

# VALLEY STREAM 24 REOPENING PLAN

2023-24



BACK  
to  
SCHOOL



**Valley Stream 24**  
LOOK FOR THE AWESOME





# VALLEY STREAM 24- LOOK FOR THE AWESOME!

Valley Stream 24 is committed to providing a safe and healthy learning environment for all students and staff during the 2023-2024 school year.

We pride ourselves on our commitment to excellence and creating an inclusive, academically rigorous, and supportive learning environment.

Our mission is to ensure that all students have the opportunity to reach their fullest potential, and we are excited to welcome our students and staff back for the 2023-2024 school year.

The district acknowledges the importance of health and wellness in preventing the spread of viruses, and it strongly recommends that students and staff stay home if they do not feel well.

# STAY HOME WHEN UNWELL

As we prepare for the reopening of our schools for this school year, the health and safety of our students, staff, and the entire school community remain our utmost priority. We understand the significance of promoting health and wellness to prevent the spread of viruses and to maintain a conducive learning environment.


To this end, we continue to implement health and safety measures that align with the latest guidelines and recommendations from the Nassau County Department of Health. As such, students and staff members who are experiencing symptoms of illness, including but not limited to fever, cough, sore throat, body aches, or fatigue, are strongly encouraged to stay home. This measure aims to reduce the risk of spreading viruses within the school community.





# COVID-19 PROTOCOLS

If a student or staff member tests positive for Covid-19, the current protocol, based on Nassau County Department of Health guidance, should be followed as such:

- a. Isolation: The affected individual should isolate for five calendar days from when symptoms began or five days from the date of the positive test if asymptomatic.
  
  - b. Return to School: After the initial isolation period, the individual can return to school if symptoms are improving and is encouraged to wear a mask while around others for an additional five calendar days.
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# PROCEDURES

We anticipate a much more normal school year, as there are currently no specific restrictions to social distancing during the 2023-2024 school year.

Masks are not required for students and staff during regular school activities. Any student or staff who prefers to wear a mask, however, can do so. Also, any person returning from Covid-19 isolation, is encouraged to wear a mask between days 6-10 while around others as per the latest Nassau County Department of Health guidelines.

Additionally, in the event of low air quality levels, students and staff can wear masks if they choose to do so. If air quality becomes unhealthy for all groups, the district will communicate with all if restrictions or changes to instruction become needed.



# SCHOOL MEALS PROGRAM AT VALLEY STREAM 24

Valley Stream 24 remains committed to ensuring that every student enrolled in the school lunch program has access to nutritious meals on a daily basis. As part of this commitment, we will be returning to the standard National School Lunch program.

The National School Lunch program provides an excellent opportunity for families to apply for free or reduced-priced meal status if they meet the eligibility criteria. We encourage all eligible families to take advantage of this valuable benefit.

To facilitate a convenient and hassle-free experience, we highly recommend utilizing the pre-payment option offered by our district through [eZschoolpay.com](https://ezschoolpay.com). This platform allows you to make pre-payments for your child's meals, streamlining the process and ensuring that they have access to balanced and delicious food every school day.

Valley Stream 24 utilizes Whitsons Food Service for our meals. We are dedicated to promoting the well-being and academic success of our students, and the school meals program is an essential aspect of this commitment. By working together, we can ensure that every child receives the nourishment they need to thrive in their educational journey.





# IN-PERSON INSTRUCTION/ INCLEMENT WEATHER

In-person instruction will occur daily from 8:25 am to 2:55 pm, with morning arrival beginning at 8:10 am. Your child's school will provide more information on arrival and dismissal procedures.

If the need ever arises to pivot to remote instruction for an emergency reason, including but not limited to, a power outage or extreme inclement weather, families would be notified of this through School Messenger and our district website.



# TECHNOLOGY

Devices and internet access will be supplied to students and educators. Ongoing professional development and support in the realm of remote learning, should there ever be a need to pivot to remote learning, will continue to be extended to staff. This commitment will persist into the future.





# CHRONIC ABSENTEEISM

We know that when children aren't feeling well, it's best to keep them home. However, we also want to emphasize the importance of regular attendance at school beyond health circumstances, as it significantly impacts our children's overall academic performance and personal growth.

