



VALLEY STREAM SCHOOL DISTRICT 24
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Dr. Unal Karakas
Superintendent of Schools

August 19, 2025

Dear Valley Stream 24 Families,

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EDUCATION**

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As the 2025–26 school year approaches, I am excited to welcome our students and families back to Valley Stream School District 24. The first day of school, September 3, 2025, is just around the corner, and we look forward to launching another year of learning, growth, and achievement together.

This year, thanks to the continued investment of our Board of Education, we are building on the momentum of Vision 2030 with exciting enhancements in every school. Students will benefit from two additional redesigned classrooms in each building, departmentalized instruction in grade 6, and expanded extracurricular club opportunities. Each of our schools will now have two permanent substitutes, providing continuity of instruction when teachers are absent. Our Spanish program will continue across grades 3–6, and our Challenge program will be offered in grades 4–6. All of this comes while remaining committed to Enrichment for All, ensuring every student has access to engaging, STEM-based experiences that inspire curiosity and creativity.

We are also proud to welcome a talented and diverse group of new staff members to our district. We will have the opportunity to recognize them at our September Board of Education business meeting.

While we know that one test score never defines a child, we use State Assessment data as one of many tools to guide our instruction from the very start of the year—whether it's providing targeted support or offering enrichment. In very exciting news, our students once again outperformed state averages in ELA, Math, and Science, with an exceptional **17% above the state average in Math!** These results reflect the dedication of our Board of Education, administrators, teachers, staff, and families, who work tirelessly and collaboratively to ensure every child receives a top-quality education in our district.

Behind the scenes, our custodial and facilities teams have been hard at work all summer preparing our buildings for the year ahead. They have polished classrooms and hallways, made necessary repairs, and ensured every learning space is ready to welcome students. Their attention to detail helps create safe, clean, and inviting environments for the start of school.

As we begin this new year, our dedicated principals, educators, and staff are eager to greet students with open arms—building strong relationships and embracing innovative teaching and learning. Together, we look forward to making 2025–26 a year of connection, creativity, innovation, and continued achievement.

Building principals will be sending families a welcome back letter this week with important upcoming dates. Please note that student class placements will be available on the parent portal beginning Thursday, August 28.

Here's to a wonderful year ahead!

Warmly,

Dr. Unal Karakas
Superintendent of Schools