



James Bowie High School

❖ Pride In Performance ❖

Thursday, September 6, 2018

Greetings Bulldog Nation,

It was a **pleasure to see so many parents at Back to School Night** yesterday! I hope that you enjoyed getting to meet your child's teachers. Please keep that line of two-way communication open by following up if/when you have questions or a concern. Teachers need to hear from you so they know when things are going well, too! As principal, I appreciate feedback as well. Please don't ever hesitate to call or email me about how we are doing, and especially if you would like to recognize your child's teacher.

We have a couple more opportunities for you to visit campus in the upcoming weeks and months. [Bulldogs & Hotdogs](#) is on the calendar for this **Saturday, September 8, 2018, rain or shine!** This is our biggest festival of the year and an event you won't want to miss. We will kick off the event at 6:00 p.m. with the national anthem and a choir performance in the cafeteria. At 7:00 p.m. we will celebrate Bowie High School with a pep rally in the gym, and the event goes until 9:00 p.m. Join us for fun, food, cold drinks, Bowie spirit sales, and entertainment here on the Bowie campus. The entire student body, family and friends, faculty, schools in our vertical team and district, as well as families in the community are invited to show some spectacular school spirit!

The school day starts with the **first bell at 8:50 a.m. and ends at 4:30 p.m.** Any students arriving after classes begin at 9:00 a.m. must check in at the office, therefore please plan to have your student here early. Please note that students are asked to **clear the campus after 4:30 p.m.** unless they are scheduled with a teacher for tutoring, clubs, or attending a public event like a game or performance on campus. If you are dropping off or picking up your student before or after school, please use the circle drive in front of the campus. Please do not park in the fire lane along the red curb in front of the school. There are ample, designated short-term parking spaces along the exit lane of the circle drive in front of the flagpole. Pick up and drop off is not permitted at the Camden Cedar Hills apartments or directly onto Slaughter Lane. Be sure to follow all instructions from the staff and don't forget that state law prohibits holding a cell phone to your ear in active school zones. Please see the [map](#) posted for directions. Student safety is our primary goal!

September is [Attendance Awareness Month](#) and Bowie has a **goal of 96.5% average daily attendance** for the 18-19 school year. Not only does regular attendance reinforce student learning, but it is also one way that schools are funded. Austin ISD is required to submit its attendance to the Texas Education Agency reflecting student attendance at a specific time each day. You can help by scheduling appointments for your child after school. However, if that is impossible, **try and schedule doctors' appointments after the official attendance-recording time of 10:15 a.m.** We want students to be counted present for the day as much as possible! In the 2018 fiscal year, JBHS failed to receive over \$900,000 due to student absences!

Austin Independent School District is enforcing a **clear bag policy at district athletic events**. The policy will be enforced at Burger Stadium, Delco Center, House Park Athletics Facility, Nelson Field and Noack Sports Complex. We want to be sure everyone is aware of the changes before our **first home football game on Friday, September 7, 2018**, vs. San Antonio Madison.

Bags that are permitted include:

- Bags that are clear plastic and do not exceed 12" x 6" x 12"
- One-gallon clear plastic freezer bags
- Bags must be clear plastic, vinyl or PVC and have a maximum of one logo imprint not exceeding 4.5" x 3.4"
- Small clutch bags or purses with or without a strap that are the size of a hand.
- Exceptions will be made for medically necessary items after proper inspection at designated areas.

More information and examples are on the flyer at AISD Athletics. Please note that this policy only applies to athletic facilities in district but **not** games or events on the JBHS campus.

Attention senior parents – **the date for graduation** has been announced! Bowie High School will conduct its commencement ceremony at the Frank Erwin Center on Friday, **May 31, 2019, at 7:00 p.m.** Due to numerous events already scheduled, the date for graduation is the Friday after the last day of classes on May 24, 2019. I hope you can join us to celebrate the Class of 2019!

September is also Suicide Awareness Month. Schools have an important role in preventing youth suicide, and being aware of potential risk factors is vital. We would like to ask you to partner with AISD to help students in need. You can make a world of difference by following these three simple steps:

Know the warning signs of suicidal ideation:

- Talking or joking about suicide.
- Seeking out weapons, pills or other ways to die.
- Making statements about feeling hopeless, helpless or worthless.
- Writing social media posts about death, dying or suicide.
- Giving away prized possessions.
- Saying goodbye to friends and family as if for good.
- **Changes in behavior can also be a warning sign:**
 - Changes in school attendance or grades.
 - Changes in eating and sleeping habits.
 - Increased use of alcohol and/or drugs.
 - Change in friendships, or withdrawing from friends and social activities.
 - Mood swings or personality changes.
 - Loss of interest in activities.
 - Bullying (both the victim of bullying and the bully are at risk.)

Talk to your children:

- Let your children know you care.
- Do not be afraid to ask your children if they have or are thinking about suicide.

Seek help:

- If it is an emergency call 911.
- Contact your child's pediatrician or doctor.
- Contact a local mental health provider—Integral Care at 512-472-HELP (4357), the [National Suicide Prevention Lifeline at 1-800-273-TALK \(8255\)](#) or text "HELLO" to 741741.
- Notify your child's campus administrator and counselor.

We care deeply about the well-being of all our students and we know that you care about the well-being of your child. By working together we can make a difference for all students at AISD. Thank for your support.

Sincerely,

Mark Robinson
Principal
James Bowie High School
Follow me on [Twitter](#) @robinson_mark_a

A Recognized School of Excellence

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