Summer 2023

It's Elementary

VALLEY STREAM UFSD THIRTEEN

Annual Field Days Wrap Up a Great School Year

James A. Dever Elementary School

This year's Field Days were a blast! During the end of May, all grade levels at James A. Dever Elementary School took part in Dever Unplugged. This was an outdoor, year-end celebration in which each class rotated through different stations. Students participated in activities such as drum circles, sack races, tug-of-war, egg drop engineering and rock garden painting.

Howell Road Elementary School

The weather was perfect for Howell Road Elementary School's annual Field Day, where students in pre-kindergarten through sixth grade had a great time playing various games and activities. Students participated in a sack race; a three-legged race; a water relay; throwing and running events; and—the biggest hit—the tug-of-war! The day was a true group effort with many staff members assisting at different stations—students were even invited to participate in an art station and a music station. It was a great time for everyone to be outside together enjoying the beautiful day.

Wheeler Avenue Elementary School

Students in grades 4, 5 and 6 at Wheeler Avenue Elementary School traveled to Fireman's Field for this year's field day festivities. Students participated in more than 50 races and events, including the potato sack race and tug-of-war. There were two teams of student-athletes: blue and gold, to represent the school colors. The events brought together community members to help run the activities and cheer on the children. It was a fun day for everyone!

Willow Road Elementary School

On May 19th, Willow Road Elementary School celebrated an Olympics-themed Field Day 2023. Thanks to the Willow Road PTA, students were treated to music curated by a DJ, ice cream, and a fun obstacle course. The day was filled with smiles, laughs, dancing, teamwork and many memories made to last a lifetime.

Moving Into the Future

At the end of each school year, all of the elementary schools in Valley Stream UFSD Thirteen hold special moving-up ceremonies. It is a time of celebration, when teachers and staff are joined by students' families to recognize our scholars' hard work over the years. As our students wrap up this chapter of their academic journeys, the members of this District look forward to seeing what they will accomplish in the future. Congratulations to each of our graduating sixth graders!

JAMES A. DEVER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

HOWELL ROAD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

WHEELER AVENUE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

WILLOW ROAD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

District Named 'Best Communities for Music Education'

Valley Stream UFSD Thirteen has been designated as one of the 830 school districts around the country to be named a Best Communities for Music Education by the National Association of Music Merchants (NAMM) Foundation. There are more than 13,800 public school districts in the United States; to be one of only 830 selected represents a great achievement for our District and our music department. Now in its 24th year, the NAMM Foundation has acknowledged schools and districts across the country for their commitment and dedication to music education. The survey that is conducted to determine which school districts receive the honor measures a variety of factors, including a budgetary commitment to music, opportunities to learn music, the presence of qualified, certified music teachers, adherence to state and national standards, types of musical experiences offered and opportunities for performance and competitions.

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Music Department Highlights

NYSSMA Majors

The Wheeler Avenue Elementary School Music Department attended NYSSMA Majors this past May. Each performing group prepared three pieces for evaluation at this state-sponsored event for nationally recognized adjudicators. The following are the results of this festival:

- Chorus – Silver
- Band – Gold
- Orchestra - Gold with Distinction

NYSSMA Solo Festival

This year, 211 students from Valley Stream School District Thirteen participated in the Piano, Vocal and Instrumental NYSSMA Solo Festivals. Our students performed exceptionally well and demonstrated exemplary results:

- 1 student received an A
- 168 students received a rating of Outstanding
- 40 students received a rating of Excellent
- 2 students received Comments Only

Marching Band

On May 29th, the Valley Stream UFSD Thirteen Marching Band—comprising fifth and sixth grade musicians from Dever, Howell, Willow and Wheeler—participated in the Valley Stream Memorial Day Parade. Band directors Cynthia Shannon, Glenn Guidone, William Shelley, and Corina Antonucci prepared the musicians for this annual parade.

Music in the Parks

On June 2nd, James A. Dever and Howell Road elementary schools attended the Music in the Parks festival in Pennsylvania. Each musical group performed a selected repertoire for a panel of adjudicators and here are the results from the competition:

- James A. Dever Full Orchestra - First Place Superior Rating
- James A. Dever Chorus - First Place Superior Rating
- James A. Dever Band - First Place Superior Rating
- James A. Dever Jazz Band - First Place Superior Rating
- Howell Road Chorus - Second Place Excellent Rating
- Howell Road Orchestra - First Place Excellent Rating
- Howell Road Band - First Place Superior Rating and Overall Elementary Band