



VALLEY STREAM SCHOOL DISTRICT 24

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Our Kids Place Hosts Open House for Valley Stream 24 Students

VS 24 Superintendent Dr. Don Sturz visits Our Kids Place

Valley Stream (August 2021) - Our Kids Place, Valley Stream District 24's educational partner in offering the state-funded Universal Pre-K program to district children four years old by December 1, 2021, held an orientation and open house for incoming Valley Stream 24 Pre-K students and their families at the school's Hewlett location. Forty-four Valley Stream 24 children were registered during the registration period, eliminating the need for a lottery. Our Kids Place offered both in-person and virtual orientations. The in-person orientation and open house was held on Tuesday, August 10 from 4:00PM to 6:00PM and the virtual orientation was conducted on Thursday, August 12 from 5:00PM to 6:00PM. During the orientation, Our Kids Place staff answered questions from families about the Pre-K program and went over school policies and procedures to help both the children and their families be ready for the start of the school year.

"It was my absolute pleasure to visit with the Our Kids Place staff and students," said Dr. Don Sturz, Superintendent of Valley Stream District 24. "It is clear that the staff at Our Kids Place are professional in everything they do and that they truly care about our students. This is going to be an exciting and engaging year for these youngsters, one that will be fun, instructive and foster creativity and a love of exploration and learning, requisites for success in school and in life."

The Pre-K program for Valley Stream 24 children, which will take place at Our Kids Place Hewlett school, uses as its guiding principles the 4 F's: Fundamental, Fantastic, Fun and Fabulous. The curriculum covers subjects in mathematics, science, social studies, reading, phonics, and life skills. The lesson plans are created to inspire and to maintain the students' attention. Students also have the opportunity to participate in other activities such as ballet, piano, soccer and karate classes. The Our Kids Place program is accredited by the National Association for the Education for Young Children (NAEYC).

"Partnering with Valley Stream 24 to begin the education of the District's youngest students makes this year very exciting for all of us here at Our Kids Place. We are ready for a safe year, full of learning," said Lorraine Peters, the director of the Our Kids Place program. "The Universal Pre-K program we have developed in collaboration with Dr. Sturz and the extraordinary educators of Valley Stream 24 is designed to create an environment that is conducive to healthy learning for all students. Our goal is to engage students using a curriculum that is balanced and rigorous. Our goal is to ensure that the young Valley Stream 24 students we have been entrusted with complete this year with the foundational skills that will help them become independent thinkers, problem-solvers, and seekers of knowledge."

In addition, the District, through the state grant funds, is providing support, equipment, supplies and materials for the program.

