

Dear Brays Oaks Families:

We have one week until all YES Prep Brays Oaks students and staff are reunited online! I'm hoping the students are as excited as their teachers and administrators are to be back together, even if it is online rather than in person. We are committed to doing everything in our power to ensure that all our students continue their learning online while also feeling supported and cared for.

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.

Upcoming Calendar

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

Device and Novels/Textbook Distribution Continues

Here is some information around laptop distribution and a few things that 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 email braysoaks@yesprep.org)
- 2) Complete the Technology Agreement Form on Skyward
- 3) Check the date and time for your student to come to campus to receive their device and novels.

These days will be very busy, so we are asking that...

- 12th Graders come on Thursday, August 20th between 10-11am
- All Middle Schoolers that indicated they need a device should come on August 20th between 11-2pm.
- All other Middle Schoolers should come to pick up novels on August 28th between 9am – 12pm.

If anyone in high school missed their device pick up on Thursday, August 13th, you may come on Thursday, August 20th during the middle school pick up, between 11:00a.m. and 2:00p.m.

***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.**

Technology Support

Our High School Technology teacher, Mr. Barnes is going to be leading our tech support during virtual instruction! If students are having problems with technology, they should go to tinyurl.com/braystechsupport and complete the survey. Mr. Barnes will then contact the student to help resolve the problem.

All Teams passwords from last Spring have been reset, so the temporary password is YesStudents17. Once a student logs in with this password, they can reset it to their own unique password.

Text Communication from School

Someone from school will be texting all families next week to communicate your student's Teams login information. We will be sending your student a Teams message with their academic schedule during the first three days of school. If your student does not receive a schedule by Thursday, August 27th, please email their Dean of Students (DOS) for assistance.

6-7th Grade DOS: Daniel Martinez Daniel.martinez@yesprep.org

8th-9th Grade DOS: Luke Basham Christopher.basham@yesprep.org

10th-12th Grade DOS: Erick Perez Erick.perez@yesprep.org

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.

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 for starting Monday, August 31st:

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.

Free Dress for the First Semester

YES Prep has made a districtwide decision to let students have Free Dress for the entirety of the first semester, including when students are back on campus. We have altered our Free Dress guidelines, so please note the following:

Free Dress
When free dress is earned it should meet the following criteria:

- All clothing must be school appropriate
- T-Shirts and Jerseys may not be offensive or contain any tobacco/alcohol labels
- No tank tops, halter tops, tube tops, net or sheer tops, spaghetti straps or strapless shirts. No bare midriffs (half shirts)
- No athletic wear (gym shorts, yoga pants, sweat pants) are not allowed
- Pants, shorts, skirts, footwear must meet daily criteria.

Daily

- IDs must be worn around neck daily
- Closed toe shoes ONLY
- Sandals, house shoes, slides or crocs not allowed
- No holes in jeans/pants

Prays Oaks Strong
CAVALIERS

A decision about uniforms for second semester will be made at a later date but with enough time for parents to purchase YES Prep polos if needed. The uniform policy has been revised from previous years, allowing students to wear any YES Prep shirt (polo, t-shirt, etc.) and jeans or khakis any day. [The entire policy is available here](#)

Meal Distribution Changes

Meal distribution will continue through the semester but will now be once a week rather than twice. Meals will be distributed on **MONDAYS** only, beginning on Monday, August 24th. Here are some details:

- Meals will be distributed on **Mondays** between **9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.**
- You will receive breakfast and lunch for 5 days
- You may pick up meals for each of your YES Prep students

Welcome to Our New Resident Principal!

Each year at YES Prep Brays Oaks, we welcome a Resident Principal who works on our campus in order to help us lead our campus, but also learn and practice becoming a Principal. This semester we are excited to welcome Chela Green! Here is a little information about her:

Chela Green was born and raised in Nashville, Tennessee and moved to Houston as a Teach for America (TFA) corps member in 2012. Most recently, Chela served as the Director of Student Support at her TFA placement school, YES Prep Northbrook Middle School. Chela has also served as a founding 6th grade Language Arts teacher at YES Prep Northbrook Middle, 7th grade English Language Arts teacher at YES Prep Hoffman, Grade Level Chair, Dean of Students, and Dean of Students Team Lead. Chela has a Bachelor of Arts degree from Georgetown University and a Master of Education degree from Columbia University in Organization and Leadership- School Building Leadership. Also, Chela was a part of the YES Prep Aspire- School Director cohort. Chela's grandmother was a Fisk University student who participated in sit-ins to de-segregate public venues and a grassroots organizer in Nashville, TN. Chela honors her grandmother's legacy by making education equity her civil rights movement. As a former college track athlete, Chela loves running and working out. Additionally, she enjoys being a foodie and working on her small travel itinerary company, Lux for the Low.

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

Stephanie Gounder

Principal, YES Prep Brays Oaks