

January 15, 2021

Dear YES Prep Families,

We hope this message finds you safe and well. As we head into this weekend and the MLK holiday, we remember Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and the mark he left on this earth. At YES Prep, we know that Dr. King's work is not yet finished and that we must work every day to ensure that all people have equal rights. At YES Prep, we remember and honor MLK by committing to do our part in rooting out racism. In everything we do, YES is committed to combating inequality and empowering our students to do the same. If you are looking for safe ways to celebrate the MLK holiday, Mayor Turner encourages Houstonians to Honor Dr. King by watching the virtual parade. For more information, please visit the official website at <https://originalmlkparade.org>.

Thank you for reading this Family Update in its entirety for information, updates and reminders about the last chance to complete the Family Pulse Check Survey (deadline is TODAY), Quarter 3 learning program selections go into effect Jan 19, new Family Workshops available in Q3, upcoming launch of the Family Portal, new Advisory Lessons available, home meal delivery for all students in the Online at Home learning program, updated YES Prep COVID-19 Safety Guidance per CDC.

Important Dates Reminder

- **Fri., Jan. 15** - *Last chance to complete the Family Pulse Check feedback survey
- **Jan. 18** – MLK Holiday for Students and Staff
- **Jan. 19 – April 1** – Quarter 3

Last chance to complete the Reignited Family Pulse Check Survey – deadline TODAY Jan 15

Today is the last day to complete the Family Pulse Check for Q2! Your perspective is invaluable to us, so 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 today, January 15, 2021**. Thank you in advance for sharing your invaluable perspective with us!

Quarter 3 Learning Program Selections for Students go Into Effect on Jan. 19

A reminder that your students' new learning program option (In Person at School OR Online at Home) that you chose in the most recent Student Program Selection Survey begins in Quarter 3 (Jan. 19-April 1).

Please note, 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.

Updated YES Prep COVID-19 Safety Guidance per CDC and When Students Can Return to In-Person Learning on Campus after a Positive Diagnosis

If a student has symptoms of COVID-19 while at school, the student will immediately be isolated in the designated area and their parent/guardian will be called and be expected to pick up their student(s) immediately. Any known cases at school will immediately be reported to health officials, school staff, students and parents. We will require strict adherence to CDC and state guidelines for isolating at home after a student or staffer is infected or exposed to someone infected. Each YES Prep school will be ready to modify plans and switch classes to distance learning if conditions require school closure for a limited or extended period.

A close contact is defined as any scenario where someone who was within 6 feet of an infected person for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more. **Starting Tuesday, January 19, 2021, students who have a confirmed positive test result or are identified as a close contact will be required to meet the following requirements before they are approved to return to campus:**

- Complete 10 days (or more) of self-isolation AND
- Symptoms have improved (e.g. cough, shortness of breath) and display no fever.
*Loss of taste and smell may persist for weeks or months after recovery and need not delay the end of isolation)

Testing is encouraged and available to students who have been identified as a close contact or are displaying symptoms.

COVID-19 Vaccines

In preparation for widely available COVID vaccinations, we are in the process of formulating guidance.

We have no current organizational position regarding vaccination as a requirement. Any associated rules must first be established at the federal, state, and local (county) level prior to YES Prep establishing a position. We will continue to closely monitor any newly established rules that may inform future decisions.

For current information from the Texas Education Agency (TEA) on the vaccine, please visit their site: https://tea.texas.gov/sites/default/files/covid/k-12_covid-19_vaccine_faq.pdf

Reminder for Families to Complete Student Daily Health Check

As we have seen the number of cases rise in our county, we want to ensure we are doing everything we can to prevent the spread of COVID-19. As a reminder, if your student is learning In Person at School, please have complete their [Daily Student Health Check](#) in [Skyward](#) before arriving to campus. Daily Health Checks are critical for the health and safety of our students and staff.

Meal Deliveries for Remote Learners

Starting the week of February 1, all YES Prep remote student learners (students in the Online at Home learning program) will receive 7 breakfast and lunch meals weekly, by delivery, directly to their homes! Unless you opt out, through this [OPT Out Link](#), meals WILL be delivered to your home! The purpose of the Child Nutrition department is to ensure that ALL students are ready to learn by having access to school meals.

YES Prep Devices for All Students

YES Prep will now require all in-person learning students to have and use a YES Prep issued device to access learning materials. YES Prep Field Technicians and IT cannot support non-YES Prep devices. For SY21-22, all YES Prep students will be required to use a YES Prep issued device to participate in the YES Prep academic program.

Virtual Family Workshops Coming Soon

In collaboration with ACE, we will be hosting a series of virtual Family Workshops in Q3 that will also be recorded and available in English and Spanish in the online [Family Resource Center](#). Some of the topics will include technology literacy, tax preparation support, college readiness, mentoring for high school girls and Dr. Collier's sessions on "About the Brain" as it relates to High-Risk Behavior, Substance Abuse, Technology Use, and Behavior Modification. Details will be shared each week along with an invitation to join the workshop on Teams Live.

Family Portal Launches Next Week

We are incredibly excited to launch the Family Portal on Tuesday, January 19, 2021. The 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.

To get a sneak peek of the features in the new Family Portal, please visit 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.

Please note that 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.

Secondary Advisory Lessons

There are additional advisory lessons for secondary students posted in the Family Resource Center under the Social and Emotional Learning ([SEL](#)) [section](#). The new advisory lessons cover Time Management, Motivation & Apathy, and Decision Making.

Did you know?

When compared to students from traditional ISDs, 20% more charter students graduate with college-level course credits. Texas public charter schools are preparing the workforce of the future! [Learn more about the results of public charters here.](#)

We cannot thank you enough for your partnership and dedication to your student's education. We hope you have a safe and restful long weekend. Our next Family Update will be until Friday, January 22.

Thank you