



Valley Stream UFSD Thirteen

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

June 3, 2020

Dear Valley Stream Thirteen School Community,

The Valley Stream UFSD Thirteen values our enduring work committed to celebrating diversity and inclusion. As a public institution responsible for educating our students, we should not be silent about the challenges that our children, families, and staff may be facing as a result of the death of George Floyd and others.

Unfortunately, the extended closure of schools has prevented us from physically being with our children and families during this very difficult time in our nation. Those of us that work in our school and extended community are experiencing the pain that this is causing our country in different ways. This can be especially true for our children. The social emotional needs of our students and supporting our families is our unique privilege and priority. Please know that we are here to assist our students and families with compassion and openness.

As a community of educators, we have spent a lot of time engaged in professional development required by the New York State Education Department to ensure a “Culturally Responsive-Sustaining Education” framework in our schools. We have made ongoing progress at all of our schools relative to building culturally-responsive pedagogy, and the Board of Education and administration continue to partner in meeting one of their primary goals to recruit and retain a workforce that is representative of our students and families.

We know that much more is needed to ensure that racism, bigotry, and discrimination of any kind are eradicated. In Valley Stream UFSD Thirteen we have been purposeful and deliberate in our actions and words to end oppression and maintain a doctrine of dignity and respect for everyone’s humanity.

We encourage you to reach out to us; we are here to support our students and families.

Sincerely,

Dr. Constance D. Evelyn