



## A Note from Dr. LaRocca

### It's a Treat!

I am very pleased to announce that free breakfast and lunch will now be available in all four schools starting tomorrow, Wednesday, November 1<sup>st</sup>. Every student in the district is eligible to receive 1 free breakfast and 1 free lunch daily. We are able to provide this as a result of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) expanding access to the federal Community Eligibility Provision (CEP). CEP allows eligible schools participating in the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs to offer school meals at no charge to all students. Please be aware that this does not include A La Carte items such as ice cream, chips, pretzels, cookies, etc. No further action is required on your part to access this new benefit. Unfortunately, we cannot adjust any meal account balances preceding November 1<sup>st</sup>. If you have any questions, you can contact the VS13 Business Office at 516-568-6110.

The district's administrative team is currently in the budget planning process. You may find this surprising since the budget is not presented until March, however, planning takes place almost as soon as the school year begins. This ensures that we are effectively aligning our resources to district goals. Primarily we are focused on maintaining our comprehensive education programs in a fiscally responsible way. At this time, we would like to include the community in our planning. Families can participate in a budget planning ThoughtExchange from now through Monday night. ThoughtExchange allows you to post thoughts and return to rate the thoughts of others for the duration of the exchange. Please share your thoughts and return to rate thoughts often over the next few days. The ThoughtExchange question is:

#### **As we plan for the next school year, what are your top priorities for the 2024-2025 budget?**

You can join the ThoughtExchange [here](#) or use the QR code. You can also participate by navigating to [tejoin.com](https://tejoin.com) and entering the following 9-digit code: 464-816-080.

Next week schools are closed for students on Tuesday, November 7<sup>th</sup> for Election Day. Schools are also closed on Friday, November 10<sup>th</sup> for Veteran's Day. You can find calendar information and more on the district website at [www.valleystream13.com](http://www.valleystream13.com).



For the most up-to-date district information follow us on X (formerly twitter) @VS13UFSD and Facebook or visit [www.valleystream13.com](http://www.valleystream13.com). My email is [jarocca@valleystream13.com](mailto:jarocca@valleystream13.com), please do not hesitate to connect with me.