



VALLEY STREAM SCHOOL DISTRICT 24

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Valley Stream, NY (September 2021)—The Valley Stream District 24 officially welcomed its students back for the 2021-2022 school year on September 2nd. The day was filled with excitement as students streamed into all three of Valley Stream 24’s elementary schools for the start of a full time, in-school instruction year.

“The first day of school is always filled with anticipation and excitement for students and staff,” said Dr. Don Sturz, Superintendent of Valley Stream District 24. “Our staff, teachers, and administrators have done a tremendous job of preparing their respective schools to be safe and engaging environments to learn in. I have full confidence that we will have a successful school year.”

Valley Stream 24 dedicated the first days of school to welcoming everyone back, establishing connections, and attending to physical and emotional wellness. This was supported by school wide and classroom based activities in each building.

At Brooklyn Avenue, the students excitedly entered the building – with masks on - and greeted their new classmates and teachers for the first time. The students played a game called “Welcome Back Mindfulness Fun!” Students were given a sheet with a spin wheel and dice. The students rolled the dice and matched the numbers and colors on their sheets. Principal Comis visited Mrs. Walbrecht’s class, where the students were doing a “Wellness Lesson” as they read “The Pigeon Has to Go to School!” Mrs. Walbrecht’s and Mrs. Sandoval’s classes shared their favorite part of starting Kindergarten. They also went on a tour of the school building and greeted Principal Comis along the way.

At William L. Buck, the students enjoyed an ice breaker game outside with Principal Gaddy, who was sporting a mask that read, “This Principal loves her school.” The game was called “Hi5 Circle” where students stood in a circle and one student would say a statement out loud. Any students that agreed with the statement would give themselves a high five. The students also received a health and hygiene lesson to remind them of the importance of washing hands.

At Robert W. Carbonaro, the morning was dedicated to greeting students as they arrived at the school. Once all students had entered the building and had found their way to their respective classrooms, Principal Iacono visited each class to welcome the students and to talk to them about personal responsibility. Nurse Dempsey visited the primary grades to talk about the 3Ws which are: **wear** your mask, **watch** your distance and **wash** your hands. She also spoke about the excitement of making new friends. Robert W. Carbonaro’s theme of the day was “Getting to Know You” which was mentioned in the morning announcements. The quote of the day was “Be the one who makes others feel included.” The students were each provided with inspiration stickers to end their first day of school.