



JAMES BOWIE HIGH SCHOOL

SPECIAL EDITION: Welcome to Bowie Class of 2026!

June 23, 2022

Greetings Bulldog Nation's Class of 2026 Families!

My name is Mark Robinson, and I am the proud principal of James Bowie High School. I very much look forward to meeting and collaborating with you over the next four years to prepare your child for high school graduation and beyond. During my five-year tenure as Bowie's lead learner, our staff has crafted a mission and vision that guides their work and has outlined a set of priorities that balance social and emotional competencies with academic achievement. To learn more about me and the essential work of our Bowie team, I invite you to explore the About Us tab on our newly launched website bowie.austinschools.org.

I am reaching out to share what I hope will be helpful information, but please know that you are welcome to reach out to me (mark.robinson@austinsd.org) or to Bowie's summer office staff at 512-414-5247 should you have any immediate needs.

COMMUNICATION SYSTEMS

- **SchoolMessenger** - Bowie routinely uses the SchoolMessenger system to send emails such as the Bowie Star Newsletter (a weekly-ish communication from me), first day of school instructions, and other important campus-wide announcements. On occasion, particularly if information is time-sensitive or of elevated importance, the emails will be accompanied by an automated phone call. Until Austin ISD "rolls-over" student data from your child's middle school at the end of July, however, Bowie does not have your contact information and is unable to contact you using the SchoolMessenger system. You should begin receiving communication from Bowie at the beginning of August. If you find you are not receiving Bowie emails in early August, please look in your email's spam/junk folders, and then verify the accuracy of your SchoolMessenger contact information and that your settings for "Campus Messages" is activated (click [HERE](#) for instructions). *NOTE: If you are still having trouble receiving emails, it is likely that at some point you unsubscribed from Bowie campus messages, and that you will need to contact the Parent Help Desk at 512-414-9187 to request they resubscribe you to SchoolMessenger campus emails.*
- **Bowie Website bowie.austinschools.org** - Beginning in the 2022-23 school year, Austin ISD is taking over website hosting for its campuses to create a standard interface experience for its families. The website tends to house more static information but does have a calendar feature that may prove useful. Bowie's staff will continue to refine and edit content for the new website in the weeks to come.

- **BLEND Bowie Community Course** - You and your child will be automatically co-enrolled in a BLEND course for each of their classes as well as the BLEND Bowie Community Course. We use the BLEND Bowie Community Course for several purposes. First, it is how we send announcements to students by grade level (you will also receive a copy of these announcements by email depending on how you configure your notifications in BLEND). Campus-wide learning modules are also contained here and are available to you to access so you can view the materials we are using with your child. Finally, we sometimes house documents here that we want students and families to have access to but don't want to publicly broadcast for safety or security reasons (campus maps, for example).

FRESHMEN ORIENTATION - Our staff is very attuned to the fact that starting high school can be anxiety-inducing for some families. While some schools may opt for a summer transition camp for incoming students, we have concluded that the process is too important to all students for it to be an optional summer experience. For this reason, we have mapped out an onboarding and orientation process that embeds training in classes during the first two weeks of school. Additionally, in advance of the first day of school, we have several events scheduled for students and for families to introduce them to the campus and get them ready for a great start to high school. Please refer to the Bowie's [Back-to-School Buzz flier](#) for all the dates and times of these activities.

FRESHMAN CLASS T-SHIRTS - I am grateful to two amazing Bowie teachers, Cindi Carroll and Halle Whittington, for volunteering to serve as the official Class of 2026 faculty sponsors over the next four years! They will be representing the interests of the freshman, helping to garner their school and class spirit, and coordinating fund-raising events to support the class activities, including prom. To get our freshmen off to a great start, consider purchasing an official Class of 2026 t-shirt for your freshman using the [SchoolCashOnline link](#). T-shirts will be available for pick-up during the August 11 Meet at the Tree event.

SUMMER ASSIGNMENTS FOR ADVANCED COURSES - Many of Bowie's advanced courses require the completion of assignments over the summer break. Recognizing that for some students jumping into high school-level work can be challenging, teachers have seen benefits in front-loading some of the tasks in the summer. Please encourage your freshmen to check [HERE](#) to determine if any of their 2022-23 courses require completion of a summer assignment. Assignments should not be overly burdensome but may require some planning and time-management.

In the gradual recovery from pandemic disruptions, and with the conclusion of five years of bond-funded construction, Bowie is positioned for an awesome year! I am excited to welcome you and your rising 9th grader to Bulldog Nation and look forward to seeing how our newest bulldogs begin to embody our motto "pride in performance." See you in a few weeks!

Go Dawgs!

Mark Robinson
Principal