



Valley Stream UFSD Thirteen

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Constance D. Evelyn, Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools

February 27, 2018

Dear Valley Stream UFSD Thirteen Families,

Every facet of our district's work is shaped by the phrase "Where Children Come First." The words are especially central in guiding our practice and policies as they relate to the safety of our school community.

The Board and I will provide an update at this evening's meeting regarding the current and near future safety measures that are existent and underway in Valley Stream UFSD Thirteen. We are hopeful that this information serves to reassure our community that our safety systems continue to be our priority.

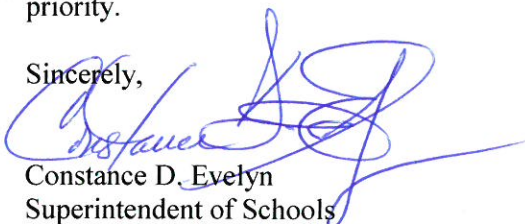
By mid-March of this year, the installation of the new Public Announcement Systems will be complete at all four schools. This new system increases the capacity of our district and school safety plans and further supports existing protocols relative to the safety drills that are regularly practiced.

The Smart Schools Investment Plan Project contains three main elements: interior and exterior security cameras, key card access at major points of entry and visitor management kiosks. The district carried out a rigorous, multi-phase selection process in order to choose a vendor to complete this work. This will allow Valley Stream UFSD Thirteen to continue to add security elements in future years while providing the freedom to seek enhancements should the need arise.

Beginning in late spring, without disrupting our regular school day, a total of 67 security cameras will be installed across the district, monitoring entryways, hallways and the exteriors of each building. High-traffic entry points will be fitted with key card readers, and new identification badges will be issued to faculty and staff to allow access at these locations. This will ensure all entry points remain secure with only properly-credentialed individuals gaining access to our schools. Visitors will still enter through main entrances, where visitor management kiosks will be equipped with a license scanner; the performed scan will check police databases and alert the desk attendant of any causes for concern related to a prospective visitor. In the event of an emergency, administration will be able to issue a lockdown at the press of a button, alerting teachers and students to secure their classrooms as practiced in regular drills. Complete integration with the Nassau County Police Department will allow automatic calls from the district to bypass the regular queue of calls to 911 for a rapid response.

As you entrust the safety of your children to us daily, please know their protection is always our first priority.

Sincerely,



Constance D. Evelyn
Superintendent of Schools