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May 1, 2020

Dear YES Prep Families and Community,

We hope all of you are safe and well and again, cannot express how much we miss our students. As we kick off this month of May, we are hyper-focused on making these last few weeks of the school year great and memorable ones. We have a few updates and announcements for you below. Thank you for reading this message in its entirety for important details.

### **Keep YES Prep Learning: Family Guide Week 6**

Week 6 of our virtual distance learning program, “Keep YES Prep Learning,” begins next Monday, May 4. A reminder, this program is required for all YES Prep students. Please visit [yesprep.org/covid19/academics](https://yesprep.org/covid19/academics) to view the Week 6 Family Guide! Keep up the good work, students!

### **GPA Policy**

YES Prep is committed to making decisions that are equitable and in the best interest of our students. Because of this commitment, we will include Semester 2 grades in student GPAs using a process that will determine the best academic outcome.

For each student we will:

1. Calculate Semester 2 grades both with AND without the A6 average. We will choose the higher Semester 2 average. This will make sure that A6 can only improve the Semester 2 grade.
2. We will then include Semester 2 grades into the cumulative GPA.

We conducted a thorough analysis of the potential impact of including and excluding S2 grades in our student's cumulative GPA. After reviewing student data and a variety of secondary and post-secondary policies, we have concluded that including final S2 grades in our students' cumulative GPAs will most value the efforts of our students and families and bring the most benefit to our students for future college and scholarship applications.

*All YES Prep partnership schools (Hoffman, Eisenhower, Northbrook MS/HS) will follow YES Prep policies for GPA calculation.*

### **Family Survey**

Thank you for taking the time to complete the Family Survey to share your experience and feedback with us. We are committed to ensuring our students and families have access to needed resources to Keep YES Prep Learning during this unprecedented time. Please note that **the**



**Family Survey window has been extended through Monday, May 4.** However, we wanted to share some of the trends we are seeing so far:

- **KYPL:** The Keep YES Prep Learning overall satisfaction rate is at 81% with 76% of families reporting that the work load for students is just about right.
- **COMMUNICATION:** 96% of families are satisfied or extremely satisfied with campus communication and 96% of families agree or strongly agree that the Family Guide that is updated weekly on the Keep YES Prep Learning website is helpful.
- **FOOD:** 12% of families shared that they are currently relying on the meals being provided by YES Prep on Mondays and Thursdays. Through the work of the Child Nutrition Team, we have provided 142,000 meals to date. If you need additional support, the Houston Food Bank has set up a helpline. The number is 832-369-9390.



- **TECHNOLOGY:** 89% of families indicated their child has access to a laptop or tablet and 87% reported reliable internet access. We won't be satisfied until 100% of our students have access to what they need to keep learning at home. If you do not have access, please contact your campus specific front office number between the hours of 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM as campuses are continuing to distribute their remaining laptop inventory. Additionally, families can lean on [everyoneon](#) to access affordable internet.

## Prom Update

The Class of 2020 Prom that was scheduled for May has been officially cancelled. We know that our seniors are disappointed to be missing this important Senior milestone and many had already purchased something special to wear for the evening. At this time, there are no plans to host a Senior Prom at a later date this summer due to the challenges of practicing social distancing during an event.

We encourage students to get dressed up, dance with loved ones in their living room, and take photos to share on social media. Campuses that elect to host a "virtual prom" will communicate directly with students and families. Although we will miss seeing our seniors dressed up for a night of dancing, we cannot wait to see them dressed in their Caps and Gowns during In-Person Graduation in August!

## Graduation

A top priority for YES Prep is celebrating your students' accomplishments over the last seven years while students at YES Prep. After gathering input from seniors at every campus, we have developed a three-part plan to celebrate the Senior Class in fun and engaging ways during these unprecedented times.

### The Plan

1. **YES Prep is committed to offering IN-PERSON Graduation Celebrations this summer.** These ceremonies are scheduled, tentatively, for **August 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup>** (assuming that by these dates, public health restrictions on gatherings will relax). The celebrations will take place at the Bayou City Event Center, where past YES Prep Classes graduated.
2. **We will mark the end of the Semester with Online Commencement.** Our online ceremonies will occur within the same time frame as our original dates for YES Prep's Graduation Ceremonies (**May 29<sup>th</sup> – 31<sup>st</sup>, 2020**). Each school will have an individual ceremony live-streamed online.
3. And, as previously announced, we will be hosting an online **Senior Signing Day on May 19<sup>th</sup>, 2020**.

### What You Can Expect:

We are still in the planning process for our Graduation ceremonies. However, we want you to know what you can expect at each event.

At the Online Commencement Ceremonies in May, the Senior Class will have the opportunity to hear from their commencement speakers. They will also have their degrees conferred upon them by their Principal. Your family and guests will be able to watch the live stream and celebrate as your senior's name is announced.

The in-person Graduation Celebration in August will be a chance for seniors to walk across the stage while you cheer them on. This ceremony will be a graduation like no other - a unique way, in a unique time, to celebrate your students' accomplishments.

### Partnership Schools Campus-specific Graduation and Prom Policies:

YES Prep Eisenhower will follow YES Prep policies for graduation and prom.

YES Prep Northbrook HS will follow SBISD policies for graduation and prom.

### Next Steps

1. Check your campus's family messaging, social media, and your student's Senior Seminar Teams for additional updates from your school about the day and time of your school's ceremonies.
2. Finally, if your students have not submitted their Declaration Video for Senior Signing Day yet, please encourage them to do so. YES Prep is committed to celebrating your students' accomplishments and their plans for after graduating YES Prep.



## Senior Spotlight Social Media Campaigns

The Senior Spotlight on Social Media Campaign is an initiative to bring a positive and personal spotlight to each senior with a special recognition from campus staff and teachers. Each senior will be featured in a campus social media post so be on the lookout!

Additionally, we want the Families of Seniors to be able to recognize and celebrate the accomplishments of their senior. YES Prep knows how important senior year is for families and we want to give you a fun way to celebrate your graduating student by way of a branded Facebook frame! See example below:



To update your Facebook profile picture with the frame, follow the instructions below.

1. On your Facebook profile, hover over/click on your profile picture and click "Update" or "Add Frame"
2. Search "YES Prep" and click your child's corresponding campus' "Senior Family" frame
3. Finally, click "Use As Profile Picture" and voila!

As always, thank you for trusting us with the responsibility of educating your children and we'd also like to take this opportunity to thank our teachers.

Next week is Teacher Appreciation Week, and we are excited to celebrate all our teachers who have worked tirelessly to "Keep YES Prep Learning." A major focus of next week will be honoring, recognizing, and celebrating the incredible work that they do. **Teachers, happy early Teacher Appreciation Week!**

Thank you