

November 20, 2020

Dear YES Prep Families,

As we head into Fall Break, we want to express our joy and our gratitude for your ongoing support and partnership during this unprecedented year. We are grateful for our students and the incredible resilience they have shown despite changes brought on by the pandemic. We are grateful for our teachers and staff who have gone above and beyond each and every day to ensure our students continue to learn and feel safe and supported. And we are grateful to our community partners and donors whose support and generosity help ensure that our students and alumni remain on track to graduate from college prepared to lead.

As you may know, we are continuing to see a rise in COVID-19 cases again across the country and in the Houston area. With the holiday approaching next week Harris County health officials are strongly discouraging large gatherings to help limit the spread of the virus and [you can find guidance from the CDC here](#) on how to enjoy Thanksgiving activities and take steps to protect yourself and your family from getting or spreading COVID-19. We know families everywhere are having to make tough decisions and difficult sacrifices during this time. We wish families a safe and relaxing fall break and thank you for taking measures that prioritize health and safety.

Please make sure to read the following letter in its entirety for information, updates and reminders about online learning on November 30, an update on COVID-19 Rapid Testing on campuses, feedback on our academic programming, upcoming STAAR exams, and family referral campaigns for the YES Prep student lottery.

Important Dates Reminder

- **Nov. 4 - Jan.14** – Quarter 2 **For Northbrook MS and HS, Quarter 2 ends on Dec. 18*
- **Nov. 23 - 27** – Fall break
- **Nov. 29 & 30** – All students in the In-Person at School program complete Daily Health Check
- **Nov. 30** – Online Classes for all students

Online Classes for Students on Monday November 30

In order to maximize safety and allow us to assess staff and student readiness to return to school buildings after the Fall break, all students **will be learning online from home on Monday, November 30**. Online classes will be live (synchronous) and all students are expected to engage in each of their classes for the full class time. Teachers and staff will remotely provide online instruction, assignments and student support throughout the day. Thank you for your patience and support as we prioritize measures to help keep our students and school community safe.

Daily Health Check App on Nov 29 and Nov 30

Additionally, all students should complete the Daily Health Check in [Skyward](#) on **Sunday, November 29 and on Monday, November 30**. This will allow us to have the information we need to plan for safely reopening campuses on Tuesday, December 1 for in-person instruction.

Update on COVID-19 Rapid Testing Program at YES Prep Schools



As a reminder, YES Prep will be participating in the COVID-19 Rapid Testing Program—a program that is part of the Nation’s Coronavirus Testing Strategy and in collaboration with the Texas Education Agency and the Texas Division of Emergency Management. As a part of this project, school systems are provided with delivery of the Abbott BinaxNOW test kits, personal protective equipment (PPE), product training, and support to refill supplies as available. Independent School Districts and Private Schools which opt into this program will be required by law to report all test results; positive, negative or inconclusive.

Starting on Tuesday, December 1, YES Prep will offer COVID-19 Rapid Testing at no cost to any YES Prep student **participating in the In-Person at School program**. YES Prep will not charge a fee to take the tests, nor require participation in the program. These Rapid Tests are for any in-person student **who opts into the testing program by having their family fill out a permission slip** and will be administered at the student’s home campus. Additionally, to receive a COVID-19 Rapid Test students must have a *suspected* or *probable* case of COVID-19. People who have 2+ symptoms of COVID-19 are *suspected* cases. If you have 2+ symptoms and have been in close contact with a confirmed positive COVID-19 case, your case is *probable*.

Seeking Family Feedback on YES Academic Program

We are looking for families that would be interested in providing feedback on our academic program. Our academic program consists of the courses we offer at YES Prep, our instructional schedule, our instructional model, etc.

As you provide input you will be asked to reflect on your past and current experiences at YES Prep. If you would like to participate, [please complete this form](#) by December 4, and someone from our Academics team will contact you with next steps. As always, we value family feedback and appreciate your willingness to share your experience with us so that we can continue providing the best quality educational experience possible for our students.

STAAR

We are getting closer to the December STAAR administration. All students in 11th grade* will be taking the US History STAAR EOC on December 16, and students who need to retake EOCs in other subjects will be testing the week of December 7. All exams must be taken in person, on campus.

Parents of 11th graders and students needing to retest please review the following information:

- Overview of US History STAAR and SAT (11th Grade Specific)
- Video of STAAR December Testing (all students)
- Reminders about how to prepare for testing and being in person

This information is all found on our YES Prep Assessment Site, [here](#).

**NHS will retest in December but will take the US History EOC in May.*

**We are aware of discussions happening at the state level regarding STAAR. If there are any changes to STAAR administration this school year, we will be sure to communicate those updates to you.*

Student Lottery - YES PREP MEANS: FAMILY

In the coming weeks, our campuses will be rolling out **Refer a Family** campaigns. This will be an opportunity for you to share your experience with extended family and friends about YES Prep.

As you share your child's education journey, please remember to tell your family and friends to apply today for their child at <https://yesprep.schoolmint.net>.

YES Prep means

- A tuition-free public charter school in your neighborhood
- An opportunity for your child to graduate college prepared to lead
- Teachers and staff who create a family-oriented culture on every campus
- Personalized instruction for students in every classroom
- A college-ready education, pre-K – 12th grade

The application for YES Prep Northbrook MS and YES Prep Northbrook HS is also NOW OPEN!
Please visit this site to apply: <https://www.springbranchisd.com/studentsfamilies/choice-program/apply-here>.

Did you know?

Did you know, even though charter schools like YES Prep are public schools, they only receive a portion of what traditional ISD schools receive in per-student funding. Public charter schools receive no local tax dollars, creating a funding gap. At YES Prep, the generosity of individuals and organizations in our local community helps to close that gap. [You can read more about it here.](#)

As always, thank you families for trusting us with the responsibility of educating your children and 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.

You can expect the next Family Update from us on Friday, December 4. We wish you a safe and restful break and we look forward to seeing students online on Monday, November 30.

Thank you