



VALLEY STREAM SCHOOL DISTRICT 24

75 Horton Avenue, Valley Stream, New York 11581-1499
(516) 434-2825 • FAX: (516) 256-0163

Summer Music Program with Valley Stream District 24

For 40 Valley Stream School District 24 students, this summer was filled with music as they participated in the District's popular five-week summer music program, which included string, band and choral components. Participating students included those who have been playing their instrument of choice for several years, as well as those just starting out.

"It is great to see these young musicians participate in our summer music program. I admire our students for demonstrating their passion and dedication for learning, especially during their summer vacation," said Dr. Don Sturz, Superintendent of Valley Stream School District 24. "In addition to enhancing their technical musicianship, this program also develops these youngsters' appreciation for music in general, which is part of our mission to engage and nurture the whole child."

Students attended class three days a week for 45-minute sessions. The program took place at Valley Stream Central High School. For the first time, this summer's program added a choral component, offering students an opportunity to sing together, and learn that their voices are as much an instrument to learn to "play" and enjoy as are a flute, violin, or a piano.

Rafael Yeni, the string instructor for the summer music program, noted, "the summer program is both a time to learn new skills and a time to have fun. While my students were expected to work hard at skill development, we also played musical games, played along with music videos, and performed for each other and as a group. This has been an immensely rewarding experience for me, especially since I was once a part of the music program as a student here in Valley Stream."

Marc Levenson, band and choral instructor in the summer music program, commented, "the fact that students are coming into school, on their summer vacation, multiple times each week because they are so eager to enhance the musicianship or first begin to learn how to play an instrument really speaks to the dedication and drive of our students and is yet another example of what makes Valley Stream 24 awesome. "