



# Valley Stream UFSD Thirteen

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

April 17, 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 our responsiveness during the development of extended school closures in New York State.

## **Governor's Executive Order – School Closures Extended to May 15<sup>th</sup>**

Yesterday, Governor Cuomo made the decision to extend statewide closure of schools through May 15<sup>th</sup>. If the current pattern persists, we will expect continued gubernatorial announcements of extended closures in two-week intervals. We are continuing our work with staff and teachers to ensure that our meal and childcare service persists, and that our *Learn At Home Program* evolves to meet the needs of our students and families. Teachers across the schools and grade levels are persistently engaged in professional development that helps them deliver remote instruction. As we move forward, we will continue to expand our *Learn At Home* programming with more opportunities for interactive learning including IXL Learning for Math and ELA, synchronous morning meetings, and regularly scheduled phone calls and emails from our educators.

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

There is no cost for the childcare program prioritizing first responder and essential worker families. This opportunity to provide free childcare to first responder and essential worker families is a result of the Governor's Executive Order 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.

## **Chromebook Distribution**

Valley Stream UFSD Thirteen has provided more than 300 devices to our students and families for use during this extended school closure. We have discontinued distribution at this time in order to keep everyone safe, and we are at capacity relative to the number of chromebooks available to utilize as loaner devices. If your family experienced a hardship that prevented you

from securing a device, please contact your building principal or social worker for assistance. As a reminder, for any family that does not have internet connection, Altice is offering a free internet product with installation fees waived. Parents should call 866-200-9522.

### **School Budget Vote**

There has not been any specificity provided relative to our upcoming budget vote except the planned delay until after June 1<sup>st</sup>. We will provide more specific information once it becomes available.

### **Kindergarten Registration**

We are currently working on developing a digitized option for submission of kindergarten registration. In the interim, kindergarten registration packets may still be downloaded and printed from our website and mailed to the attention of Laura DeMartini at the Willow Road School, 880 Catalpa Drive, Franklin Square, NY 11010 ([ldemartini@valleystream13.com](mailto:ldemartini@valleystream13.com), 568-6260).

### **Board Meeting on April 21<sup>st</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>**

There is a special Board Meeting scheduled on April 21<sup>st</sup> that is solely focused on a vote for Nassau BOCES Board representation. The Committee of the Whole Meeting on the 21<sup>st</sup> is cancelled.

The regularly scheduled Board Meeting on April 28<sup>th</sup> will provide an update on the proposed 2020-2021 Valley Stream UFSD Thirteen Budget and services and activities related to extended school closures.

Members of the community can join the public sessions of these meetings, scheduled for 8pm on April 21<sup>st</sup> and April 28<sup>th</sup>, via Zoom. A link will be posted to the [Board of Education Meetings and Agendas](#) page of the district website by noon on the day of each meeting. Recordings of these Zoom sessions will be posted to the livestream video library following each meeting.

As we progress through these extended school closures, our staff will continue to work to be responsive to our school community. Thank you for the feedback you have provided to help guide our work. 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