



Valley Stream UFSD Thirteen

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

May 1, 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 as news about regulations and expectations unfold relative to extended school closures in New York State.

Governor's Executive Order – School Closures Extended through End of June

In his daily briefing today, Governor Cuomo made the decision to extend the statewide closure of schools for the remainder of the academic year in New York State due to the COVID-19 pandemic. We will continue to enhance the interactivity and scheduling of our *Learn At Home Program* to be responsive to the needs of our students and families. We hope that you find the changes that have been made helpful and supportive. If you have questions and or concerns, it will continue to be important for you to reach out to your child's teacher and/or principal.

Kindergarten Registration

We are very close to finalizing the 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, 568-6260).

Additionally, our learning specialists have also developed a virtual and interactive kindergarten assessment instrument that we will utilize to conduct kindergarten screenings this year. These screenings will be interactive, engaging parents, students, and our educators to glean the information necessary to best understand the needs of your son or daughter as they get ready for kindergarten in September. We are excited about this new option for our students and families, and we hope that you enjoy your participation in this process.

Summer School

We are currently evaluating all of the summer school programs that we would typically offer in the Valley Stream UFSD Thirteen. This includes voluntary programs such as the hockey program, summer recreation, and kindergarten readiness. Of course, we must also be mindful of the more regulated or mandated programs that service our students with special or English Language Learning needs. Having said this, we know that being planful regarding how we can convene summer school in a safe fashion must be aligned with all of the federal and state

guidelines that will keep everyone healthy. We are currently working through this process and will share this information with you when we have concrete steps that will be followed.

Graduation

Many of us have had graduation on our minds for several weeks. Simply put, it's just one of those momentous events that create memories that last a lifetime. And, we want to get it right! It is for this reason that we've made the decision to engage our sixth grade parents and students in a Thought Exchange to gain information from you about the creative ideas that we've developed and that are being generated across the country. Please look for the opportunity to participate in this information sharing during the week of May 11th. Not to worry, we will send you a reminder using all of the communication tools that we typically employ. Working together, we will ensure that our children and families have the most wonderful chance to memorialize their achievements as valued members of our schools and community.

Childcare Prioritizing First Responder and Essential Worker Families

The childcare program prioritizing first responder and essential worker families will continue at no charge a result of the Governor's Executive Order regarding this issue.

Enrollment is still limited to those that work in one of [these](#) industries. The camp is 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 or call her at (516) 675-1071. Mrs. Rainsbottom will then follow up with the direct link to register.

We will continue to work to be responsive to our school community. Thank you for the feedback you have provided to help guide our work.

Stay safe and be well.

Very truly yours,

Constance D. Evelyn

Dr. Constance Evelyn
Superintendent of Schools