

AVID

Advancement **V**ia **I**ndividual **D**etermination

Parent/Student Handbook

James Bowie High School

2008-2009

OUR MOTTO

CROSS THE LINE!

OUR MASCOT

THE VOLUNTEER

OUR COLORS

BLUE, ORANGE, AND WHITE

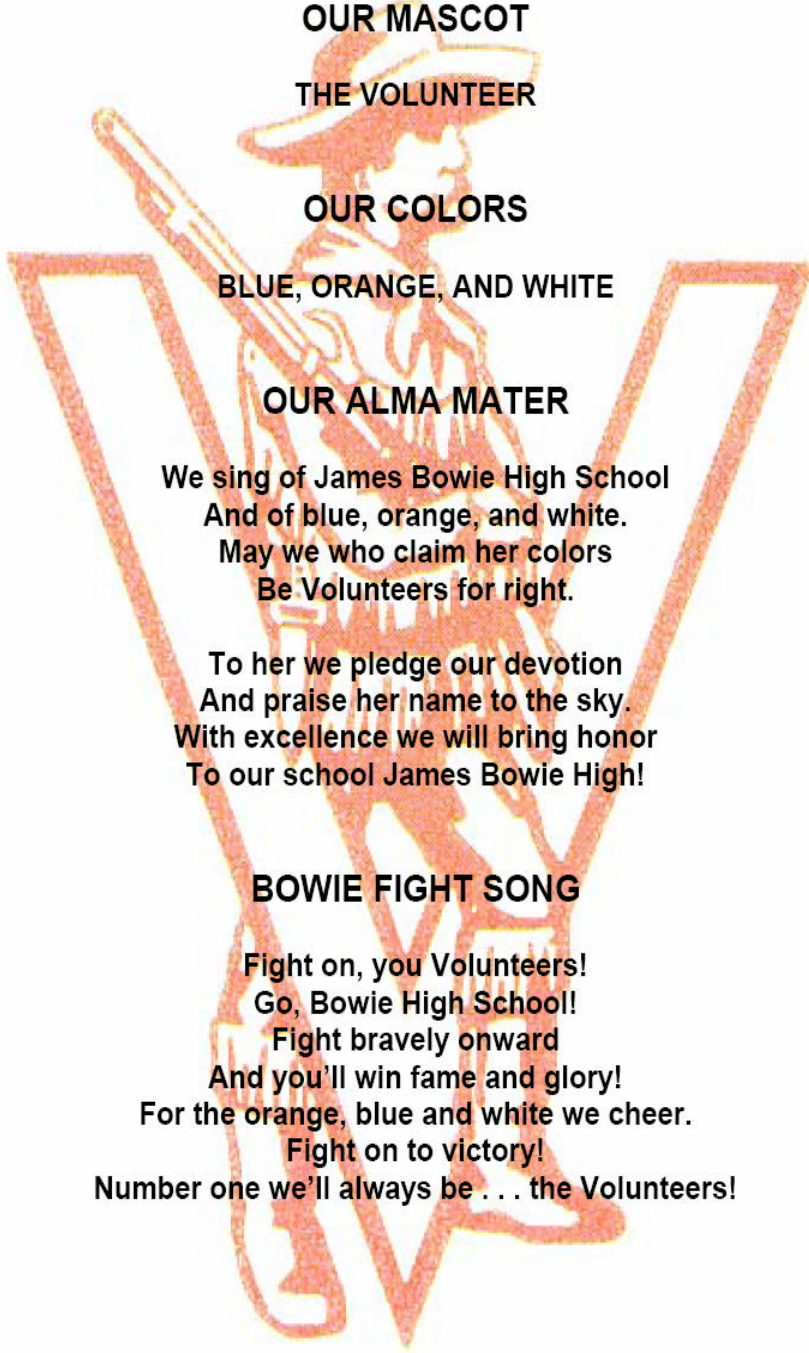
OUR ALMA MATER

**We sing of James Bowie High School
And of blue, orange, and white.
May we who claim her colors
Be Volunteers for right.**

**To her we pledge our devotion
And praise her name to the sky.
With excellence we will bring honor
To our school James Bowie High!**

BOWIE FIGHT SONG

**Fight on, you Volunteers!
Go, Bowie High School!
Fight bravely onward
And you'll win fame and glory!
For the orange, blue and white we cheer.
Fight on to victory!
Number one we'll always be . . . the Volunteers!**



What is AVID?

AVID is a fourth- through twelfth-grade system to prepare students in the academic middle for four-year college eligibility. It has a proven track record in bringing out the best in students, and in closing the achievement gap. The goal of AVID is to educate the whole student by unifying six important elements of education: students, curriculum, faculty, skills, parents, and community. The AVID curriculum includes instruction in study skills, organizational skills, communication skills, writing, test-taking strategies, personal development, and team-building.

Where did AVID begin?

In 1980 Mary Catherine Swanson was head of the English department at San Diego's Clairemont High School. San Diego was becoming increasingly diverse. The federal courts issued an order to desegregate the city's schools, which brought large numbers of inner city students to suburban schools. While Swanson applauded the decision, she wondered how these underserved students would survive at academically acclaimed Clairemont High.

