



FORCE Parent Notes

October 9, 2020

National Principals Month Has Begun

We want to take the time to thank our Principal Ms. Arenas, for providing Gulfton students with a great education. This year, we have been faced with the challenge to work endless hours to ensure that we continue to educate students during an epidemic. Her commitment to our families is to do whatever it takes to keep them safe and most importantly continue to keep them on track towards graduation. Down below we wanted to share with you a little bit about our amazing leader Ms. Arenas.

#WeAppreciateYou



Cintia Arenas was born in Leon, Guanajuato, Mexico and came to Houston at a very young age. She graduated from the University of Houston where she got her Bachelor's degree in Interdisciplinary Studies. While attending college, Cintia was placed at YES Prep Lee, now YES Prep Gulfton, where she discovered education was her calling, spending 12 years of her career providing more access to an equitable education for our families. Within that time, she held many positions including office aide, teaching assistant, 7th grade math instructor, Grade Level Chair, Dean of Students, and Director of Student Support. She has since spent the last semester at YES Prep North Forest as a Resident Principal to further develop her leadership skills. Her commitment to Gulfton stems from a very personal connection. This is the community she grew up in and called home. That is why she is deeply honored to return to YES Prep Gulfton to serve as Principal.

FORCE Updates

Mandatory Parent Meeting

Next Monday and Tuesday, we will have a mandatory meeting for all parents to provide parental resources and important updates regarding student grades and course credits. We request that both the student and one of the parents/guardians be in attendance on the virtual meeting. If you have children in both middle school and high school, you may choose whichever meeting works better for your schedule. Please send an email to John.McCreary@yesprep.org if you will not be able to attend. Reach out if you have any questions or concerns.

Monday, 10/12/20 at 6:00pm

Click on [Join live event](#) to attend the virtual meeting or you can call **+1 832-844-3837** (enter Conference ID: 430 585 353#)

Tuesday, 10/13/20 at 6:00pm

Click on [Join live event](#) to attend the virtual meeting or you can call **+1 832-844-3837** (enter Conference ID: 483 520 545#)

Visitor Policy

FORCE families no visitors, including families, are allowed in the building unless they have a scheduled appointment or have been asked to enter by a YES Prep Staff Member. If you have any questions please email us at GTFO1@yesprep.org.

Early Student Pick Up

Families that need to pick up their student(s) for any reason outside of arrival and dismissal will call the front office and sign out their student(s) over the phone. The student(s) will be escorted out to your vehicle. The Gulfton staff member escorting the student(s) will be visually checking photo I.D. of the parent/guardian or approved emergency contact before releasing the student(s).

Returning Students (7th, 8th, 10th, 11th)

We want to share some important information about the next group of students scheduled to return to campus, which is for 7th, 8th, 10th and 11th grade! We are so excited to see those of you who have opted to continue learning In-Person! I want to reiterate a few important points to ensure parents fully understand this process.

1. Only students who have selected to be "In-Person" through the *Skyward Program Survey* are eligible to return on **October 20th** for the grade levels listed above.
2. If you have filled out the Skyward survey for your child to return in-person, the student and a parent/guardian must attend virtual orientation on Wednesday, October 14th next week to qualify to return to campus. Please ensure you or the child has filled out this [survey](#) to indicate which orientation session you will attend.

- Oct. 14th Virtual Orientation at 8:30am: Click here to [Join live event](#) or call 832-844-3837 (Conference ID: 168 095 04#)
- Oct. 14th Virtual Orientation at 2:30pm: Click here to [Join live event](#) or call 832-844-3837 (Conference ID: 979 074 537#)

3. If you selected for your child to return to campus for in-person learning but you would like to change back to virtual learning at home, you have until next Monday, October 12th, to let us know by doing the following:

- The parent/guardian must contact the front office through email (gtfo1@yesprep.org) or 713-967-9800. Email is preferred. (No call will be answered during the weekend)
- Parent confirmation is required, students cannot make the request themselves.
- We will be making program changes **only** for students who want to go back to a virtual setting.

4. Conversely, if your survey preference indicates virtual learning from home but you would like to change it to “in-person” on campus:

- You will have to wait until the next grading period to select in person.
- Changes from virtual to in-person cannot be made at this time.
- Next survey to opt into In-Person will be open from October 20th -25th

5. If you do not let us know by October 12th and you change your mind after, we will not be making any changes until November so please make sure you are letting us know asap.

