

October 15, 2020

Dear YES Prep Families,

We hope this message finds you safe and well. We're sending this Family Update a day ahead of our normal Friday cadence since tomorrow is a **YES Prep Fall Holiday**. We are excited to welcome our third cohort of students -grades 7, 8, 10 & 11- back to in-person learning on campuses next week. We will continue to enforce safety protocols and ask students and families to help us keep our schools safe by adhering to the daily safety procedures put in place.

Please make sure to read the following letter in its entirety for information on the opening of the next Program Selection Survey for Quarter 2, a family feedback survey, accessing grades, common assessments, and updates to the Student Handbook.

Important Dates Reminder

- 10/16 - Fall Holiday for YES Prep (exception: YES Northbrook MS/HS DO have school)
- 10/19 - *Staff Development Day/Student Holiday for all students
- 10/20 – In-Person Learning at School begins for Cohort 3 students
- 10/20 – Program Selection Survey opens (closes on 10/25)
- 10/20 – Family Pulse Check Survey opens (closes on 10/25)

Reminder: In-Person Learning at School Begins October 20 for Cohort 3

As a reminder, in-person learning at school for **Cohort 3 (students in grades 7, 8, 10 & 11) who selected and confirmed the In-Person at School program option via the YES Prep Program Selection Survey, begins on Tuesday, October 20**. Please be sure you have reviewed details about the [Daily Health Check](#) and are familiar with the [In-Person Readiness Checklist](#) to ensure a smooth and successful transition onto campuses on October 20. For this and other information, please visit our [In Person at School Learning webpage](#).

*For all our students at our partnership schools, please refer to the phase-in plan that your campuses have shared with you. Also, Spring Branch families should refer to the survey deadlines shared by Spring Branch. For Northbrook campuses, the survey has closed for changing your learning plan that is effective at the start of Quarter 2 (October 20, 2020).

Quarter 2 Program Selection Survey Preview

As we continue the process of safely reopening our schools, it is time once again for our families to choose their preferred learning program for Quarter 2 (November 4 – January 14). We are continuing to offer two learning program options for the 2020-2021 school year: YES Prep **In Person at School** or YES Prep **Online at Home**. If you wish to have your child in the same learning program for Quarter 2, no further action is needed. If you would like to change your child's learning program for Quarter 2, you must log in to [Skyward](#) to complete this survey between Tuesday, October 20 and Sunday, October 25. The next opportunity for Program Selection will be December 11, 2020. This timeline does not apply to our partnership schools in SBISD.



Program Transfer Mid-Quarter

As a reminder, once a family has selected YES Prep Online at Home for their Program Selection for each quarter, students may **not** transition to YES Prep In-Person **until the next quarter's** Program Selection survey. However, if a family currently in YES Prep In-Person has a health or family concern and desires a change to YES Prep Online at Home mid-quarter, they should reach out to their campus front office to receive guidance on the Virtual Transfer Process.

Reignited Family Pulse Check

In our effort to measure how well we are serving our students and families, whether in-person or online, we are asking for families to complete the "Reignited Pulse Check", a *brief* survey to receive feedback on how well YES Prep is addressing Health and Safety, Student Engagement, Communication, and Community Connection so far this school year. This survey will be launched in the final weeks of each quarter so we can measure progress. The first Reignited Pulse Check for Families can be completed between **October 20 and October 25** via this [online form](#). Thank you for taking the time to complete the Family Pulse Check to share your experience and feedback with us.

Grades

October 30 marks the end of Quarter 1 which also marks the end of the 1st nine-week cycle of the semester. As stated in the [YES Prep Student Handbook](#), for the 20-21 school year, many YES Prep core high school academic courses span 1 semester. The A section of the course will be completed during the first nine weeks of the semester while the B section will be completed the second nine weeks of the semester. At the end of every quarter, high school students will receive credit if they successfully pass their courses. If a student does not pass (earn a 69 or below) a semester course, they will need to recover the credit through credit recovery and their GPA will be negatively impacted. We encourage you to log on to Skyward on a consistent basis to check your child's grades and have conversations with your child about their grades. Visit the [family dashboard](#) on the YES Prep website to access [Skyward](#) and to watch a [video](#) on how to check your child's grades. Please note that the first quarter for students in our SBISD partnership schools ends on October 16, 2020.

YES Prep Student Handbook Updates

The YES Prep Student Handbook has been updated. The updated English version is posted on the YES Prep website, and the Spanish version will be added once translated. Changes were made to the Academics Section to reflect slight changes in elementary assessments required, elementary grading impact of COVID, and secondary grading adjustments based on this year having quarters instead of six-week periods. The most updated version of the YES Prep Student Handbook will always be available on the YES Prep Website: <https://www.yesprep.org/parents/student-handbook-and-code-of-conduct>.

Fall 2020 Quarter 1 Common Assessments

Our first round of Common Assessments will be administered in grades 6-12 from October 28-October 30.

Common Assessments are given district-wide:

- to assess student learning – identifying students' strengths and areas for additional focus
- to give students feedback for growth
- to adjust instruction as part of preparing students on their college-bound journey

Please review the following overview about Common Assessments. You can expect additional communication to come from your campus before the testing window opens.

Testing Details	Materials Needed	Important Policies
 <p>Dates: October 28 – 30 <i>Your campus will share the specific schedule with you.</i></p>  <p>Students will be tested in any English, Mathematics, Science, Social Studies, & World Languages classes they are currently enrolled in.</p>	 <p>Testing device (All Students) (must be a laptop, tablet, or a regularly used device for instruction and testing – cellphones will NOT be supported)</p>  <p>Scratch paper & pencil (All Students) (& calculator for Grade 8 Math and up)</p>	 <p>All students must adhere to the honor code as set forth in the student handbook. Students will be subject to disciplinary action and a score of a 50 if they commit an honor code violation.</p>  <p>Access to unauthorized materials is strictly prohibited.</p>
Online at Home Students Only		
 <p>Each content exam will count as 10% of final quarter or semester grade. Please see the student handbook for more information on grading.</p>	 <p>Internet Access <i>Contact your child's school if you have concerns.</i></p>	 <p>"Cameras On" Security Policy Students will be in a Teams meeting with their webcams on to monitor test security.</p>
Please contact the front office if you have questions about Common Assessments.		

Did you know?

Did you know, today is the last day to respond to the 2020 Census? Make sure your household is counted and help shape your community's future for the next 10 years. Visit 2020census.gov to count your family in!

Did you know early voting for the upcoming election started on Monday, October 13 and runs through October 30? If you'd like more information about voting for this upcoming election, visit whenweallvote.org/yesprep.

As always, thank you families for your support and partnership as we continue our commitment to prioritize safety while also working tirelessly to provide the highest quality instruction, online and in-person.

Thank you