



VALLEY STREAM UFSD THIRTEEN
585 N. Corona Avenue
Valley Stream, NY 11580

March 28, 2019

Dear Parent/Guardians,

As the presence of social media has permeated our society at large, it's important that we continue to partner in helping our students understand how to appropriately engage with social media and electronic devices. We encourage our children who regularly use social media to be positive, welcoming, and inclusive in their communication whether in words or in pictures.

Many students bring electronic devices such as cell phones and smartwatches to school. Digital products including the V-tech watch have become more popular among primary age children. While we respect your choice to provide these devices to your children, the approaching spring season is a strategic point in the school year for all of us to be reminded that district policy 5400 prohibits the use of such devices from the time students arrive at school until the end of the regular school day.

To avoid breakage and loss of these items, and unnecessary distraction for our students, I encourage you to keep these items at home or in a safely secured container in your child's backpack. These devices may tempt children to engage in behaviors that cause disruptions and/or offer features that may influence their use in ways that violate our code of conduct (ie; taking photos, videos, selfies, recording, etc.) The laws of New York State, now require School Districts to investigate and respond to violations of the code of conduct that address the misuse of social media. I am pleased to report that such incidents have been few and far between in Valley Stream UFSD Thirteen.

To maximize student productivity and safety, I am enlisting your assistance in supporting the educational process by limiting the use of personal electronic devices in school and in educating our children in the proper use of social media.

Thank you for your continued cooperation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Constance D. Evelyn', is written over a blue circular stamp that partially overlaps the text 'Sincerely,'.

Constance D. Evelyn, Ed.D.

Superintendent of Schools