

January 8, 2021

Dear YES Prep Families,

We start this communication by acknowledging the chaos that took place at the U.S. Capitol this week. If you have not done so, please take a moment to read [this important message from our CEO, Mark DiBella](#), regarding Wednesday's attack on the U.S. Capitol. "The reprehensible events that took place during this week's riot and Congress' determination to proceed with their Constitutional duty taught us all about the positive and negative impacts that are made by those in leadership, about the courage and resiliency needed to complete critical work, and about the importance of actively rejecting hate, racism, and other injustice."

While we witness the recent events in our country, we are also seeing the consistent increase in COVID-19 cases in our area. We want to take this moment to again remind families to please help us in minimizing the spread of the virus by remaining committed to following safety guidelines provided by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) concerning COVID-19. 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.

Please read this Family Update in its entirety for information, updates and reminders about the deadline extension for the Reignited Family Pulse Check Survey, the Scholarships for Class of 2020 Alumni application now open, Common Assessments and the Family Portal.

Important Dates Reminder

- **Fri., Jan. 15** - *Extended deadline - Family Pulse Check feedback survey
- **Jan. 15** – YES Prep Staff Development Day – No School for Students
- **Jan. 18** – MLK Holiday for Students and Staff
- **Jan. 19 – April 1** – Quarter 3

Reignited Family Pulse Check Survey – deadline extended to January 15

We know the holidays were probably busy and you may not have had a chance to complete the Q2 Reignited Family Pulse Check Survey. Your perspective is invaluable to us, so we are extending the deadline to **Friday, January 15, 2021**. We invite ALL of our families to take this survey to share how YES Prep is doing in terms of Health and Safety, Student Engagement, Communication, and Community. This survey will be sent out in the final weeks of each quarter so we can measure progress.

Here is the [link](#) to the Reignited Pulse Check Survey that should be completed **by January 15, 2021**. Thank you in advance for sharing your invaluable perspective with us!

Quarter 3 Student Program Selection Survey Closed January 6

The Student Program Selection for Quarter 3 closed on Wednesday, January 6. Thank you for indicating your preferred learning option for your student(s). Your students' new learning program option begins in Quarter 3 (Jan. 19-April 1).

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.

For students who remain online, attendance and active engagement in **every class, every day** will directly impact their academic success. 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. 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.

Scholarships for Alumni - Class of 2020

Do you know a graduate of the Class of 2020 that desires to matriculate this spring? YES Prep has been awarded limited funding for Spring 2021 enrollment in college! Applications are open. Share, message and post this information on any networks that will attract the attention of the Class of 2020 alumni. This scholarship is for graduates of the Class of 2020 that have not had an opportunity to matriculate into college in the fall. Additional requirements apply. The application is linked [HERE](#).

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](#)

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 log in 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?

Public charter schools work hard to offer families great education options. In fact, two-thirds of the top-rated districts in the state are charter districts, even though they only serve 6% of students. At YES Prep, 97% of our students attend an A or B school. [You can read more about the success of Texas public charter schools here.](#)

We cannot thank you enough for your partnership and dedication to your student's education. We are excited and hopeful for 2021! Our next Family Update will be until Friday, January 15.

Thank you