



## VALLEY STREAM UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 24

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Edward M. Fale, Ph. D.  
*Superintendent of Schools*

March 1, 2018

Dear Member of the Valley Stream 24 School Community:

The tragic events that took place in Parkland, Florida stunned our nation and changed the lives of many families forever. The thought that this type of event could happen again, in one of our nation's public schools, seems unthinkable yet a potential reality.

We want to assure you of our commitment to hold the safety and security of all our students above anything else. To that end, we are reviewing our procedures and taking action to improve our already effective system of controlling access to our buildings. We are working closely with the Nassau County Police Department and Nassau BOCES. The Police are increasing patrols around the schools.

In addition, we participate in a program with the Police whereby they have the ability to monitor our security cameras in an emergency. We met with the Police at the 911 Control Center this week and were advised the program is being upgraded to improve reliability and will be completed soon.

Internally we are taking the following steps to enhance security:

- We are immediately implementing patrols by licensed uniform security guards around the perimeter of our buildings while school is in session. There will be a security guard on the grounds of each building throughout each school day.
- We are purchasing additional security cameras as part of our "Smart Bond Grant." They will be added as they become available.
- A future goal will be to install electronic door locks in each building that will block intruders by ensuring that doors are always locked.

On an educational note, we are planning school activities for March 14 that will celebrate community and positive approaches to dealing with conflict and emotions. There will be time for personal reflection and compassion.

Sincerely,

Edward M. Fale, Ph.D.  
Superintendent of Schools  
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