



## VALLEY STREAM SCHOOL DISTRICT 24

75 Horton Avenue, Valley Stream, New York 11581-1499

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Dr. Unal Karakas  
*Superintendent of Schools*

July 26, 2024

Dear Valley Stream 24 Families,

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It is with great pleasure that I introduce to you our new Director of Pupil Services, Ms. Juanita Walters. Ms. Walters brings with her extensive experience and dedication to special education, making her a valuable addition to our district.

Ms. Walters began her career as a special education teacher at P.S. 38 in East Harlem, where she taught in various special education settings, including a 12:1:1 special class. She was also selected as a Peer Collaborative Teacher in the NYC Department of Education, hosting classroom visits for other educators and showcasing a variety of research-based instructional strategies, curricula, and teaching methods to support diverse student populations.

Most recently, Ms. Walters has served as the Assistant Principal in charge of Special Education at P.S. 75 in Brooklyn. During her tenure, she supported the development of quality 504 plans and IEPs, conducted strategic data analysis, and implemented social-emotional learning programs. She served as the point person for crisis intervention and trauma-informed therapy, which has been instrumental in supporting students and staff. Ms. Walters has also been instrumental in grant writing, successfully securing funding for arts and technology programs to address her students' needs.

In addition to her administrative roles, Ms. Walters has established mentorship programs for students and led parent academies, enhancing family engagement and support. She has conducted strategic leadership conversations with school leaders, focusing on developing a teacher leadership pipeline and creating a special education liaison position in her school. Her extensive background and commitment to student success will make her an excellent addition to our district.

We extend gratitude to Ms. Angela Austin for her time and dedication in the role and wish her the best in all her future endeavors.

Ms. Walters' official start date is August 23, 2024. We look forward to a bright future under her leadership and are confident that her dedication to the well-being of our students, staff, and families will have a positive impact on our district community.

Sincerely,

Dr. Unal Karakas  
Superintendent of Schools

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