

WELCOME TO



yes prep

PUBLIC SCHOOLS

THIS IS

our story

a note from jason

Welcome to YES Prep!

We're excited you have chosen to join the YES Prep community. We've put together "Our Story" to provide you with the background to understand our culture - where we came from and where we're headed.

What follows is:

- Our Story, Core Values, and Thinks and Acts
- Historical Timeline of YES Prep
- Descriptions of our Eleven Campuses
- Words of Advice From Current Parents, Students, Teachers, and Past Alumni

Our Story

YES Prep prides itself on a culture of collegiality and building transformative relationships based on a true understanding of one another. At YES Prep, our students, teachers, and staff members often participate in an activity called "My Story" where we share our stories of growth and transformation, the stories that make us who we are. During this activity, people choose to share different things that are important to them. Some share how they ended up in education while others share their values. In each instance, people express vulnerability and offer insight into what makes them who they are. This document is intended to be that same exercise, to help you understand who YES Prep is and how the culture has been developed.

Core Values

Core values drive our daily practice. The five tenets of YES Prep - Grow Humble Leaders, Drive Visionary Change, Achieve Jaw-dropping Results, Build Transformative Relationships, and Create Life-Changing Opportunities - make up our foundation and guide our behavior. We reinforce their importance and ensure consistency by using them as our evaluation metrics. In addition, we expect the same values to drive our students and their impact in the world. These core values govern all interactions at YES Prep including adult-to-adult, student-to-adult, student-to-student, and organization-to-families. These values are the foundation for everything we do and the expectations we have of each person involved in our vision to redefine possible.

Thinks and Acts

Developed by our first class of graduating seniors, the "Thinks and Acts" statements represent a legacy passed on to each student at YES and describe how a YES Prep graduate should conduct themselves in the world. These words to future students are displayed prominently at all thirteen YES Prep campuses as a reminder of who we are and students integrate them into everything they do. For example, last year students at our Gulfton campus chose their Homecoming King and Queen based on who most exemplified the Thinks and Acts. These statements permeate our culture from top to bottom and remind us of where we came from. Our thoughts are influenced by our core values and the way we act exemplifies our beliefs in these values.

This package of information, including the history, campus descriptions, and words of wisdom, stand as a blueprint into who we are, why we exist, and where we're headed to help you to begin to understand our culture and expectations. We are excited you are joining our community and look forward to working with you to serve our students!

Sincerely,

Jason Bernal

President





our
timeline

our timeline

YES Prep has evolved from a small charter school project into Houston's most successful public school system. This year, YES will serve over 7,000 students from grades 6 to 12 on eleven campuses throughout Houston. Our ultimate goal is to significantly increase the number of students from low-income communities that earn a college degree. While YES continues to grow and expand, we remain steadfastly committed to the standards of excellence that have made the YES model such a success.

1995

Concerned parents, teachers, and community leaders at Rusk Elementary in HISD create Project YES to address high rates of illiteracy, truancy and juvenile crime consuming the East End community. The new program enrolls 58 students.

1998

Parents and staff decide to apply for a state charter, move to a new site, and expand the program to include high school. Project YES becomes YES College Preparatory School: an open-enrollment state charter school for middle and high school students.

2001

First class of YES seniors graduate. 100% of these graduates are accepted to a four-year college or university. 86% are first generation college-bound.

Through a generous gift from the Brown Foundation, YES moves to a permanent site in Southeast Houston.

2003

YES Prep opens its second campus, North Central, in a renovated warehouse with 110 sixth-grade students.

The George Foundation of Fort Bend County provides YES with a three-year start-up grant and facilities to create a third school in the Richmond/Rosenberg Community.

2004

YES College Preparatory Schools changes its name to YES Prep Public Schools and opens its fourth campus, East End.

2005

YES Prep completes a strategic planning process (funded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation) and initiates a \$15 million capital campaign to fund facility needs and prepare for future expansion.

2006

YES College Preparatory Schools changes its name to YES Prep Public Schools and opens its fourth campus, East End.

our timeline

2007

U.S. News & World Report and Newsweek rank YES Prep as one of the top 100 schools in the nation and the best school in Houston.

