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Dear YES Prep Families and Community,

We hope this message still finds you safe and healthy. We cannot express how much we miss our students during this closure but please know these challenging times have in no way diminished our “Whatever It Takes” spirit and commitment to our families. We look forward to making these last few weeks of the school year great and memorable ones. We have a few updates and announcements for you below. Thank you for reading this message in its entirety for important details.

### **U.S. News and World Report Rankings**

Earlier this week, [U.S. News and World Report](#) released its 2020 rankings of the nation’s best high schools, and all 10 eligible YES Prep schools are in the top 10% in the country! Plus, we have 5 of the top 100 schools in Texas. We’re also the district with the highest percentage of our schools (45%) ranked among the top in our metro area, with YES Prep taking 5 of the top 25 spots in Greater Houston.

We are over the moon, proud of our YES Prep students and grateful to our teachers and staff, who are providing all students with a college-ready education and increasing the number of students from underserved communities who graduate from college prepared to lead! 🏠

### **Keep YES Prep Learning: Family Guide Week 5**

Week 5 of our virtual distance learning program, “Keep YES Prep Learning,” begins next Monday, April 27. A reminder, this program is required for all YES Prep students. Please visit [yesprep.org/covid19/academics](http://yesprep.org/covid19/academics) to view the Week 5 Family Guide! Keep up the good work, students!

### **Cap & Gown Pick Up**

Cap and Gown Pick Up will take place between Monday, May 4 and Friday, May 8 at seniors’ home campuses. Your teachers and campus staff will be waiting to cheer you on and celebrate you from their cars. Seniors, and the families they have in their cars, should be prepared for some fun surprises when they come by their campus during their time slot! Even if you don’t have a cap and gown to pick up, we highly encourage you to drive by the campus! All seniors that roll through will be entered into a raffle for YES Prep to provide food for your family currently living in your home to enjoy during a Graduation Virtual Watch Party!



Time	Monday - 5/4	Tuesday - 5/5	Wednesday - 5/6	Thursday - 5/7	Friday - 5/8
9 - 11 a.m.	Southwest	North Central	Southeast	Gulfton	East End
1 - 3 p.m.	Brays Oaks	North Forest	N/A	White Oak	N/A
3 - 5 p.m.	West	Northside	Fifth Ward	Eisenhower (@White Oak)	N/A

As our students' and staff's safety is always our number one priority, we will continue to utilize safety guidelines including all staff delivering caps and gowns to cars using gloves and wearing masks, engaging in social distancing of at least 6 feet, and asking that students and families do not get out of their cars. We highly encourage all students and families to follow the most updated mandatory mask order for Harris County and wear homemade masks or bandannas.

If you didn't order a cap and gown but are interested in getting one, order online before Tuesday, April 28 and it will be ready for your campus's Cap and Gown Pick Up time. Additional information about ordering opportunities after April 28 will be communicated to seniors directly from their campus.

YES Prep staff are also working to finalize graduation dates and plans for seniors and we'll provide more details by next week!

### YES Prep Elementary Schools

In August, YES Prep is set to open our first two elementary schools. Given the uncertainty associated with COVID-19, we want to assure you that North Central and Southeast Elementary schools will open this upcoming Fall.

YES Prep remains committed to our current and future families. Student acceptances are on track and continue to increase daily. We have contacted our accepted families and they have let us know they remain committed to and are excited about YES Prep Elementary.

Construction of our brand new elementary school buildings is also on track (see this [aerial video!](#)) and of course, we are making a plan B and C to be prepared for whatever may come, including planning for virtual learning if social distancing continues into next school year.

In the meantime, please follow both [@yesnorthcentralelementary](#) and [@yessoutheastelementary](#) on Facebook for engaging content and updates.

We look forward to welcoming your child into the YES Prep family!

As always, thank you for trusting us with the responsibility of educating your children. Our commitment to our students and families remain stronger than ever. For our families and staff beginning the observation of Ramadan, we wish you a meaningful holiday.

Thank you