Her answer was AVID, an academic elective, but it was more than a program – it was a philosophy: Hold students accountable to the highest standards, provide academic and social support, and they will rise to the challenge.

AVID at BOWIE!

AVID started as the vision of Principal Darrell Sneed and was included in the 2004-05 Campus Improvement Plan. In an effort to implement AVID, two faculty members were sent to AVID Awareness training in the fall of 2004 to become familiar with the purpose of AVID and the benefits of beginning an AVID program. The original AVID Site Team members went to Austin, Texas to partake in 5 days of their very first AVID Summer Institute training during the summer of 2005. After attending the Institute, these site team members set out to make the dream of having AVID on the BHS Campus a reality.

In the Fall Semester of 2005 32 AVID students walked into their first day of AVID instruction. The program has continued to grow ever since. Bowie will have AVID students in grades 9-12 for the 2008-2009 school year serving over 200 students.

The Mission of AVID:

The mission of AVID is to ensure that **ALL students**, and most especially the least served students who are in the middle:

- will succeed in rigorous curriculum,
- will complete a rigorous college preparatory path,
- will enter mainstream activities of the school,
- will increase their enrollment in four-year colleges,
- and
- will become educated and responsible participants
- and leaders in a democratic society.

AVID's systemic approach is designed to support students and educators as they increase schoolwide/districtwide learning and performance.

AVID Program Student Requirements:

- Maintain enrollment in college preparatory classes
- Maintain a notebook with class and text notes for each academic course
- Maintain assignment sheets for each subject and complete tutorial forms for all AVID tutorial sessions
- Take at least one page of notes in every class each day
- Spend two hours per night on homework and studying
- Maintain satisfactory citizenship and attendance in all classes
- Complete AVID assignments including writing and speaking tasks
- Participate in AVID tutorials
- Take the PSAT each year and the SAT at least once
- Attend the AVID field trips during and after school
- Maintain at least a 2.0 grade point average
- Increase academic rigor by enrolling in and successfully completing at least one Pre-AP/AP or IB class in one or more of the core curriculum areas (English, Math, Social Studies, Science) each year
- Complete **community service requirements** as a part of the AVID program and the student's grade in the AVID elective class

Information for the AVID Parent/Guardian

AVID Tips

The AVID Program encourages open lines of communication between parents and teachers. This greatly reduces the number of situations where an AVID student fails to meet basic program requirements. If you have any questions or concerns about any part of your child's AVID class or related courses, please contact his/her AVID teacher immediately. Prompt intervention prevents most small concerns from becoming big problems.

The AVID teacher will contact you by phone if he/she feels you child is not meeting basic program requirements. Please respond promptly to these messages. Often, a phone conversation or parent/teacher/counselor conference is all that is necessary to reach a solution.

Of course, the best plan to avoid potential problems is to be pro-active. Please plan to attend the AVID parent meetings and workshops that are offered at your child's school, volunteer to serve on parent/teacher advisory councils and committees, and chaperon field trips when your schedule permits.

Role of Parent/Guardian (taken from the AVID website)

The involvement of parents is a priority in AVID. Parents are informed about program events and expectations through newsletters and parent meetings. Parent groups often become active in planning programs and fund-raising.

Parents sign a contract agreeing to support all AVID academic requirements; encourage and support their children's academic success; and, attend AVID parent meetings.

Resources

If you would like more information about the Bowie AVID Program, please visit our website at www.aisd.net/bowie.

You can also visit the AVID website at www.avidonline.org.

InTouch – Do you wonder about your student's grades? Check the Bowie website and sign up with InTouch.

The AVID Probationary and Exit Process

A student may be placed on probation and/or exited from the program for continuous disregard of the basic program requirements, academic reasons, or behavior infractions

When an AVID student is not meeting basic program requirements, the AVID elective teacher initiates a plan designated to help the student raise his/her level of performance by involving the student, parent/guardian, teacher, AVID counselor, AVID coordinator, and the AVID administrator.

If a student continues not to meet the basic program requirements after all parties mentioned above have been involved, a student may be placed on probation for a period of time designated by the probation committee.

Probation based on the student not following basic AVID requirements

Prior to a student to being placed on probation the elective teacher will need to hold a conference with the student and a conference with the parent.

Review of probation will be each six weeks or on an as needed basis to be determined by the probation committee.

Probation based on academic reasons

Beginning with the 1st six weeks if a student fails two or more non-advanced classes, they will be placed on probation. This will be on-going throughout the year.

Intervention strategies will be put into place for students failing preAP/AP classes.

Academic probation status will be reviewed each six weeks. At this time exit status will be discussed if needed.

Probation based on behavior infractions

If a student has any of the following behavior infractions, he or she will be immediately placed on probation.

- 5 ISS assignments
- 1 Choices assignment
- 1 Turning Point assignment

Review of probation status for behavior will be on going throughout the year. Exit status will be determined upon further discipline incurred by the student.

Note: The probation committee consists of the AVID elective teacher(s), AVID counselor, and AVID administrator.