



# Valley Stream UFSD Thirteen

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

March 9, 2018

Dear Valley Stream UFSD Thirteen Community,

I'm writing to leverage our partnership to ensure the safety of our children. Many superintendents are grappling with March 14; a day some have deemed to be "National Student Walkout Day". In the interest of promoting safety, our district will not engage in taking our children outside on this day for the direct purpose of spending seventeen minutes during a preannounced exact timeframe.

Valley Stream UFSD Thirteen has planned a curriculum-based, developmentally appropriate initiative that will engage all of our schools focused on strengthening our community. Research focused on school violence demonstrates that the most critical way to keep our children safe is by ensuring that all children and families feel valued and respected as members of the school community. This is not meant to diminish the importance of implementing other safety and security measures which are under continued review in our district.

We have developed this day with critical input from our principals and teachers, and ideas from students. The purpose of this day is to engage our children in a meaningful action that is both appropriate for elementary students and meets the goal of respecting lives lost in acts of school violence. Our focus will be "I Can, We Can" (attachment).

Thanks in advance for your continued confidence and collaborative spirit.

Sincerely,

Dr. Constance Evelyn  
Superintendent of Schools



# I Can, We Can: Build a Better Community Day

On March 14, 2018, Valley Stream UFSD Thirteen will come together to build awareness and celebrate, "I Can, We Can: Build A Better Community" Day.

Based upon the global initiative, The We Can Project, a service learning initiative that inspires and profoundly connects students of all ages to the differences they can make in their lives, their communities and the world around them, we hope to engage students in meaningful conversation, commitment to goal setting, and engagement on this day.

The culmination of this project will take place on Wednesday, March 14, 2018, as we come together in large groups of the school community to share out our ideas and project posters.

Along with the theme of "I Can", all of Valley Stream UFSD Thirteen will come together and participate in a district-wide food drive entitled I "CAN" Make a Difference.