

December 18, 2020

Dear YES Prep Families,

As we head into Winter Break, we thank you again for entrusting us with the responsibility of educating your child. Please know, we acknowledge the incredible efforts our students, staff, and families have demonstrated to help maintain safety *and* learning online and at school. Thank you also for your understanding, flexibility, and patience as we made decisions that prioritize the health and safety of each member of our in-person school communities. While we cannot promise that we can keep the virus out of our schools, we can assure you that we will continue to do everything we can to keep staff and students safe and keep you informed.

We want to remind everyone, while we may all be ready to rest and enjoy the holiday break, we ask that you please remain committed to following [safety guidelines](#) provided by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) concerning COVID-19. We wish you a safe and relaxing break and we look forward to starting the new year strong.

Even though school is out, we ask that you please read this Family Update in its entirety for information, updates and reminders about the Quarter 3 Program Selection Survey and the Family Pulse Check feedback survey (which both close on January 6), Common Assessments and MAP testing in January, student meal distribution during winter break, completing the Health Check on January 4 and COVID-19 rapid testing at our campuses to resume on January 5.

Important Dates Reminder

- **Mon., Jan. 4** - Students need to complete Health Check
- **Wed., Jan. 6** – Quarter 3 Program Selection Survey window **CLOSES**
- **Wed., Jan. 6** – Family Pulse Check feedback survey window **CLOSES**
- **Dec. 21 – Jan. 4** – Winter break
- **Jan. 19 – April 1** – Quarter 3

Q3 Program Selection Survey – Complete by Jan. 6

We look forward to hearing from you on [your selection of online or in-person learning](#) for next quarter. Reminder, if you wish to have your student in the same learning program for Q3, you do not need to complete the survey again.

We recognize this year has been incredibly difficult for many families, and there are many factors to consider when deciding between in-person and online learning. We have a full-scale effort to welcome students for in-person learning with [health and safety measures](#) to do everything we can to help keep the virus out of our schools, including:

- Required use of facial coverings over mouth and nose
- Social distancing whenever possible
- Health and temperature checks for students and staff before getting onto campus each day
- Regular hand washing while on campus
- Safety protocols on school buses
- In addition to the standard daily cleaning protocols, schools undergo intense disinfecting
- Strict adherence to CDC and state guidelines for isolating at home after a student or staffer is infected or exposed to someone infected



- Rapid testing for any staff member or any student, as approved by families, who may experience a known COVID symptom
- Anyone showing symptoms is immediately separated, and areas used by that person are cleaned and disinfected
- No non-essential visitors allowed on any campus

For students who remain online, attendance and active engagement in **every class, every day** will directly impact their academic success, especially as we approach STAAR testing and other critical milestones this school year. You can track your child's progress online by monitoring grades and attendance in [Skyward](#) and viewing daily assignments and activities on Teams.

Online or in person, we remain firmly committed to the rigorous education and success of your children on their path to college and beyond. Many families have reported—since their students returned in person—that they were better able to concentrate, with fewer distractions and opportunities to leave the class or miss assignments.

We are here to help in any way we can. If you have a question, concern or an urgent need for your family, we want to know. Please inform your campus leadership, who are eager to help.

Please note: The Program Survey for our partnership schools –Hoffman Middle, Eisenhower High, Northbrook Middle and Northbrook High- have already closed.

Reignited Pulse Check Survey – complete by January 6

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 is now open. Here is the [link](#) to the 2nd Reignited Pulse Check Survey that should be completed **by January 6, 2021**. Thank you in advance for sharing your invaluable perspective with us!

Common Assessments

Common Assessments will be administered from January 13 through 14. **Please note that only specific courses for high school credit will be assessed.** Other courses will have instruction during this time. Middle school students will not be testing unless they are enrolled in a World Languages course such as Spanish, French or Chinese for high school credit.

If your student is currently in high school or in middle school and taking a World Languages class, please review this site for more details: [Common Assessment](#)

Measure of Academic Progress (MAP) testing

Winter MAP exams for elementary and sixth and seventh grade students will resume after winter break and end on 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.

We are encouraging all elementary families to bring their student to campus for testing to assist with technology and provide a safe and secure testing environment. Your campus will contact you with more information.

Meal distribution schedule during Winter Break

All our YES Prep families will have access to meals on Monday, December 21, from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at ALL YES Prep campuses, except at our partnership schools, Hobby, North Central Elementary and Southeast Elementary. We will resume meal distribution and curbside pick-up on Monday, January 4.

Families may find additional meal distribution locations by visiting the following website and entering their zip code: <https://www.foodbanks.net/houston-tx/>

Students should complete the Health Check on January 4

Additionally, all students should complete the Daily Health Check in Skyward on Monday, January 4. This will allow us to have the information we need to plan for safely reopening campuses on Tuesday, January 5 for in-person instruction.

COVID-19 Rapid Testing Program at YES Prep schools to resume January 5

There will be NO COVID-19 rapid testing at schools between December 19 and January 4. Testing will resume on Tuesday, January 5.

As a reminder, the COVID-19 rapid testing at our schools is available at no cost to any YES Prep student participating in the In-Person at School 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 tests are not available for students attending YES Prep partnership schools: Hoffman Middle, Eisenhower High, Northbrook Middle, Northbrook High.

Family Portal

We are incredibly excited to re-launch the Family Portal in Quarter 3 of the 20-21 school year. The new Family Portal will allow you to more easily access your child's key data in one place and seamlessly communicate with your child's teachers and campus leaders in your preferred language (simultaneous translation). There is also a mobile app to make it even easier to use this two-way communication tool to support your child's learning.

You will not be able to login and set up your profile until January 19th, 2021. However, you can get a sneak peek now of the features in the new Family Portal, by going to the [Family Dashboards page](#) on the district website. You must use the email you have set up in Skyward to use the Family Portal so login instructions will be emailed to your email address on file to guide you through the simple steps required.

The Family Portal is not available for YES Prep Northbrook families, as these partnership campuses operate through the Spring Branch ISD student information system. In addition, the Family Portal will not be used at the elementary campuses until the 21-22 school year.

Did you know?

Charter schools are public schools! YES Prep is proud to be a part of the public education landscape and even partners with traditional ISD (independent school district) schools at four of our campuses. [You can read more about Texas public charter schools here.](#)

We cannot thank you enough for your partnership and dedication to your student's education. We hope these next two weeks are restful and safe. Our next Family Update will be until Friday, January 8. Until then, happy holidays and we look forward to welcoming students back on Tuesday, January 5!

Thank you