



Valley Stream UFSD Thirteen

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

August 1, 2018

Dear Valley Stream UFSD Thirteen School Community,


Keeping your children safe when they are in school is one of our foremost responsibilities. The Board of Education and I are always looking for ways to augment and improve the security systems in each of our District buildings. In light of this, we have recently made several changes to enhance safety and security.

This coming fall when schools reopen in September, you will notice the addition of physical security access control systems known as “mantraps,” one of our most prominent new security measures in all four schools. Mantraps change the current configuration of our vestibules to allow one person to pass through a security access point at a time when entering our buildings. This change means that visitors to any of our schools will now stand in the vestibule and provide their licenses through an opening, similar to a bank teller’s window. The license will be run through a scanner that accesses the sex offender registry and searches for other identifying information that the district has necessarily input. This extra level of screening will heighten the security of our schools.

In addition to these new security measures, we are also instituting new procedures for parents and guardians dropping off items children forgot to bring to school. It will no longer be available or necessary to bring these items to the main office. Starting in the fall, such items will be either left in the mantrap or handed off to the greeter or security guard at the main entrance.

In July, the Board of Education and administration also made the decision to increase the level of human resources dedicated to security. This has resulted in contracting with Wisdom Protective Services, a company already working in the Valley Stream Community for our sister districts. Valley Stream UFSD Thirteen will have experienced unarmed guards at each school to reinforce security for up to thirteen hours per day. It’s important to say that these changes are intended for the sole purpose of enhancing the safety and security of our children, staff, and welcomed visitors to our buildings. We appreciate your patience and understanding as we implement these new features in each of our schools.

Sincerely,



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