



Valley Stream UFSD Thirteen

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

July 31, 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians,

I hope this letter finds you well. As you may know, both the New York State Education Department (NYSED) and the New York State Department of Health (NYS DOH) recently released guidance documents with guidelines for the reopening of schools in September.

Steering Committee members of the Valley Stream UFSD Thirteen Reopening Task Force have spent many hours reviewing and discussing these critical documents. Our Reopening Plan for our district is due to NYSED and the NYS DOH by July 31, 2020, and can be found on the district website.

As of this writing, each district may return to in-person instruction by providing that very strict requirements are met regarding health and safety, and instructional models that support all students/families' needs. Instructional technology supports, human resources and fiscal resources are also areas that required high levels of consideration in developing this plan.

In accordance with the guidance, the District has developed instructional models that include:

- In-Person Instruction
- Remote Instruction
- Hybrid Instruction

These instructional models are embedded in our plan, and we must be ready to implement any one of them to promote the District's flexibility in the event of potential classroom, school or district closure related to COVID-19. All of these models comply with the 6-foot social distancing requirement.

At this time, we will be offering the following instructional models in the fall:

1. **Full In-Person Instruction** for students in Kindergarten, 1st Grade, and small special education classes: Students will attend school in-person each day that school is in session.
2. **Hybrid Instruction** for students in Grades 2 through 6: Students' classes will be separated into two groups – Group A and Group B. Siblings, regardless of grade, will be placed in the same letter group. The whole class will participate in remote instruction every Monday. Group A will attend school in-person on Tuesday and Thursday. Group B will attend school in-person on Wednesday and Friday. English Language Learner (ELL) students will participate in Group A and Group B and attend in-person Tuesday - Friday. Special education students designated for

Integrated Co-Teaching will be assigned to Group A or B and also attend school in-person on Mondays.

3. **Instruction for medically vulnerable students:** Students will be provided accommodations that may include fully remote instruction.

We are scheduling all currently registered students for our planned in-person (K-1) and hybrid (2-6) instructional models as outlined above (#1, #2).

If you will be requesting an accommodation (#3) for your child due to special needs or medical vulnerability, please follow the protocol listed below as outlined by Lisa Sells-Asch, Assistant Superintendent for Special Services.

Procedures for Requesting a 504 Accommodation

Students who may be at a higher risk for contracting COVID-19 due to a medical condition, may fall into the medically vulnerable/high risk group and may submit a request for an accommodation through the 504 Committee process. To be eligible for accommodations under Section 504, he/she must have a physical or mental impairment that "substantially limits one or more major life activities."

Requests for such accommodations should be addressed to Lisa Sells-Asch, Assistant Superintendent for Special Services. This may be in the form of a letter or email (lsells@valleystream13.com). Please include documentation of the medical condition and/or risk factors that support the request for accommodations. The 504 Committee will then invite you to participate in a 504 meeting to review the request and/or develop a plan.

Families who are considering homeschooling as another independent option can obtain more information through the Office of Special Services by contacting Lisa Sells-Asch at lsells@valleystream13.com or (516) 568-6260.

I understand that you will have additional questions that may not be addressed herein. Please know that this letter is the first of many communications you will receive outlining our plans for health screening, transportation, meals, technology, attendance and building practices, among others.

As always, the health and safety of our students and staff remain paramount in all of our reopening decisions. Thank you in advance for your cooperation and patience as we collaboratively work to finalize a viable reopening plan for the Valley Stream UFSD Thirteen.

Very truly yours,



Dr. Constance D. Evelyn
Superintendent