



WHAT IS FOUNDATION PREP DOING TO ENSURE FINANCIAL STABILITY FOR THE FUTURE?

As a result of Foundation Prep being in its start up phase (What is a "start-up phase"? [Click here](#)), as well as our belief that it is paramount to have two teachers in classrooms, and specialized services, we spend copious amounts of time, energy and resources doing the following:

- 1. Fundraising:** In the past four years we have raised over 3 million dollars from private and public funders. We continue to cultivate relationships with funders both locally and nationally.
- 2. Competitive Rates:** Through the use of the legal expertise of the Head of School, we are able to find significant savings in critical contracts like a) janitorial/maintenance, b) financial/back office, c) food services, and d) buses
- 3. Compliance:** We have a third party auditor perform a financial audit that includes an audit of our fiscal and operational systems and routines. Those audits are public record. We are always above compliance both with the independent auditor and the District. Check out our most recent rating on Financial Health.

WHY IS IT IMPORTANT THAT CYPRESS PARENTS COMMIT TO FOUNDATION PREP NOW? WHY NOT WAIT UNTIL THE END OF THE SCHOOL YEAR?

It is important to know who will be joining us next year for two very important reasons:

- 1. Hiring the best staff:** We believe in attracting, hiring and retaining the best teachers for all of our students. This process starts in November/December with a goal of finishing the school year (end of May) completely hired for the following school year. In order to ensure that we are hiring correctly for next year, we must know how many students will be attending our school, thus how many classrooms we need, and how many teachers we must hire to teach in those classrooms. We have already begun the work of ensuring our current teachers are returning and continue to be professionally developed throughout the remainder of this school year. Now, we are doing more of the heavy lifting of finding quality educators and hiring them for next year.
- 2. Fundraising/Grants:** In order to best fundraise for the needs that we will have next year (as well as beyond next year) we must have a sense of how many students and families we will be serving during the following, critical grant writing months. We are seeking grants to cushion the transition and support in the training and providing of extra services that we may not currently have a population need for this year, but could with the addition of Cypress families next year. To best financially plan for these different needs, in a way that allows for a seamless transition, we must first know that we have the needs.

Please look at later posts to see the Cypress Teachers and staff that have committed to Foundation Prep next year!

LOCATION/TRANSPORTATION: HOW FAR IS THE NEW BUILDING FROM CYPRESS? WOULD MY COMMUTE BE LONGER?

This summer we will move to the Medard Nelson building, located at 3121 St. Bernard Ave. It is 1.2 miles from our current location at the McDonough 28 building, 2733 Esplanade Avenue. Cypress Academy in the Dibert building (4217 Orleans Avenue) is 1.9 miles from the McDonough 28 building and 2.1 miles from the Nelson building. The Nelson building is .4 miles from I610.

For those who choose to take the school bus, we provide door-to-door service, whenever possible.

WHAT ARE YOUR DISCIPLINE POLICIES?

As a school community, we engage in Restorative Practices, ensuring that every opportunity is a learning opportunity. Every year our students' needs change, because as students change and grow, and we find ways to best support them in the effort of creating a safe, calm and joyful environment for all. We work in partnership with families and their children to ensure that students' needs, academic and social emotional, are met, while creating a safe, calm and joyful learning environment.

We have a school wide Social Emotional Learning curriculum for all our students/grade levels, which is part of our Tier 1 curriculum.

We also take what we know from each year and implement it in the beginning of the following school year to keep services seamless and transitions to a minimum.

IS FOUNDATION PREP EQUIPPED TO HANDLE MY CHILD WITH SPECIAL EDUCATION NEEDS?

We are in the process of hiring a full time, self-contained classroom Special Education certified teacher for students who are currently in self-contained classrooms at Cypress, as we are a full inclusion setting. We are also working closely with Mrs. Laverne Fleming and Dr. Shayla Guidry to ensure that our Exceptional Services/SPED teams are ready for a smooth transition, ensuring we have the staff and functional capacity to serve all of our students as well in the 2019-2020 school year (and beyond) as we have the past four years.

Every child is different, and we acknowledge, respect and create policies with this in mind. We also believe, per Federal Special Education Laws that all students should be educated in the least restrictive environment. Our vision is for our students to be advocates for themselves, their families and their communities. They must find their voice and be able to use it for this vision to become a reality. We strive to teach in an environment that promotes this growth for all our students.

MY CHILD HAS GONE THROUGH LOTS OF CHANGES, WILL THE NEW BUILDING HAVE ENOUGH SPACE FOR ALL THE STUDENTS TO GROW?

The Medard Nelson Building was created to house students from PreK-4 to 8th grade. The current Nelson school has over 600 students in PreK-4 to 8th grade. We anticipate that the building will be large enough to accommodate Foundation Preparatory for the same amount of grades and students (with lots of bathrooms!)

It has two outdoor play structures, a large field (big enough for football and/or soccer) and large courtyards for outdoor activities, like gardening.

DIDN'T SEE YOUR QUESTION ANSWERED? EMAIL IT HERE INFO@FOUNDATIONPREPARATORY.ORG.