

Dear Brays Oaks Families:

It's hard to believe that summer is almost over! As we near the beginning of the school year, we want to provide you with regular updates regarding the re-opening of school. Please note that we will continually update <http://tinyurl.com/brayscovid19> with information as it comes up – check this site as well as our campus Instagram account (@yesprepbraysoaks) regularly for the most up to date information.

Important Upcoming Dates

Thursday, August 13	9-11th grade laptop and novel pickup (11am - 2pm)
Thursday, August 20	12th grade laptop and novel pickup (10am – 11am) Middle School laptop pickup (11am - 2pm)
Monday, August 24	First Day of School [Virtual for All Students] *Classes will be held from 8:30am - 12:00pm for the first week
Monday, August 31	Full School Days Begin Virtually: Classes from 8:30am - 3:45pm
Monday, September 21	First day during which in-person instruction may resume

Powerpoints from the Family Town Hall

We were able to connect with over 200 families during our re-opening town hall meetings this week! We have shared the links for the powerpoints from the meetings here:

[English](#)

[Spanish](#)

Device Distribution to Students

We are reaching out with information around laptop distribution and a few things we are asking of families prior to you coming to campus to pick up your device.

1. Login to the Family Access Center on Skyward (If you are still having trouble accessing the site, please reach out to braysoaks@yesprep.org)
2. Complete the Technology Agreement Form
3. Check which day your student should come to campus to receive their device. These days will be very busy and we are asking that..
 - 9th-11th Graders come on August 13th between 10-2pm
 - 12th Graders come on August 20th between 10-11am
 - All Middle Schoolers that indicated they need a device come on August 20th between 11-2pm [the rest of the middle schoolers will be asked to come to campus at a later date]
 - At this time we are only asking Middle Schoolers that let us know they need a device on Skyward to come to campus. If something has changed with your family situation and you now need a device please reach out to braysoaks@yesprep.org to let us

know. Similarly if you no longer need a device, send us a quick email so that we can offer it to another family.

On the day of distribution we are asking families to arrive through the Westbrae Parkway (by India House) entrance and pull up to the front of the school. Please remain in your car and a staff member will come to check you in and make sure you have completed the necessary documents. Once we've verified your Laptop Agreement was submitted we will deliver your laptop through contactless delivery. After you have your laptop, we are asking that you proceed toward the gymnasium to collect your books for the first semester. Once you have your laptop and novels you will leave through the back exit.

During your time on campus please make sure you are wearing a mask the entire time. We will have safety protocols in place to keep both you and our staff safe and we ask that you help us by wearing a mask and remaining in your vehicle.

Teams Passwords

All student passwords to Teams (the platform used for virtual learning) have been reset to YesStudents17. Once your student logs in again, they will be able to reset their passwords. We will also hand out Teams login information at laptop distribution and will text out login information to families the week of August 17.

First Day of Instruction and Revised Academic Calendar

As Mr. DiBella shared in his most recent family email:

- The first day of school for YES Prep has been moved to **Monday, August 24th** to better line up with the HISD calendar and give us more time to prepare for re-opening.
- **All instruction will be fully virtual until at least Friday, September 18th and the soonest we would allow for the option for in-person instruction is Monday, September 21st.** This date may change based on the state of COVID in the Houston community.
- Families will continue to have the choice of opting into virtual instruction or in-person instruction even after we re-open in person. We will offer a virtual option for the entire school year. After the first nine weeks of school, we will send out a survey for you to change your learning option based on your family preferences for the second grading period.
- Our academic calendar for the 20-21 school year is available [here](#).
- We have a document of Frequently Asked Questions from YES Prep available [here](#).

First Week of School (August 24-28)

The school hours for the first week of school will be from **8:30a.m.-12:00p.m.** Students will log onto their grade level Teams channels during this time for "live" activities. Please make sure your student has requested their updated Teams passwords before the first day of school. There will be asynchronous (or, on your own) assignments given during this week.

