



Valley Stream UFSD Thirteen

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Constance D. Evelyn, Superintendent of Schools

February 16, 2017

Dear Valley Stream Union Free School District 13 Community,

Thank you for your lasting support toward our continuous improvement efforts extending the quality of education for our students, staff and families. We have enjoyed a positive year, and our students, educators and broader school community are enthusiastically engaged in much of the work that we had hoped to successfully implement. The Board and I have also constructively worked to reflect the district's vision and mission in the strategic efforts that we believe make the Valley Stream Union Free School District Thirteen a district of excellence. Below, I have highlighted many of our successes that focused on the priorities identified by our community.

- Completion of Phase I projects of our \$32M bond referendum that address the health, safety, and security needs of our district's four buildings.
- All VS 13 schools are in the second year of fully implementing Superkids®, a new English Language Arts (ELA) curriculum used in grades K-2. These additional resources further support aligning our instructional practices with the Common Core Learning Standards (students were visited by Cass, a Superkids character, in the month of January).
- All VS 13 schools have fully implemented Math in Focus K-6, a Common Core- aligned math program that helps our students develop multiple strategies to understand mathematical concepts and problem solving.
- Extension of our Instructional Coaching Program. This job-embedded structure for professional development was introduced at the beginning of the 2015-2016 school year. This year we have been able to grow our human resource allocation, increasing the number of coaches from one to three. In September, we reorganized our human resources and now have a K-6 ELA coach, a K-6 Math coach and an Instructional Technology coach.
- We have rolled out the implementation of the RULER Program. *RULER is an evidence-based approach for integrating social and emotional learning into schools. RULER teaches the skills of emotional intelligence — those associated with recognizing, understanding, labeling, expressing, and regulating emotion. Decades of research show that these skills are essential to effective teaching and learning, sound decision making, physical and mental health, and success in school and beyond.*
- Chromebooks have been installed in all classrooms in grades 4-6. Both educators and students have consistently reported that access to this level of technology has provided a boon to their engagement and learning.

The initiatives noted above benefit our students' educational experiences, helping to prepare them for success in their middle school and high school years. As we close in on the final months of this academic year and look ahead toward the future, we will continue to focus our efforts on prioritizing and implementing those curricular and technological programs and services that will help guide our students to becoming responsible citizens and leaders of tomorrow.

Sincerely,

Constance D. Evelyn
Superintendent of Schools