



VALLEY STREAM SCHOOL DISTRICT 24

75 Horton Avenue, Valley Stream, New York 11581-1499

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Mr. Unal Karakas
Superintendent of Schools

April 19, 2024

Dear Parents and Guardians,

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As we approach the upcoming spring break, it is a great opportunity to reflect on just some of the exciting new initiatives we have put in place thus far this school year. Our short and long-term commitment to innovation and collaboration has led to exciting changes aimed at enriching the educational experience for our students. This year we introduced a vegetarian meal option for our students, a direct result of listening to the voices of our Student Council and the dedicated efforts of our food service workers. Additionally, we have introduced mid-year parent-teacher conferences to foster open communication and support tailored to each child's needs. Furthermore, I am pleased to announce that we have successfully provided free meals to all our students, ensuring that no child ever goes hungry. All of this is in addition to the hard work our staff continuously put in each day to support student learning.

In response to community feedback gathered through a survey I sent earlier this year, I am excited to inform you that our summer school program will now extend to a 5-hour format, providing enhanced enrichment and intervention opportunities for our students. More details about our summer program will be shared by your building principal soon.

I am also excited to share that our proposed 2024-25 school year budget will not only maintain existing programs, but it will expand on it to support exciting new initiatives. Our focus is on preparing students for the future while maintaining fiscal responsibility. Plans for the upcoming school year include expanding our Spanish program to grades 3 through 6, extending the Challenge program to grades 4 through 6, and begin redesigning classrooms to align with 21st-century learning standards. Additionally, based on community input, we are adding propositions to prioritize measures to enhance school safety and provide window-unit air conditioning for schools currently lacking this amenity. Budget presentations will be scheduled for early May, with the dates outlined on our district website.

We are entering a very exciting time in our district as we work to innovate, support, and enhance our teaching and learning opportunities for our students and staff. I wish each of you a wonderful and restful spring break. Thank you for being an integral part of our Valley Stream 24 family!

Sincerely,

Unal Karakas
Superintendent of Schools

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