



VALLEY STREAM SCHOOL DISTRICT 24
75 Horton Avenue, Valley Stream, New York 11581-1499
(516) 434-2825 • FAX: (516) 256-0163

Dr. Unal Karakas
Superintendent of Schools

August 17, 2026

Dear Valley Stream 24 Families,

**BOARD OF
EDUCATION**

Annette Matthew
President

Aisha Darby
Vice President

Alisa Clark
Thomas Dowling
John Maier
Salman Quader
Markus Wilson
Trustees

Brian Cleary
Treasurer

Guercio & Guercio, LLP
School Attorney

It is my pleasure to welcome you to the 2026–2027 school year! The first day of school on **Wednesday, September 2**, is just around the corner, and our entire Valley Stream 24 team is excited to welcome our students and families back for another year of learning, growth, and achievement.

This school year marks an exciting milestone for our district. For the first time, every classroom across all three of our schools will begin the school year fully air conditioned, ensuring comfortable learning environments for our students and staff from the very first day of school, including in our historic Brooklyn Avenue School. I would like to thank our Board of Education for its continued investment in our schools and our community for its support in approving this important capital improvement project. Together, these investments will benefit our students for generations to come.

Our commitment to preparing students for the future through Vision 2030 continues to grow. This summer, work began on one additional redesigned learning space in each of our schools. Once completed, every building will now feature four modernized classrooms designed to foster creativity, collaboration, communication, and critical thinking.

Students will also benefit from important enhancements to school safety. This school year, we expect to complete the implementation of a new electronic key fob access control and alarm system across the district. Rather than relying on traditional keys, authorized staff members will use secure electronic key fobs to access designated areas of our buildings, allowing us to better manage and monitor building access. The new system will also provide real-time notifications if an exterior door is unintentionally opened or accessed when it should not be, helping staff respond quickly. This project represents another important investment in maintaining safe and secure learning environments for our students and staff.

Throughout the summer, our facilities, custodial, technology, and administrative teams have worked tirelessly to prepare our schools for opening day. From refreshing classrooms and completing building improvements to preparing instructional materials and technology, their dedication ensures our students return to welcoming, safe, and engaging learning environments.

As we work on implementing a brand new strategic plan, our focus is on providing every child with an exceptional educational experience. We will continue strengthening the foundational skills of literacy and numeracy while fostering curiosity, creativity, collaboration, and critical thinking.

Our educators thoughtfully integrate technology in developmentally appropriate ways to enhance learning while maintaining the importance of hands-on experiences, meaningful relationships, and the joy of discovery. Above all, we remain committed to ensuring every student is supported, challenged, and inspired to reach their fullest potential.

We are also excited to welcome several outstanding new faculty and staff members to the Valley Stream 24 family. They are participating in summer professional learning and are eager to join our talented team of educators in serving our students.

Building principals will be sending families additional information regarding important dates and procedures for the opening of school. Please note that student class placements will be available through the Parent Portal beginning **Thursday, August 27**. Additionally, our district digital calendar is continuously updated on our district website at **valleystreamschooldistrict24.org**.

Thank you for your continued partnership and trust in our school district community. Together, we will make the 2026–2027 school year one filled with learning, opportunity, and memorable experiences for every child.

We look forward to welcoming our students and families back on September 2!

Warmly,



Dr. Unal Karakas
Superintendent of Schools