Through an innovative partnership with Houston ISD, YES opens its fifth campus inside Lee High School. YES Prep Lee opens with 130 sixth graders.

2008

U.S. News & World Report ranks YES Prep one of the top 100 schools in the nation and the best school in Houston for the second consecutive year.

YES serves 2,600 students at five campuses. For the 10th year in a row, all YES schools are rated Exemplary and Recognized by the Texas Education Agency.

2009

YES Prep grows to serve 3,500 students at seven schools.

YES Prep announces its Phase II Growth Plan to expand to 13 schools and 10,000 students in Houston. The fundraising goal for this aggressive plan was set at \$34 million.

2010

YES Prep Lee changes its name to YES Prep Gulfton and moves to its permanent location at the Revolution Campus.

YES Prep opens its eighth campus, North Forest, with 6th and 9th grade classes.

North Central graduates its inaugural class of 126 seniors.

2011

Oprah Winfrey's Angel Network awards YES Prep \$1,000,000.

Newsweek names North Central one of the top 10 miracle schools and one of the top 200 high schools in the nation.

YES Prep opens its ninth and tenth campuses: Fifth Ward and Northside.

Southwest, graduates its inaugural class of 43 seniors.

East End, graduates its first class of 27 seniors.

2012

2012- YES Prep wins the inaugural Broad Prize for Public Charter Schools.

2012- Houston Business Journal names YES Prep one of the "Best Places to Work" for the third year in a row.

2013

2013- US News and World Report Rankings (All Public Charter School Ranking)

#13—YES Prep North Central

#24—YES Prep Southwest

#31—YES Prep Southeast

2013- YES Prep opens 2 new campuses in Fall 2013- Hoffmann (Aldine) and White Oak. Both school leaders are YES Prep alumni.

our core values

Grow Humble Leaders

Drive Visionary Change

Achieve Jaw-Dropping Results

Build Transformative Relationships

Create Life-Changing Opportunities

THINKS

The strong should take care of the weak
The students of today are the leaders of tomorrow
We are a family-oriented school
Anything worth doing is worth doing right
Our responsibilities never end
Our education does not end in the classroom
The only way to lose is to quit trying
Learning is the key to ultimate success
We are all here to make difference
The journey, not the arrival, is what matters most
Success is not measured by wealth, but by happiness

ACTS

We give one hundred percent every day
We act in a way that leaves a lasting impression
We act in a way that earns the trust of others
We are ready and willing to work hard
We each need to perform to the best of our abilities
We already leave a place better than we found it
We are role models for other students
When we all pull together we can move mountains
We give back to our community



our
campuses

our campuses



Southeast

Founding Date: 1998

Grades Served: 6-12

Number of Students: 890

Location:

353 Crenshaw Road

Houston, TX 77034

Mascot: Wizards



North Central

Founding Date: 2003

Grades Served: 6-12

Number of Students: 931

Location:

13703 Aldine Westfield Road

Houston, TX 77039

Mascot: Trailblazers



Southwest

Founding Date: 2004

Grades Served: 6-12

Number of Students: 821

Location:

4411 Anderson Road

Houston, TX 77053

Mascot: Mavericks



East End

Founding Date: 2006

Grades Served: 6-12

Number of Students: 890

Location:

8329 Lawndale Street

Houston, TX 77012

Mascot: Explorer



Gulfton

Founding Date: 2007

Grades Served: 6-12

Number of Students: 990

Location:

6565 De Moss

Houston TX 77074

Mascot: The Force



West

Founding Date: 2009

Grades Served: 6-10

Number of Students: 690

Location:

10535 Harwin

Houston, TX 77036

Mascot: Marvels

our campuses



Brays Oaks

Founding Date: 2009

Grades Served: 6-10

Number of Students: 715

Location:

9000 West Bellfort
Houston, TX77031

Mascot: Cavaliers



North Forest

Founding Date: 2010

Grades Served: 6-12

Number of Students: 981

Location:

