



# Valley Stream UFSD Thirteen

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

March 25, 2020

Dear Valley Stream Thirteen Families,

The administrative team, along with all district staff, have been engaged in work that responds to the ongoing and rapidly changing situation with regard to the COVID-19 pandemic. All buildings were sanitized after school closure began on March 16, 2020. We continue to work with the Nassau County Department of Health regarding any confirmed cases of COVID-19 that impact our school community. We are currently under the Governor's Executive Order that prescribes schools be closed through March 31<sup>st</sup>.

Teachers in the district have been planning for a transition to our *Learn at Home* phase of Continuity of Learning beginning on Monday, March 30<sup>th</sup>. Administrators and teachers have carefully considered how to best execute remote learning with the following parameters in mind:

1. Leveraging our existing technology capabilities while being mindful of screen time
2. Encompassing a full program of learning with careful consideration that time spent learning at home is not equivalent to a full day at school
3. Providing instruction in a family friendly format to support parents in their new role as supporters of the *Learn at Home* program
4. Providing new opportunities for social interaction while we are unable to be physically together

To these ends we will be:

1. Caring for mental health needs with weekly teacher interactions with families;
2. Providing a weekly learning curriculum package that includes all four subjects (ELA, Math, Science, and Social Studies) along with Art, Music, and Physical Education;
3. Posting all learning to our website;
4. Using Google Classroom in grades 2 – 6 for online learning;
5. Planning instruction that minimizes resources, such as using online tools, plain paper, pens/pencils, crayons or colored pencils, and other readily available household objects;
6. Using our district and school Twitter accounts to make social connections with the community and share our *Learn at Home* experiences.

Yesterday, the New York State Education Department announced a partnership the department has forged with public broadcasting stations across the state as well as the launching of the NYS Education Department's continuity of learning website. Long Island's PBS station is WLIW. New York City's PBS station is WNET. Many Long Island subscribers to Verizon FiOS, Cablevision (Optimum), Direct TV and Dish Network have access to both public broadcasting stations.

Both stations are providing “learn-at-home” enrichment for students through programming and online educational resources. Check your service provider’s channel guide for specific station channels. The websites for the two PBS stations are:

WLIW: <https://www.wliw.org>

WNET: <https://www.thirteen.org>

PBS has ensured that its content will be aligned to state and national learning standards, so parents can feel comfortable that it will reinforce what their children are being taught at the local school level. PBS is also providing additional educational information and resources developed in conjunction with local school districts, BOCES, parents, and teachers through its website, PBSLearningMedia.org. PBS Learning Media provides original digital content and supplemental viewing guides for on-air programming that assist in learning. New special collections have been created for each grade level to make it easy for parents and teachers to select appropriate content if they are new to using the service.

The State Education Department’s [Continuity of Learning Resources](http://www.nysed.gov/edtech/continuity-learning) website provides resources for both school districts, teachers, parents and students. The website can be found at <http://www.nysed.gov/edtech/continuity-learning>. For specific suggestions on online learning resources, visit the ‘Technology Options’ section of the site. There is also a section for non-technology learning options.

Our principals will be reviewing this latest resource to organize more family-oriented opportunities for afternoon learning. Working together, we can promote a positive mindset among our district community. We strongly believe that we can make the most of this challenging situation, remaining open to new possibilities. We invite you to join us as we learn and grow together.

Parents can reach out to their child’s teacher or the principal with questions, concerns, or for assistance. We may not physically be in our buildings, however, we are here to support you in any way we can.

As always, visit the district website at [www.valleystream13.com](http://www.valleystream13.com) and join us on Twitter @VS13UFSD.

Sincerely,



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