

April 9, 2021

Dear YES Prep Families,

We hope this message finds you safe and well. This week marked the start of Quarter 4 and we are excited to see some more of our students on campuses joining our In-Person Learning Program! We again want to stress our continued commitment to health and safety at YES Prep and reiterate that **all of our YES Prep COVID-19 prevention measures, including the use of masks, and social-distancing protocols will remain in place at all of our schools.** Online or in person, we remain firmly committed to the rigorous education and success of your children on their path to college and beyond.

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. 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.

Thank you for reading this Family Update in its entirety for information, updates, and reminders about the Family-School Relationship Survey, Senior Signing Day, new Family Workshop series, STAAR testing, AP testing and more.

Important Dates Reminder

- **April 6 - June 10** – Quarter 4
- **April 12 - 30** – Family-School Relationships Survey open
- **April 16** – Students will begin registration for AP Summit
- **May 23** – Senior Signing Day

Annual Family-School Relationship Survey

YES Prep values your feedback! To ensure we continue to provide high-quality, rigorous learning experiences that meet the needs of our learners and prepare them for college and career, we need your input. On Monday, **April 12**, you will receive an email with a unique link to take our annual Family-School Relationships Survey to gain insight into your perception of our school and district effectiveness.

We have partnered with Panorama Education to conduct our 2021 Family Survey. Panorama safeguards your privacy, keeping your responses confidential. The survey shouldn't take more than a few minutes to complete and will be a valuable source of information for us as we work to make our schools and district the best they can be.

You may complete the survey online between **Monday, April 12** and **Friday, April 30** using a computer, tablet, or smartphone. Be on the lookout for an email from Panorama. We thank you in advance for your thoughtful responses.

Senior Signing Day Update

At YES Prep, Senior Signing Day has been a sacred tradition where our Seniors declare what is next in their journey by sharing what college, university, Armed Forces branch, or post-secondary opportunity they will be pursuing after they graduate. Seniors have watched this tradition every year and have earned their moment in the spotlight! This year, YES Prep remains committed to holding this dedicated time and space for our



seniors and pursued all available options. We explored virtual, hybrid, and in-person options, and we have come up with the best solution to honor seniors and their families in the safest way possible.

We are thrilled to announce that YES Prep's Senior Signing Day will be on May 23 at Rice University's outdoor stadium! Due to the pandemic and our unwavering commitment to the health and safety of our students, staff and families, **this will be an exclusive event for Seniors and two of their family members only. The event will be live-streamed for the rest of the YES Prep community to watch safely from home.**

More details and information will be shared with Seniors and their families in the coming weeks.

Family Workshops: Mental health & self-care series with Legacy

We would like to invite you to a series of online sessions to provide tips on various topics, such as the impact of the pandemic on mental health and prioritizing your self-care. Sessions will be offered by Legacy School Based Health Care professionals on Thursday evenings. To learn more and register for the sessions that will be offered in English (4/8 & 5/13) and in Spanish (4/15 & 5/20), please go to this link <http://bit.ly/LegacyWorkshops>

If you missed Dr. Collier's Family Workshop Series, "The Teen Brain: A Neurodevelopmental Guide for Parents and Families" you can view recordings of all four informative sessions on the district website, please [click here](#).

STAAR Update

STAAR is an important data point for our students, campuses, and district. If you have not yet already, please review the information [on this site](#). Even on days where your student may not have a STAAR test, a STAAR test in another grade level may impact your student's schedule.

We have also recently included tutorial videos on using the STAAR online platform on the site. Students will practice on the platform before they take their exams in May.

AP Testing

AP Testing will occur in May and early June. ***The Advanced Placement program provides students an opportunity to earn college credit while still in high school.***

Important notes:

- Exam format: YES Prep follows all AP testing regulations and policies. Some AP exams will be given on computers and some will be given on paper.
- Cost: YES Prep is pleased to cover exam fees for all students this year.
- Preparation: We will be creating two opportunities for students to review, called AP Summits. AP Summit dates will be on May 1 and May 8. Students will begin registration for AP Summit on April 16. This event will be virtual and hosted on Microsoft Teams. All students registered for AP have been added to a Microsoft Teams this week.

Please visit our [AP Site](#) for more information.

Did You Know?

Charters add to the public school system; they don't take from it! When Texas public charter schools grow, their local ISDs have more revenue per student. Evidence also shows ISD students are achieving more when charters are nearby! Learn more about [the financial impact of charters on ISDs here!](#)

Autism Acceptance Month

April is Autism Acceptance Month, which pushes us beyond our awareness of people with autism toward a more active stance of acceptance. Our Special Populations Team works to ensure that neurodiversity is valued at YES Prep and that ALL students are able to learn and succeed in our classrooms.

As we continue on our own journey in becoming an anti-racist and anti-bias organization, we invite you to click on the following link to “Read the Book”. This book was written by and about autistic people. <https://autismacceptance.com/read-the-book/>. We can all do our part to support our students with diverse learning needs and advocate for students with autism.

As always, thank you to our families for trusting us with the responsibility of educating your children. Thank you 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. Our next Family Update will be until **Friday, April 16**.

Thank you