



VALLEY STREAM SCHOOL DISTRICT 24
75 Horton Avenue, Valley Stream, New York 11581-1499
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Dr. Unal Karakas
Superintendent of Schools

May 11, 2026

Dear Valley Stream 24 Families,

**BOARD OF
EDUCATION**

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As we approach the final weeks of what has truly been an incredible school year, I want to take a moment to reflect on and celebrate all that we have accomplished together as a district community thus far.

This year has been filled with outstanding student achievement and meaningful experiences for our students. Our students earned top honors in the Olympics of Visual Arts, placing first through third, showcasing not only their creativity but their ability to think critically and innovatively. Academically, we have continued to see strong growth on both the New York State assessments and the NWEA, reflecting the dedication of our students, staff, and families.

We were also recently contacted by the Executive Director of Better Outcomes Research, who highlighted our schools for achieving exceptional results, particularly for students from economically disadvantaged backgrounds. They are eager to learn more about the practices that are driving this success in Valley Stream 24, which is something we can all be incredibly proud of.

At the core of this success is our Vision 2030 work. This year marked the first implementation of our departmentalized sixth grade model, which has been an overwhelming success. Students engaged in interdisciplinary learning experiences that foster collaboration, critical thinking, and real-world application of knowledge. This work continues to move us forward in preparing our students for the future.

We have also made significant progress in enhancing our facilities and ensuring student safety. Our air conditioning project is progressing nicely, with all units installed and electrical work currently underway. Additionally, our magnetic door hold open systems have been completed, ensuring that all classroom doors can be securely locked automatically in the event of a lockdown.

Our sixth-grade students once again had the opportunity to attend Ashokan, continuing a cherished tradition that provides lifelong memories and valuable learning experiences outside of the classroom.

As we look ahead to the events of June, we are thrilled to celebrate the achievements of our exceptional sixth-grade students. Graduation ceremonies will take place at William L. Buck School in an air-conditioned space to ensure comfort for all families.

Sixth grade students will be dismissed at 11:30 am on the day of their school's graduation. The dates for graduations are as follows:

- June 15, 2026 – William L. Buck School
- June 16, 2026 – Brooklyn Avenue School
- June 17, 2026 – Robert W. Carbonaro School

All graduation ceremonies will begin promptly at **7:00 pm**. These evenings will be filled with pride, joy, and cherished memories as we honor our students' achievements.

We also look forward to several exciting upcoming events, including our inaugural Little Mermaid drama club performance in June and our annual fifth grade soccer tournament in May.

Please take note of the following important dates:

- May 25 – Schools Closed (Memorial Day)
- May 27 – Schools Closed (Eid al-Adha)
- June 12 – Half-Day for Students (11:30 am dismissal)
- June 19 – Schools Closed (Juneteenth)
- June 26 – Last Day of School (9:30 am dismissal)

Looking ahead to next year, staff will report for Superintendent's Conference Days on August 31 and September 1, and the **first day of school for students** will be **Wednesday, September 2, 2026**.

Enclosed with this letter is a copy of the 2026–2027 Student Attendance Calendar for your reference.

As we prepare to close out this remarkable school year, I want to extend my sincere gratitude for your continued support and partnership. Together, we continue to innovate, inspire, and create opportunities for every student's success. I am incredibly proud of what we have accomplished and excited for all that lies ahead.

Warmly,



Dr. Unal Karakas
Superintendent of Schools



VALLEY STREAM UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT 24 CALENDAR FOR STUDENT ATTENDANCE 2026-2027

JULY				
M	T	W	T	F
		1	2	3
6	7	8	9	10
13	14	15	16	17
20	21	22	23	24
27	28	29	30	31

AUGUST				
M	T	W	T	F
3	4	5	6	7
10	11	12	13	14
17	18	19	20	21
24	25	26	27	28
31				

SEPTEMBER				
M	T	W	T	F
	1	2	3	4
7	8	9	10	11
14	15	16	17	18
21	22	23	24	25
28	29	30		

OCTOBER				
M	T	W	T	F
			1	2
5	6	7	8	9
12	13	14	15	16
19	20	21	22	23
26	27	28	29	30

NOVEMBER				
M	T	W	T	F
2	3	4	5	6
9	10	11	12	13
16	17	18	19	20
23	24	25	26	27
30				

DECEMBER				
M	T	W	T	F
	1	2	3	4
7	8	9	10	11
14	15	16	17	18
21	22	23	24	25
28	29	30	31	

JANUARY				
M	T	W	T	F
				1
4	5	6	7	8
11	12	13	14	15
18	19	20	21	22
25	26	27	28	29

FEBRUARY				
M	T	W	T	F
1	2	3	4	5
8	9	10	11	12
15	16	17	18	19
22	23	24	25	26

MARCH				
M	T	W	T	F
1	2	3	4	5
8	9	10	11	12
15	16	17	18	19
22	23	24	25	26
29	30	31		

APRIL				
M	T	W	T	F
			1	2
5	6	7	8	9
12	13	14	15	16
19	20	21	22	23
26	27	28	29	30

MAY				
M	T	W	T	F
3	4	5	6	7
10	11	12	13	14
17	18	19	20	21
24	25	26	27	28
31				

JUNE				
M	T	W	T	F
	1	2	3	4
7	8	9	10	11
14	15	16	17	18
21	22	23	24	25
28	29	30		

2026-27 Days of Instruction		
Month	T	S
August	1	0
September	20	19
October	21	21
November	18	17
December	17	17
January	19	19
February	15	15
March	21	21
April	15	15
May	19	19
June	18	18
	184	181

Key	
School Closed	
Supt.'s Conference Day	
First/Last Day Of School	

2026-27	
July 3	Independence Day (Observed)
August 31 & September 1	Supt.'s Conference Days
September 2	First Day of School
September 7	Labor Day
September 21	Yom Kippur
October 12	Columbus Day
November 3	Supt.'s Conference Day
November 11	Veterans Day
November 26-27	Thanksgiving Recess
December 24-January 1	Holiday Recess*
January 18	Martin Luther King Day
February 15-19	Winter Recess**
March 9	Eid al-Fitr
March 26	Good Friday***
April 22-30	Spring Recess ****
May 17	Eid al-Adha
May 31	Memorial Day
June 18	Juneteenth (Observed)
June 25	Last Day of School

*Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanza, New Year **President's Day, Lunar New Year
 Good Friday, Easter Sunday *Passover

Notwithstanding any policy, past practice or calendar notation to the contrary, in the event it becomes necessary to add days in order to ensure a 180 day work year, such days shall be added during the non-legal holidays of the Spring recess period and such other non-legal holidays as are necessary to ensure the work year as set forth above. Such days shall be specifically delineated in advance and set forth in the school calendar and shall be added to the work year beginning with the latest day thereof.
 Adopted: January 28, 2026