

December 11, 2020

Dear YES Prep Families,

We hope this message finds you safe and well. We'd like to share our continued appreciation for our teachers, staff, students and families who are working hard and collectively to close out this unprecedented year on a strong note.

As we head into our last week before Winter Break, we'd like to emphasize again how important it is to remain attentive to safety guidance around COVID-19. Everyone's support and participation in following safety protocols at our schools is and has been very important in mitigating any potential spread of the virus within our schools and keeping our students learning. THANK YOU. YES Prep will continue to monitor information and follow guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) concerning COVID-19.

Please make sure to read the following letter in its entirety for information, updates and reminders about the Quarter 3 Program Selection Survey – now open, the Family Pulse Check feedback survey – now open, upcoming STAAR tests and Texas Education Agency announcement, MAP testing, COVID-19 rapid testing on campuses, and Virtual Family Tours beginning next week for prospective families.

### Important Dates Reminder

- **Dec. 11 – Jan. 6** – Quarter 3 Program Selection Survey window
- **Dec. 11 – Jan. 6** – Family Pulse Check feedback survey window
- **Dec. 21 – Jan. 4** – Winter break
- **Jan. 19 – April 1** – Quarter 3

### Q3 Program Selection Survey opens today!

As we continue the process of safely reopening our schools, families will once again be able to select their preferred learning program for **Quarter 3 (January 19 – April 1)**. We continue to offer two learning program options: YES Prep **In Person at School** or YES Prep **Online at Home**. If you wish to have your child(ren) in the same learning program for Quarter 3, you do not need to complete the survey again. If you would like to change your child(ren)'s learning program for Quarter 3, you must log in to [Skyward](#) to complete the Q3 Program Selection Survey by **January 6**.

### 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 at School until the next quarter's Program Selection survey. However, if a family currently is in YES Prep In-Person at School, 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.

*If your child(ren) attend Eisenhower, the Q3 Program Survey closed on Monday, Dec. 7 to align with Aldine ISD.*

*The Quarter 3 Program Survey for our Spring Branch families closed on Nov. 20 in accordance with the Spring Branch ISD survey policies. Quarter 3 begins Jan. 5 for YES Prep Northbrook HS and Northbrook MS.*



## Reignited Pulse Check Survey launches today!

We are once again asking families to complete the “Reignited Pulse Check”, a brief survey to gather feedback on how YES Prep is doing in terms of Health and Safety, Student Engagement, Communication, and Community. This survey will be launched in the final weeks of each quarter so we can measure progress. Here is the [link](#) to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Reignited Pulse Check Survey that should be completed **by January 6, 2021**. Thank you in advance for sharing your invaluable perspective with us!

## Texas Education Agency Announcement and STAAR

Yesterday, the Texas Education Agency announced that there will be no school or district A-F ratings for the 2020-2021 school year. **The US History STAAR EOC is still scheduled to happen next week (Wednesday, December 16) for 11th graders. As of right now, all STAAR EOCs are required for graduation.** All exams must be taken in person, on campus. YES Prep will continue to focus on giving our students the excellent, college ready, public education they deserve.

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

## Measure of Academic Progress (MAP) Testing

Students at our elementary campuses and students in 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> grade will be taking their Winter MAP exam between now and January 22. We administer the MAP test to monitor your student's growth throughout the school year. Students learn better, and faster, when we have a clear picture of what each student knows and what they're ready to learn next.

If your student is testing at home, family members are not required to be side-by-side as students test, but your student may need extra help with technology on MAP testing day. Students will need to be on a Teams call with their cameras on and have the online MAP window open for the exam. The MAP test is adaptive. If your student answers a question correctly, the next question will be more challenging. The test will get harder as it continues, and your student may get frustrated. Tell your student to keep trying and to do their best.

Additional communication on MAP testing will come from your campus – please encourage your student to do their best on this exam!

## COVID-19 Rapid Testing Program at YES Prep Schools

As a reminder, YES Prep is now offering 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 **symptomatic** in-person student who **opts into the testing program by having their family fill out a permission slip once the symptomatic student is identified**. The COVID - 19 Rapid Test will then 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*.

*The COVID-19 tests are not available at this time for students attending YES Prep Northbrook HS , YES Prep Northbrook MS, YES Prep Hoffman nor YES Prep Eisenhower.*

### **Student Lottery - Refer a family to our Virtual Family Tours!**

A reminder that YES Prep will host its first round of Virtual Family Tours beginning next week December 17! Know a family that might be interested in their child attending YES Prep? Prospective families can join us online to learn more about their YES Prep campus of choice including information about student support and programming, campus culture and meeting campus staff! To learn more or to RSVP visit <http://yesprep.org/familytours>.

For a limited time only, YES Prep is offering families who apply to one of our [elementary](#) or secondary schools, an exclusive chance to have dinner on us this holiday season. Families who apply for the 2021-22 student lottery between December 1, 2020 – December 13, 2020, will automatically be submitted into the drawing to receive dinner for you and your family from a local restaurant.

*The application for YES Prep Northbrook MS and YES Prep Northbrook HS is now open and closes January 22, 2021. Please visit this site to apply: <https://www.yesprep.org/northbrook>.*

### **Did you know?**

As a member of the YES Prep family, you are also a part of the broader public charter school community! There are more than 700 public charter school campuses in Texas, serving nearly 320,000 students. [You can read more about Texas public charter schools 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.

Thank you