



# Valley Stream UFSD Thirteen

585 N. Corona Avenue Valley Stream, New York • 11580 • (516)568-6100  
www.valleystream13.com

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

April 2, 2020

Dear Valley Stream UFSD Thirteen Community,

I hope this letter finds everyone in good spirits and health. Our district continues to be engaged in work that promotes continuity of instruction and other vital services including the provision of meals and childcare prioritizing first responder families and essential workers.

## **Governor's Executive Order – Spring Break**

The Governor's Executive Order extending statewide school closures until April 15 has raised questions about whether it is necessary for districts to forego scheduled spring breaks in order to receive full benefit from the waiver of 180-day requirements and avoid losses of state aid.

New York State public school districts have received guidance from the State Education Department that all districts will be required to maintain continuity of instruction, student meals, and emergency child care services throughout the extended closure period, including during scheduled breaks.

A variety of professional associations are continuing discussions on this issue with the Governor's Office. As you can imagine, there are multiple labor, contractual, and religious concerns regarding this Executive Order as well as considerations for the impact on students, staff, parents and community members. The Governor is fully apprised of the real-world implications of this Executive Order.

Moreover, we have been further advised that school districts cannot lawfully recess for a religious holiday, but it is acceptable for students and staff members to take the day off in accordance with local policies and collective bargaining agreements.

## **Continuity of Instruction Plan - Learn at Home**

This week we launched the second phase of our Continuity of Instruction Plan. Our *Learn at Home* curriculum packets were posted to the district website on Friday. Teachers connected with their families to assist them with the transition and will continue to engage in this level of support. We will follow this schedule of posting the Learn at Home curriculum packages each week by Friday at 12:00 pm for the subsequent week of instruction. We will be adding weekly Library instruction and Instrumental Music instruction to the Learn at Home instruction plan(s) beginning with the week of April 6<sup>th</sup>.

## **Distribution of Musical Instruments**

We are working on a tentative plan to distribute musical instruments for any student that does not have their instrument at home. We will reach out to those families who require assistance.

## **Music in the Parks**

At this time, all Music in the Parks trips have been cancelled. We are working to determine how we will distribute refunds for all payments regarding these trips. As soon as this is coordinated, you will receive notice from your child's instrumental music teacher.

## **Instructional Technology**

Over the past several weeks we have distributed many devices to families that needed them for instruction. At this time, we will cease regularly planned distribution of these devices as the information we have received from many district sources including teachers and social workers indicate that we have met families' needs. Additionally, we are near capacity relative to the number of devices we have at our disposal to distribute. We continue to encourage any family with specific needs to reach out to their child's teacher or the building principal. As almost all of our employees are working from home, the best way to achieve contact is through email to your child's teacher. They will be able to assist you and direct your needs to the appropriate person.

## **Mental Health and Social Services Support**

Members of our mental health and social worker staff have collaborated to develop robust resources for our families. These resources are meant to help students and families navigate some of the issues that are arising as a result of not being in school due to this global pandemic. These resources can be found [here](#) as well as on the [COVID-19 page](#) of the district's website.

## **Childcare Prioritizing First Responder and Essential Worker Families**

As we continue to be responsive to the Governor's Executive Orders and work in partnership with our current district childcare provider, we are pleased to announce that the cost for the program can now be paid for by the District. This opportunity to provide free childcare to first responder and essential worker families is a result of the Governor's most recent Executive Orders regarding this issue.

Enrollment will be limited to those that work in one of [these](#) industries. The camp will be held Monday through Friday from 8am to 5 pm at the Willow Road Elementary School. If you have questions or would like to register your child, please email Kathleen Rainsbottom, the Right At School Area Manager, at [kathleen.rainsbottom@rightatschool.com](mailto:kathleen.rainsbottom@rightatschool.com) or call her at (516) 675-1071. Mrs. Rainsbottom will then follow up with the direct link to register.

As we progress through these challenging times, our staff will continue to work to be responsive and provide our community with support in many ways. We will consistently keep you informed of any changes.

Stay safe and be well.

Very truly yours,

*Constance D. Evelyn*

Dr. Constance Evelyn  
Superintendent of Schools