **Order early and save \$10** by visiting cady.com/portraits before Picture Day. **Seniors:** Photos taken on these dates will be used for IDs only. Your formal senior portraits for the yearbook will be scheduled on campus in October.

GRADUATION 2026 - Austin ISD has released the graduation schedule for the 25/26 school year and Bowie's commencement ceremony will be on Thursday, May 28, 2026 at 8:00 PM. The event is planned for Burger Stadium with Burger Activity Center as the alternate venue.



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Go Dawgs!

Mark Robinson
Principal