



# JAMES BOWIE HIGH SCHOOL

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September 18, 2025

Greetings, Bulldog Nation!

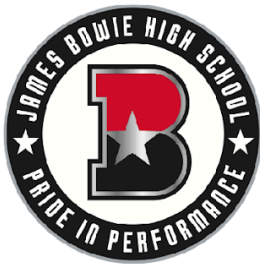
**NATIONAL MERIT COMMENDED STUDENTS** - About 34,000 Commended Students throughout the nation are being recognized for their exceptional academic promise. Although they will not continue in the 2026 competition for National Merit Scholarship awards, Commended Students placed among the top 5,000 students who entered the 2026 competition by taking the 2024 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT).

“Those being named Commended Students have demonstrated outstanding potential for academic success,” commented a spokesperson for NMSC. “These students represent a valuable national resource; recognizing their accomplishments, as well as the key role their schools play in their academic development, is vital to the advancement of educational excellence in our nation. We hope that this recognition will help broaden their educational opportunities and encourage them as they continue their pursuit of academic success.”

Congratulations go to: Michael Balshunou, Noah Belkin, Ashton Black, Willa Bock, Lennon Bres, Bennet Burcham, Elias Burke, Paul Commeau, Connor Dawson, Madeleine Debelak, Emma Lopez, Joshua Merkel, Drew Peters, Gavin Sewell, Natalie Smith, Gavin Suskic, Hannah Vanhorn, and Reed Watts.

**LEVEL CHANGE APPLICATION** - Students that are considering a level change in one or more of their courses must submit an application between Friday, September 19 - Friday, September 26 by [completing the linked form](#). Understand that level changes can only take place in courses that have another level counterpart. We have many advanced courses that do not have another option available, and therefore, there is no change available.

For students to be eligible for an application, students must have a conversation with their current teacher about their application, must have attended FIT/tutoring sessions, and must have all of their coursework submitted to be eligible to apply. All applications must be submitted by Friday, September 26, no later than 5:00 PM.



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Committees will review the individual student applications while also reviewing availability in the academic level class. Please know that this is an application, and it is not automatically approved. Additionally, there is a high possibility your student's schedule will be changed to accommodate approved applications. Your counselor will inform you if your level change was approved by emailing the new schedule on October 1. Teachers will inform you if your request was denied.

**ACADEMIC ADVISING** - This week, advisory groups paused the Character Strong curriculum to focus on academic advising. Students learned (or reviewed) how to check their grades and attendance in Frontline and received tips on how to reach out to teachers for support. Throughout the semester, we'll take additional breaks from Character Strong to provide grade checks and share "just-in-time" information ahead of key academic milestones.

**HOMECOMING DANCE VOLUNTEERS/DONATIONS** - Our annual Homecoming Dance hosted by the PTSA and Student Council will be held on Saturday, October 4, from 7-10 pm in the Bowie Courtyard and Cafeteria. Please use [THIS LINK](#) to sign up to volunteer, donate drinks/snacks, or give a monetary donation to be used for drinks, snacks, and/or student scholarships. Our dance would not be possible without the support from our Bowie community!

**CALENDAR REMINDER** - Monday, September 22, is a student holiday while teachers are in professional development. Additionally, students will not attend classes on Tuesday, September 23, 2025 for the observance of Rosh Hashanah. [Rosh Hashanah](#) is the celebration of the Jewish New Year. The central observance of Rosh Hashanah is blowing the shofar (ram's horn) on both mornings of the holiday. This normally takes place in the synagogue as part of the day's services. Families enjoy traditional food such as round challah bread, apples dipped in honey, and other foods that symbolize hopes for a sweet year. It is also customary to light candles, attend synagogue, and have meals with family and friends.

Go Dawgs!

Mark Robinson  
Principal