



A Note from Dr. LaRocca

VS13's Amazing Awards

For the second year in a row our district has been named **Best Community for Music Education** by the NAMM Foundation. This award recognizes schools and districts across the United States for their commitment to and support of music education. With over 740 students actively participating in chorus, band, and orchestra we continue to foster a rich musical environment for all. In addition to choosing an instrument in 4th grade, our 3rd graders begin to learn instrumental music by playing the recorder during general music instruction. Our 6th graders participate in learning to play the ukulele, and all our prekindergarten students have exposure to music as part of our robust early childhood program. None of this would be possible without the unwavering support of the Board of Education, the dedication of our families, and the tireless efforts of our talented music teachers. Their commitment to nurturing the musical talents of our students is truly commendable.

This week we learned that three students in Mrs. Best's class at Howell Road have been invited to the **2024 Championship Finals Tournament for First in Math** at SUNY Albany on June 1, 2024. This is the second year we've had a team qualify for this exciting math skills tournament. We congratulate Mrs. Best along with Carl Gervais, Hashir Gondai, and Adam Lopez Aguilar. First in Math is a wonderful supplemental math program that is provided at no charge to all districts in New York State. Good luck at the tournament!

Positive leadership matters, and I am pleased to announce that our own Board of Education Trustee, Milagros Vicente, will be honored by the Nassau-Suffolk School Boards Association with the **Outstanding School Board Service Award** at their annual meeting in May. Congratulations to Trustee Vicente and thank you for your service to public education and Valley Stream UFSD Thirteen.

This tapestry of achievements and accolades showcases our district's commitment to excellence in both music education and mathematics. From being named the Best Community for Music Education for the second consecutive year to celebrating the success of our students in the First in Math Tournament, we take pride in the diverse opportunities we provide to nurture the talents of our youth. Furthermore, the recognition of Trustee Milagros Vicente with the Outstanding School Board Service Award exemplifies the dedication of leadership within our district. As we look ahead, let us continue to champion education, inspire excellence, and foster a vibrant learning community where every individual thrives.

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