6602 Winfield Road
Houston, TX77050

Mascot: Legends



Northside

Founding Date: 2011

Grades Served: 6-8

Number of Students: 420

Location:

5215 Jensen Drive
Houston, TX77026

Mascot: Pride



Fifth Ward

Founding Date: 2011

Grades Served: 6-8

Number of Students: 420

Location:

1305 Benson
Houston, TX77020

Mascot: Titans



Northbrook

Founding Date: 2012

Grades Served: 6 and 7

Number of Students: 280

Location:

3030 Rosefield
Houston, TX77080

Mascot: Rockets



Hoffman

Founding Date: 2013

Grades Served: 6

Number of Students: 140

Location:

6101 W Little York Rd
Houston, TX 77091

Mascot: Phoenix



White Oak

Founding Date: 2013

Grades Served: 6

Number of Students: 140

Location:

5620 W. Tidwell
Houston, TX 77091

Mascot: Owls

our community



our community

Welcome to the YES Prep family.

My name is James T. Sheridan, and I am beginning my fifth year at YES Prep Southeast where I am currently the AP English Literature instructor and the Head Cross Country and Track & Field coach for MS and HS. When I first stood in front of my own classroom of students for the very first time as a teacher, it was August of 2000, and I was an ESL teacher at McReynolds Middle School. I was 21 years old, and I knew next to nothing about Houston or the community in which I was teaching. I knew next to nothing about teaching, despite a summer prep program through Teach For America. I knew next to nothing about what made a teacher effective.

At such a dysfunctional school, I received next to nothing in terms of feedback and support on how to improve as a teacher. I remember talking through problems with the colleague down the hall, as well as with a few other mentor teachers. I made mistake after mistake and had great difficulty thinking through solutions. After four years, I went to work at KIPP 3D Academy Middle School and realized that I really did not know how to teach. I knew how to survive in a frustrating and challenging environment; I knew how to control a difficult classroom and hallway and earn the respect of students. Yet, I did not know how to teach effectively. I began my journey to become a strong instructor, and after two years at a charter school in Philadelphia, I joined YES Prep in 2009. That decision pushed me to grow as an instructor in countless ways, and I am so glad to be a part of YES Prep.

You are joining a terrific team. I am so thankful to work at YES Prep, a place that values and honors teaching by committing itself to constantly helping teachers improve. I have taught in isolation without feedback; the results were not good. I want to be a teacher in 10, 20, 30 years. I know that YES Prep is a place that values me as an instructor and wants to help me grow, so that every year that I teach and coach here, I am constantly improving. At YES, feedback exists to help me improve my effectiveness so that my students learn more and can do more. That is the bottom line. Taking ego and feelings out of it, my improvement as a teacher is tied to how well my students are prepared for the next grade level, the AP test, college, and beyond. One of the most maddening and wonderful things about teaching is that I know that I am never going to fully figure it out. I am never going to master it. I am never finished learning and improving. That is the relentless philosophy that infuses what we do as YES Prep teachers. We have to try to break the five minute mile every day, and when we do, we have to accept and understand that we could have run faster, we could have improved our race in certain aspects. We have to commit to never being satisfied. Welcome to an organization that holds itself to high standards and is never satisfied.

James T. Sheridan, YES Prep Southeast



our community

Welcome to YES Prep!

As a former YES Prep student, and now alumni, I would like to formally welcome you as well as

congratulate you on becoming a part of one of the **best families around!**

First off, I would like to tell you a little bit about myself. My name is Ruby Serrano, and I am a proud recent graduate of YES Prep Southwest! Being a part of the first graduating class was one of the greatest experiences of my life. I was very excited to complete my journey as well as a little bit sad to leave my Maverick family. Although I am no longer a YES Prep student, my YES family will always be a part of the person I am and will become. My Maverick spirit is something that I will carry with me through the rest of my life. I will forever be a part of the great Maverick Nation! Being a YES Prep student was an outstanding and rewarding experience. I am a now a proud Bucknell Bison, and I owe it all to YES Prep.

