Good afternoon Bowman Family!

We are so excited to get started with the 2019-2020 school year! As I begin my 3rd year as the principal of Bowman, I am so impressed at the work our teachers have put in over the last few weeks to get ready for the year. One of our biggest priorities this year is collaboration between teachers to positively impact student learning. Our teachers will be working together throughout the year as they develop and refine learning objectives and lessons, create assessments, and use data to ensure students are growing academically. We believe that we are better together and I think that idea includes our parents and community as well. With that in mind, I want to review a variety of topics that will help you familiarize yourself with some of our day-to-day policies and procedures. Whether you have an 8th grade who has already been at Bowman for 2 years or you have an incoming 6th grader, we are so excited to welcome you to a new school year!

This Sunday (8/11): We are opening the building from 3:00 - 4:00 on Sunday afternoon for 6th grade students and families. This is a great opportunity to walk the building before the first day of school and let your 6th grader see where each of their classes are. Teachers will not be available during this time however, there will be other opportunities to visit with teachers throughout the semester. Please bring a copy of your 6th grader’s schedule so you know which classrooms you need to locate. Workers will still be in the building on Sunday and parking may be limited. Please use the Memorial Elementary School parking lot as an overflow lot.

Dress Code: We will be following the Plano ISD dress code, which can be found here: https://www.pisd.edu/Page/1756. Please note that no type of clothing which has been torn or has holes will be allowed. We will give students a 1 week grace period and then will provide alternate clothing to students who are not in dress code.

Bus Information: Bus routes, stops, and times can be found by entering your address here: https://www.pisd.edu/Page/6723.

Carpool: Detailed carpool instructions are attached. We open our doors at 7:40 and we understand that some parents must drop students off a little earlier but we strongly encourage parents to drop off at 7:40 or later if possible. Also, if your student walks to school, please encourage them to plan on arriving after 7:40.

Free/Reduced Lunch Registration: Free/Reduced Lunch applications can be completed online by visiting: https://fans.pisd.edu/lfserver/landingpage.
**Backpacks:** In an effort to help students get to class on time, we are not issuing lockers. Students will carry their backpacks from class to class. Students will have a locker for their instruments in the Fine Arts area and for their equipment in the Gym. Although this will be a little different from the way we have done things in the past, we feel like there will be a number of positive effects from this change.

**Cell Phones/Head Phones/Electronic Devices:** Cell phones, electronic devices, and headphones can be used in a school-appropriate manner before school until 8:20. At 8:20 am, all cell phones, electronic devices, and headphones must be powered off and kept out of sight. Throughout the day, students can keep their cell phone or electronic device with them; however, they must remain powered off and out of sight. Teachers may allow students to access their devices during class for instructional purposes or on a case-by-case basis to contact parents when necessary. At 3:30, students can power on their devices and return to using them. Parents can connect with student’s teachers, counselors, administrators, and office staff to ensure students receive messages in case of an urgent need or emergency and can access staff contact information by visiting https://www.pisd.edu/Page/6226.

Failure to meet these expectations will result in devices being confiscated.

1st Time: Student can retrieve the device from the teacher at the end of the day.
2nd Time and beyond: Parent will be required to retrieve the device from the front office during school hours.

Refusal to hand over a device will result in an office referral.

**Bell Schedule:** The 2019-2020 bell schedule is attached.

**Plano ISD Student/Parent Policy Guide:** [https://www.pisd.edu/policies](https://www.pisd.edu/policies)

**Tardy Policy:** Students are expected to be on time to classes to avoid disrupting the learning environment. Tardies accumulate per semester.

1st Tardy: Teacher Warning to Student
2nd Tardy: 30 minute makeup with teacher
3rd Tardy: 60 minute makeup with teacher with parent notification
4th Tardy: Tardy Referral to Cadeal for Friday After Hours

**School Resource Officer (SRO):** We are thrilled that through the partnership of Plano ISD and the Plano Police Department, we will have full-time SROs stationed at all Plano ISD middle schools including Bowman. Officer Soto will be our SRO and he is going to be a valuable asset to our campus. His primary job will be to ensure the safety of students and staff and I know our Bowman students will love getting to interact with him on a daily basis.

Thank you, have a great weekend, and we will see you soon!

Brooks Baca
Principal, Bowman Middle School