Reminders about what In-Person Learning means:




- Your child is required to bring their laptop to school every day and complete their learning and work on Teams.
- Most students are in the same space/classroom all day and follow all safety protocols.
- Students have lunch in that same space and no outside time is offered at this time.
- Students can wear free dress as long as it is school appropriate.
- Mask must be worn at all times.






Reminders: Students in person and virtual follow the same class period schedule daily. Attendance, academic participation, and grading expectations for in person and virtual are **the same**. In person and virtual students are expected to attend all four classes daily and submit assignments on time. If your student is virtual, they have a live class call via Teams daily at 8:30 AM, 10:15 AM, 12:40 PM, and 2:15 PM and assignments to complete each period.

FORCE Safety Procedures

Safety and Return to School Procedures

FORCE families that have selected for their child to learn on campus please take a few minutes to read the following safety and return school procedures; that must be followed in order to keep students and staff safe.

	All students will have their temperature checked by staff member before they exit vehicle. Students with temp above 100F will not be allowed to stay on campus. Car riders and student drivers should leave in their arrival vehicle. Keep in mind, that if your student rides with another family to campus; if one student in that vehicle has a temp above 100F then, they will all be asked to go home. They may still attend classes virtually.
	Walkers and Bike Riders will have their temp check at the temp check stations.
	All vehicles should enter the main entrance gate starting at 8am . After student has been given permission to exit the vehicle, student will go to the designated area to be checked for mask and sanitize hands.

	Make sure student has mask on prior to arrival, student remains in the vehicle until they have been screened, and student must remain 6 feet apart as they walk into the main entrance.
	School Hours will still be the same for both virtual and on campus learning 8:30AM-3:45PM . <ul style="list-style-type: none"> At 4pm any student that has not been picked up will be escorted to the gym and an admin staff will monitor social distance. At 4:15pm any student that has not been picked up will be escorted of campus grounds by admin staff.
	Materials Student needs will be a mask (and a back-up one), Gulfton ID, charged laptop and charger , headphones, pencil/notebooks, water bottle (enough for the entire day).
	Bus Routes will be attached to Parent Notes for families who have selected bus transportation for their child. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Find the closest route to you and that is the stop that your child will be allowed to use. There will be only 1 student per seat. Please check your students temperate before they get on the bus.
	Attendance Reminder <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parents remember that if your student is following the on campus learning route he/she will need to provide documentation when they are absent. Student must stay true to their learning environment and follow that particular track. If the student is absent and completes their work virtually, they will still need to provide documentation for their absence as they follow an in-person track. Please make sure you are submitting excuse notes (doctor's notes, etc.) when your student is absent due to an appointment or illness; to excuse the absence for the day the student was out. If you have specific attendance questions reach out to Ms. Klonis, Claudia.klonis@yesprep.org
**Make sure your student went to Orientation and has completed the survey. https://tinyurl.com/y8luep33 STUDENT WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO GO TO CLASS IF THEY HAVE NOT DONE THIS.	

October **Gulfton Calendar**

Mon 10/12	Tues 10/13	Wed 10/14	Thurs 10/15	Fri 10/16
A Day Schedule Meal Distribution 9-1pm Mandatory: All Middle School Parents Meeting	B Day Schedule Mandatory: All High School Parents Meeting	A Day Schedule SAT Testing Day 7 th /8 th /10 th /11 th Virtual Parent & Student Orientation (8:30am or 2:30pm)	B Day Schedule	A Day Schedule No school- Fall Holiday
Mon 10/19	Tues 10/20	Wed 10/21	Thurs 10/22	Fri 10/23
B Day Schedule Staff Development No School for Students	A Day Schedule Cohort 3 (7,8,10,11) On campus learning Day 1	B Day Schedule	A Day Schedule	B Day Schedule All missing student work is due to teachers
Mon 10/26	Tues 10/27	Wed 10/28	Thurs 10/29	Fri 10/30
A Day Schedule	B Day Schedule	A Day Schedule Common Assessments	B Day Schedule Common Assessments	A Day Schedule End of Quarter 1 All Grades Finalized!

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Facebook: <http://facebook.com/yesprepgulfton>