New Hire Orientation

By Rosa Jasso

New Hire Orientation is the first event our new employees attend as official YES Prep staff. Our Director of Elementary Staffing, Wendy Nash, did an amazing job putting the logistics of this event together and led the Talent team to perform a seamless execution. We got to welcome 210 new employees and prepare them for Day 1 with technology, badges, swag, and a welcome session led by our Managing Director of Talent, Bryan Reed. The orientation was caught in bits and pieces on the YES Prep Instagram and gave insight into just how excited our educators are to be a part of this organization. From being checked in, to getting their laptops from our IT team, and from their participation in the welcome session, their joy shone through as they connected as a team. As a Talent team, we helped direct to the right locations and answered questions. Teachers left Spindletop ready to live the MISSION!
In the month of July, YES Prep hosted its groundbreaking ceremonies for its newest elementary schools, Southwest Oaks Elementary, North Rankin Elementary and Hobby Elementary. These schools are set to open in August 2024, and to celebrate YES Prep had ceremonies on the land where our new schools will be built. The community around these schools and YES Prep Staff were all present at these ceremonies.

At the events, one of our new principals, Stephanee Dorsey was also in attendance and delivered powerful statements and goals for her new school. “My vision for YES Prep North Rankin Elementary is simple and powerful. To disrupt mediocre education and provide our scholars with transformative education that meets the highest bar of excellence in all areas, because our kids DESERVE it,” Stephanee Dorsey said.

Members of the school board of directors and elected officials also delivered some speeches, highlighting the change YES Prep has been able to achieve. Even the Little York fire department came to show support. We are so lucky to be in communities that are involved and that we can share this groundbreaking ceremony with them. We can’t wait to see the future of our new YES Prep schools.

With these new schools, it also means we will be in search of AMAZING talent that is looking forward to teaching and supporting our campuses. Making a difference in a child’s life starts early on. We will need talent that is committed and loyal to our mission of empowering all Houston Students to succeed in college and to pursue lives of opportunity. So, if you are a change-maker and looking to teach students who deserve more, then YES Prep Public Schools is waiting for you!

Please visit our website regularly to search for positions as they become available.
This month's Talent Spotlight is Erika Ramirez Talents Elementary Business Partner. Erika supports our Staffing elementary team and has been part of the YES Prep team for 14 years.

Erika is originally from Mexico and came to the states when she was nine years old. For a period of her life she lived in Arizona and then moved to Nebraska. In Nebraska she attended the University of Nebraska where she earned a Bachelors in Business Administration with a focus in Human Resources Management. After she graduated her brother suggested that they moved to Houston. Erika then packed her bags and made the big move to the Lonestar State.

Erika has played a big role in staffing our elementary campuses and will continue to be a huge asset in our team to help staff our newest elementary schools for the 2024-2025 school year.

Q & A: An interview with Erika Ramirez

How has YES Prep positively affected your journey in life? I am a first-gen student and YES Prep’s mission aligned with my views.

What will your role look like as we support these new elementary schools? I helped open secondary schools in the past and view that as an advantage. I feel at ease because I have all the knowledge when it comes to connecting and recruiting.

What is your proudest achievement out of your career? Looking back and seeing the impact and connection with a family from Brays Oaks. I kept in touch and I saw the impact YES Prep made in their life.

What is the best piece of advice you have ever gotten at work? Previous mentor once told me, it’s okay if an individual wants to leave their current role. We are not all meant to stay.

What piece of advice would you share with your younger self? Just do it! Be more outspoken and don’t be shy.

What is your favorite after work hours activity to do? Encanto Youtube workout video with my son.

What’s your biggest piece of advice to teachers and new hires coming into YES Prep? Finding a team member that will collaborate with you.

What’s something unique to you that your coworkers might not know about you? I have a collection of stuffed penguins and quarters!
On July 19th, Recruiters Ashley and Rosa attended the Breakthrough Houston career fair. Breakthrough Houston as stated on their website, “is an educational program that places motivated students from underserved areas on the path to college.” YES Prep aligns with Breakthrough Houston’s mission and values, so we are happy to have collaborated with them. The career fair was mainly for their summer teaching fellows. This program is designed for students interested in teaching. The program will allow them to teach middle school students a core subject. Students enrolled in this program can range in age, from being in high school all the way to college. This is a great event for YES Prep to come and share some available opportunities that are available to them when they’re ready to enter the workforce. While our recruiters were there, they made sure to share our mission and why our efforts matter, and why need amazing teachers like them! Our recruiters are super excited about participating at future career fairs with Breakthrough Houston and meeting the teacher fellows who could potentially be a part of the amazing talent at YES Prep Public Schools.

Thank you for your continued interest in YES Prep Public Schools. As always, feel free to reach out to us at Careers@yesprep.org.

-YES Prep Talent Team