

December 4, 2020

Dear YES Prep Families,

We hope you had a relaxing and safe Fall Break last week. It's hard to believe that we are now only 10 school days out from Winter Break. We appreciate our teachers, staff, students and families who are working hard and collectively to close out this unprecedented year on a strong note.

As a reminder, we are continuing to see a rise in COVID-19 cases again across the country and in the Houston area. Safety continues to be our priority at YES Prep and family support and participation in following safety guidance at our schools is and has been very important in keeping our schools safe and keeping our students learning. Thank you also for your flexibility and understanding as we make decisions to help mitigate any potential spread of the virus within our schools.

Please make sure to read the following letter in its entirety for information, updates and reminders about the Quarter 3 Program Selection Survey opening next week, the next Family Pulse Check feedback survey, an update on COVID-19 rapid testing now available on campuses, upcoming STAAR exams, student activity and expectations on Microsoft Teams, and virtual Family Tours for new 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. 1** – Winter break
- **Jan. 19 – April 1** – Quarter 3

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

As a reminder, YES Prep is participating in the COVID-19 Rapid Testing Program—a program that is part of the Nation's Coronavirus Testing Strategy and in collaboration with the Texas Education Agency and the Texas Division of Emergency Management. As a part of this project, school systems are provided with delivery of the Abbott BinaxNOW test kits, personal protective equipment (PPE), product training, and support to refill supplies as available. Independent School Districts and Private Schools which opt into this program will be required by law to report all test results; positive, negative or inconclusive.

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 nor Northbrook MS.*



### Q3 Program Selection Survey opens Friday, Dec. 11

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 take the survey again. If you would like to change your child(ren)'s learning program for Quarter 3, you must complete the Q3 Program Selection Survey. The survey window will **open on Friday, December 11** and will **close on Wednesday, January 6**.

*If your child(ren) attend Eisenhower, the Q3 Program Survey is now open and will close on Monday, Dec. 7 to align with Aldine ISD.*

*The Quarter 3 survey for our Spring Branch families went out Nov. 13 and 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 Friday, Dec. 11

We are once again asking for our 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. The second Reignited Pulse Check for Families can be completed **between December 11th and January 6th** to align with the Program Selection Survey window.

### STAAR

A reminder that all students in 11<sup>th</sup> grade\* will be taking the US History STAAR EOC on December 16, and students who need to retake EOCs in other subjects will be testing the week of December 7 (next week). All exams must be taken in person, on campus.

Parents of 11<sup>th</sup> graders and students needing to retest please review the following information:

- Overview of US History STAAR and SAT (11<sup>th</sup> 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 in December but will take the US History EOC in May.*

*\*We are aware of discussions happening at the state level regarding STAAR. If there are any changes to STAAR administration this school year, we will be sure to communicate those updates to you.*

### Student Activity and Expectations on Microsoft Teams

YES Prep Public Schools believes that holding students to behavioral expectations that increase safety and joy in learning will support their ability to achieve academic success, care for their community, and ultimately increase the number of students from YES Prep who succeed in college or post secondary opportunities. Committing to community expectations ensures a physically and emotionally safe learning environment that embraces the diverse communities, cultures, and identities of our students. We believe it is the responsibility of YES Prep staff to build community agreements and teach non-cognitive social skills in order to help students feel safe, seen, and empowered.

The YES Prep Student Code of Conduct outlines the behavioral expectations of students and the consequences administered for specific acts of misconduct. Disciplinary action shall draw on the professional judgement of the administrators, the seriousness of the offense, and the requirement listed in the YES Prep Student Code of Conduct. Actions of misconduct may result in suspension up to three days per occurrence or a recommendation for a disciplinary hearing, which could result placement at a disciplinary alternative program (DAEP) or expelled. All behavior on campus site or through school electronic communication system including the district internet and Microsoft Teams platform are subjected to the YES Prep Code of Conduct.

We share this reminder as it has been brought to our attention that students are engaging in inappropriate behaviors (e.g. virtual jokes, pranks, etc.) using these platforms. YES Prep students are expected to behave in a manner that promotes care for all individuals, contributes to a safe environment for students, and provide an educational environment free of disruption. As such, please remember that YES Prep issued laptops, devices, internet, and Microsoft Teams should be used only for school approved activities, classes, and purposes. Additionally, these devices and platforms are frequently reviewed and monitored by YES Prep Public Schools.

Please be advised that any students who are not adhering to these expectations outlined in the YES Prep Student Handbook will be held to the consequences outlined in the Code of Conduct. It should be noted that, depending on the egregiousness of the conduct, authorities may be called. Moving forward, all students are expected to use these devices and platforms appropriately.

Thank you so much for your cooperation and time. We appreciate your involvement in helping students understand how their actions have impact on other people. We know that your support will help our students continue to grow and become more successful. For additional recommendations, please review the tips below.

#### Recommendations for Families:

- Talk with your student about setting boundaries and what is/ is not appropriate for Microsoft Teams or YES Prep Devices.
- Monitor your student's activity. If possible, work alongside your student and familiarize yourself with how your student is using technology.
- Review your student's activity. Review any messages, assignments, internet history, or other activities that your student is completing at the beginning or end of each day.
- Talk with your students about safe technology and internet use beyond Microsoft Teams and YES Prep platforms. This includes social media best-practices, privacy and location settings, and the sharing of personal information. For more information visit <https://crime-stoppers.org/cyber-safety/>

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

Know a family that might be interested in their child attending YES Prep? Beginning December 17, YES Prep will offer virtual tours to new prospective families. 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 [www.yesprep.org/families/enrollment-lottery/family-tours](http://www.yesprep.org/families/enrollment-lottery/family-tours).

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.springbranchisd.com/studentsfamilies/choice-program/apply-here>.

### **Did you know?**

Texas public charter schools like YES Prep work hard to ensure the best outcomes for every population. In fact, historically underserved student populations at public charter schools outperform their traditional ISD peers in every single subject. [You can read more about it 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