

September 4, 2020

Dear YES Prep Families,

As the 2020-21 school year gets fully underway online, our teachers and staff are drawing all their creativity and enthusiasm to virtually teach and support students. We appreciate the patience and flexibility of students and family members assisting them at home as we navigate these conditions together.

We continue to closely monitor the high number of COVID-19 cases in our community, as well as school districts dealing with the virus entering campuses upon reopening. We are committed to reopening our schools in a way that prioritizes health and safety during the uncertain, fluctuating conditions of the pandemic while ensuring all students continue to learn.

Campus Reopening Plans

Based on guidance from local health officials, **all YES Prep students will now continue learning online through Sept. 25.** For those who choose in-person learning, we are planning a **phased-in campus reopening—as conditions permit—starting Monday, September 28, with elementary and a limited number of students in 6th through 12th grades.**

Our two elementary schools are designed for hundreds more students than enrolled this inaugural year, which launched only with kinder through 2nd grades, so there is extra space for social distancing. Students in grades 6 through 12 who have special needs or require additional support can also begin in-person learning on Sept. 28.

Next Friday we will communicate our plans for phasing in the **remaining** students who choose the in-person at-school learning program. This phase-in process will last several weeks until all students have the option to participate in the in-person at-school learning program beginning the week of October 19th.

Our full-scale effort to prepare campuses for in-person learning with additional health and safety measures to help keep the virus out of our schools continues. You can see a video of what students can expect if they return to campus here:



Next week, we will provide additional information about the return to campuses and a survey will be available for you to let us know if you prefer your student continues learning virtually or to return to school in-person.



Social and Emotional Learning Introduction

At YES Prep, we believe that it is critical to support your student not only academically, but socially and emotionally. As we navigate virtual school or the option of returning to in-person learning, emotional care will continue to be important as we support one another and our students. Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) is the process of developing self-awareness and interpersonal skills that are vital for school, work, and life success. This year, YES Prep will be providing intentional Social and Emotional programming to all YES Prep students.

Please view our introduction videos to learn more about SEL at YES Prep for the 20-21 school year [here](#). We will also be updating our [Secondary and Elementary SEL resource site](#) for family resources. This week, we have released Secondary family resources on “Understanding Emotions” and Elementary family resources on Sanford and Harmony, our Elementary SEL curriculum. Check them out in our Family Resource Center, under [the Social and Emotional Learning section](#).

We will share additional information as soon as we can and will continue to update our website, yesprep.org/reignited, with the latest developments and resources to community services.

Online or in person, we remain firmly committed to the rigorous education and success of your children on their path to college and beyond. We are here to help in any way we can. Please tell us if you have a question, concern or an urgent need for your family.

*We are extending virtual learning at our partnership campuses through Friday September 25 and continue working with Aldine and Spring Branch to determine a phased-in plan for campuses in their district.

We look forward to Week 3 of online classes next week!

Thank you