YES is filled with people who want you to be successful, adults as well as peers. YES Prep is all about creating goals, and working hard to do whatever it takes to reach that goal. At times, it became difficult to keep up with the workload and pressure of completing a goal, but it was never difficult to get back on track because everyone around you consistently encouraged you to work hard. Although I only experienced the student perspective, I know that the teacher's point of view is probably very similar. A YES Prep teacher has an amazing job, and although it may seem that students don't appreciate it, they truly do. My teachers have been a big reason why I have continued to want to work hard. No matter what the situation was, they were always there for me.

I am excited that you have committed to joining the team of amazing teachers at YES Prep. I am amazed by the drive and dedication that each YES Prep employee has, and am truly grateful that I was able to have had such an amazing experience at YES. As you begin your journey as a YES Prep teacher, I would encourage you to let your students know that you are always available to them. Although we know our teachers are willing to be there, by giving us their phone numbers and offering extra help, it can sometimes be difficult to reach out to a teacher. Personally, I always found it easier to communicate with the teachers who repeatedly encouraged me to call them or talk to them. Sometimes, we students need it said blatantly and not just shown through actions. Also, I encourage you to build relationships with all of your students, the most memorable teachers throughout my time at YES were those who always talked to me, even after I was not their student. It isn't always about talking about academics; students enjoy talking about movies or sports with their teachers because it makes them feel more comfortable speaking to you.

I wish you luck this year, and hope that you fall in love with YES, just as I have! Remember, each day that goes by you are making a difference in the lives of your students, you are truly appreciated!

Sincerely,

Ruby A Serrano

Maverick Class of 2011

our community

The YES Prep community is **unique**,

thirteen campuses all working toward the same goal, to prepare our students for college. Our educators, at the various campuses, put in countless hours creating curriculum. Students prepare by doing “whatever it takes” to gain knowledge for this purpose. Last, the environment is in place to encourage success. This is what makes the YES Prep community outstanding.

Our educators come from all parts of the United States. Many have graduated from universities such as Harvard, Rice, Princeton and the University of Connecticut. This is evident in the homeroom names the students are assigned to each year. The homeroom university name represents the institution the homeroom teacher graduated from. Teachers spend time building curriculum not only to have our students succeed in standardized testing, but also to take our students beyond what is needed for future learning.

Students are given manageable assignments and are asked to complete work, ready for the next day’s challenges. It is important that students come prepared with the correct mind set ready to learn. Students are asked to do “whatever it takes” to succeed by being organized and willing to take on new material presented daily.

Success for each student is an attainable goal. Tutorials are in place for students that need additional help with course material. Pupils are able to re-take assignments they do not score well on. The goal for re-takes is to master the information so that individuals are equipped for the next related subject matter. On Wednesday’s students have a short day to rest and to have extra time for assignments. Students have various opportunities to succeed.

The YES Prep community is outstanding because items are in place to help the student succeed. Students are given all of the necessary tools to not only prepare for college but also to prepare for future endeavors.

Being a proud parent of a 9th grade student here at YES East End, parental involvement in the YES Prep community is a key to success for our children. Parents are encouraged to become a part of the community by communicating with our educators, volunteering and making sure their student is prepared by being on time to school and completing assignments. These are the keys to a successful YES Prep community.

Communication with teachers plays an important role in student success. Open house gives parents the opportunity to reach out to our educators. Class performance is discussed with helpful hints on how each student can accomplish goals which are expected. Parents and students have access to teacher email addresses as well as an on line web page setup to view their student’s progress in each class.

Volunteering is also a large aspect of parental involvement in the YES Prep community. Whether it be through Athletics or through our school fall festival, or the various field trips, parental involvement is important for the success of our programs.

Students are expected to be on time and prepared for challenges each day. Parents play a key role in their child’s success by signing their agenda’s and making sure their assignments are completed before coming to school each day. A prepared student will find the scholastic challenges much easier and will perform at a higher level. Our parental guidance is important to their success.

Parental involvement is necessary through communication, volunteering and through student involvement. These are the keys to a happier YES Prep community at our school.

Sonya Martinez , YES PREP Parent



welcome to
our story

