



Valley Stream UFSD Thirteen

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

May 20, 2020

Dear Parents of Graduating Sixth Graders,

Thank you for your participation in the Thoughtexchange regarding our celebrations honoring our graduating sixth graders. We are also grateful for those who have written to us expressing their feelings and suggestions about our upcoming celebrations. We all agree that this is an important milestone in the lives of our students and families, and this year has not been what anyone anticipated regarding the special moments associated with the conclusion of our students' experiences at Valley Stream Thirteen. In order to honor the achievements of our students in a meaningful way while respecting social distancing laws set by Governor Cuomo's Executive Order, the district will acknowledge the Class of 2020 with two distinct celebrations.

The first ceremonies will be held for each individual sixth grade class in our district at the James A. Dever School. We are creating an outdoor stage area to recognize students with their immediate family members, teachers, principal, Board Members, Superintendent and many others. Each class will be assigned a specific time period on either June 11th or 12th for their individual ceremonies. Each graduate will be allowed to have one car of loved ones they wish to attend. These family and friends should remain in their cars at a safe social distance, however graduates will be called up to the stage to have their photo taken with their diploma and teacher, again, at a safe social distance. A detailed letter regarding these celebrations will be shared with you on May 22nd developed by your building principal(s).

The second set of ceremonies will occur virtually by building on the evenings of the originally scheduled graduations, June 22-25. These livestream events will feature the speeches, photo montages and music that are characteristic of our typical graduations, and each graduate's name will be called to officially mark their achievement. Because attendees need only click a link to view the ceremony, each student may have as many family members as they would like to access this special evening. The complete graduation package will be available to all families as a memento of this wonderful occasion.

We believe this two-part plan will provide our students with a memorable graduation experience while respecting the Executive Orders in place for New York State and Nassau County, which ban large gatherings and require individuals to maintain six feet of distance when in public. We thank you for your participation in this decision-making process, and we look forward to the celebrations ahead!

Warmest regards,

Constance D. Evelyn

Dr. Constance Evelyn
Superintendent of Schools