It's crucial to understand that schools and districts are held accountable by the Every Child Succeeds Act (ESSA) for students who are chronically absent, which means those who miss more than 10% of the school year. We want to work together to ensure our children have the best educational experience possible. If you ever have any concerns about your child's extended absences, we encourage you to reach out and speak with your child's building principal. They are there to support you and your child throughout their educational journey.

Remember, the more our students attend school, the more they benefit from learning and achieve their fullest potential. Together, we can create a positive and enriching learning environment for all our children.

# BUDGET



Valley Stream 24 remains steadfast in its dedication to assessing its fiscal health. Over the summer, the District will finalize its yearly State Aid reporting with the NYS Education Department while concurrently submitting its annual School Funding Transparency Form to the NYS Department of Budget. The District upholds its commitment to regulatory compliance through successful audits and meticulous financial reporting. Furthermore, we are strategically harnessing grant funds, particularly those aimed at addressing learning loss resulting from the pandemic. Through vigilant monitoring of State Aid and various grant opportunities, we aim to optimize both funding streams, demonstrating our responsible use of resources and unwavering commitment to our students' educational needs.

# COMMUNICATION ENGAGEMENT IN VALLEY STREAM 24

Valley Stream 24 is committed to fostering strong connections and open lines of communication among schools, families, and the broader community. Effective communication plays a vital role in engaging our families and ensuring student success. We firmly believe in the power of collaboration between families, schools, and communities to create a supportive environment for our students.

Our comprehensive communication plan encompasses various channels to keep everyone informed and involved. The primary platforms we utilize are as follows:

**District Website ([valleystreamschooldistrict24.org](http://valleystreamschooldistrict24.org)):** Our website serves as a centralized hub for sharing all essential information, updates, and notifications. Families and community members can access timely news, events, calendars, and other pertinent details through this platform.

**School Messenger:** To enhance communication, we employ School Messenger, a reliable system for sending letters and notices directly to families. This ensures that important information reaches our families promptly.

**Social Media (Instagram and Facebook):** We will actively engage with our community on popular social media platforms, including Instagram and Facebook. Through these channels, we will share highlights, achievements, news, and upcoming events, as well as celebrating the accomplishments of our schools, staff, students, and greater community.

By leveraging these communication tools, Valley Stream 24 aims to maintain a strong sense of unity and collaboration within our educational community. We encourage active participation and feedback from all stakeholders as we work together to support the growth and success of our students.





# RULER

**Our commitment to inclusivity goes beyond academics. We recognize that each student has unique needs and strengths, and our dedicated team of educators and support staff are ready to nurture the social, emotional, and physical well-being of every child. By providing a holistic approach to education, we strive to create well-rounded individuals who are equipped to thrive in an ever-changing world.**

**Our district utilizes Yale's RULER Method as a cornerstone of our commitment to nurturing student social and emotional learning. Rooted in emotional intelligence, RULER equips our educators with invaluable tools to foster self-awareness, emotional regulation, and effective interpersonal relationships. By implementing RULER, we empower our students to understand and manage their emotions, facilitating a positive and empathetic school climate where learning flourishes. Through this method, we aspire to cultivate emotionally intelligent individuals who are well-equipped to navigate life's complexities with resilience and compassion.**





# CONCLUSION

Valley Stream 24 remains committed to maintaining a safe and healthy learning environment for all students and staff. The district will continue to monitor health guidelines provided by the Nassau County Department of Health and adapt the reopening plan as needed based on the guidance. Open communication between the school community and the district will be prioritized to ensure everyone is well-informed and supported.

We firmly believe that a strong partnership between families, schools, and the wider community is essential for student achievement. We encourage open communication and active involvement from parents and guardians in their child's educational journey. Together, we can create a supportive network that nurtures the growth and development of our students.

As we embark on this new academic year, we are excited to see our students flourish in our safe, nurturing, and intellectually stimulating environment. Our commitment to providing a well-rounded education and fostering a sense of belonging remains unwavering. Thank you for entrusting Valley Stream 24 with your child's education, and we look forward to a successful and fulfilling year ahead!

# THANK YOU!



[www.valleystreamschooldistrict24.org](http://www.valleystreamschooldistrict24.org)