Student Schedules

Students will not be following the schedules that they may have received at the end of last school year. Because we are moving to block scheduling, all schedules have to be changed. Students will have ELA and

Math every day but will have blocks of other subjects less times per week. The amount of time with each class will be the same but blocked out over different days rather than one period per day. For example, they may have Social Studies twice a week, but for two-hour blocks on those days.

What Online Learning Will Look Like

We have had more time to prepare, and online learning will look significantly different than it did during the spring. [You can preview more information on our re-opening guide](#) and here are some notes:

- Students will engage in classes from 8:30am – 3:45pm daily. The schedule is below:

8:30am - 10:10am	1 st Block
10:15am - 11:45am	2 nd Block
11:45pm – 12:40pm	Lunch/Tutorials/Advisory
12:40pm - 2:10pm	3 rd Block
2:15pm - 3:45pm	4 th Block

- All classes will be offered in a “live” or synchronous manner, meaning that students will need to log-in for each class at a specific time daily. Each class will also have a component where students work independently on assignments.
- Teachers will hold tutorials during the second half of each block and during lunch.

Update on Athletics

This has been an unprecedented time that has changed our normalcy and life, which has caused us to strive to determine what’s best for our communities to ensure that we are safe. Therefore, after much consideration and reviewing all options for YP athletics, the decision has been made that YP will suspend all in person athletic programming until at least November. The continuous escalation of positive COVID cases and deaths in our country has made the priority for safety and well-being for all, a factor in making this decision. Sports is a valuable instrument that brings so many possibilities and opportunities but currently the focus should be with families and how to support them during this pandemic. YP will re-evaluate the current climate at the end of October to determine the status of athletic programming and next steps. In addition, YP will be offering virtual athletic programming that will include sport specific training and the introduction of the Esports program during this time. Please reach out to your Athletic Director for more information and please stay safe.

What In-Person Instruction Will Look Like

Students will follow the exact same schedule in-person that they will follow virtually. We have begun to develop strong health and safety procedures for re-opening, and [you can access them here](#). Some key notes:

- Students will be required to wear masks at all times.
- We will take all students and staff temperature daily before exiting their bus/car. Any student or staff demonstrating symptoms of COVID will be asked to leave right away, and we ask that parents are prepared to take students home.

- Students will remain in the same cohort and classroom all day, including for lunch and breakfast. Teachers will move, not students.
- Students will have access to 1-1 technology.
- Students will be required to sanitize their hands following regular intervals during the day.
- We will adhere to social distancing procedures when possible, and this is dependent on the number of students who return to campus.

Re-Enrollment and Learning Option Survey

We know that there have been many challenges with Skyward and we really appreciate your flexibility as we move to a new Student Information System!

- Our learning options survey closed on Friday, July 24th in Skyward. We will provide another learning option survey for families at the end of the first quarter to opt into in-person or virtual learning.
- If you need help with re-enrollment forms or Skyward, please email Ms. Lopez, Operations Coordinator, at kenia.lopez@yesprep.org and Mr. McMahan, Director of Campus Operations, at matthew.mcmahan@yesprep.org and they can support you!

Revised Uniform Policy

Based on feedback from students and parents, we have revised the uniform policy for the 20-21 school year. [The entire policy is available here](#). Please note the following:

- **Shirts:** Students can wear either a YES Prep t-shirt or a YES Prep polo every day. Shirts do not need to be tucked in.
- **Pants:** Students can wear jeans or khaki any day. Pants cannot have any holes.
- **Outer-layers:** Students can wear a YES Prep or college-branded outer-layer every day.

Uniforms will only be required for in-person learning. You can purchase uniforms at www.yesprepuniforms.com.

Office Hours

Our Front Office Team is available by phone from 9:00am – 12:00pm on Mondays – Fridays. You can reach them at (713) 967-8400. You can also schedule an appointment for in-person support with Ms. Lopez by emailing her at kenia.lopez@yesprep.org.

We are so looking forward to connecting with everyone and we are here if you have questions!

Stephanie Gounder

Principal, YES Prep Brays Oaks