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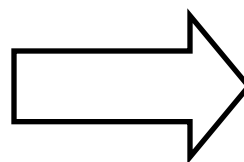
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Valley Stream Teachers Rise to the Challenges of a Pandemic School Year

This was a year for the history books, as the 2020 academic year began with uncertainty and unprecedented measures taken by teachers, staff and students, alike. VSTA, under the leadership of Rich Adams et al., was instrumental in the summer planning of the reintroduction to school, as we came to know it this year. Countless meetings and committees later, the Valley Stream Schools reopened with the hybrid model allowing students in various cohorts to be present for live instruction on an every-other-day basis, while utilizing the new devices distributed by the districts to make the new model possible, all while keeping a watchful eye on the Covid-19 Pandemic as it pertained to the safety of students and staff. VSTA was on high alert making certain that contact tracing was performed with each new positive case and schools within the Valley Stream district were closed for live instruction, when absolutely necessary.

As the year has progressed, we have seen classrooms that were virtually empty, to classrooms once again filled with socially-distant students. (see photos below) Throughout these very challenging times, we remained VSTA Strong thanks to the collective effort of the VSTA officers, teachers, and staff!



A Message From Retiree, Kay Olson

Dear Valley Stream Teachers' Association,

Thank you for the [editions of] the VSTA Newsletter. I appreciate the news and thank you also for the emails. I no longer see any notes from retirees or past colleagues. As I mentioned I taught in all 4 of District 13 schools and was a member of the VSTA Financial Committee. I used to appreciate the little notes sent in and printed, from retirees, in the newsletter.

Would you consider printing some news that retirees would like to see? And while I'm at it, it would be great if the VSTA would spearhead a movement for a Valley Stream Retirees Chapter as many other Long Island Districts have...

We spend our winters in Florida thru the grace of pensions and 403b's all helped along by the VSTA! Thank you! I retired 17 years ago and there is lots of life to be lived after retirement.

2003 Retiree District 13,
Kay Olson

(excerpted from letter to VSTA editor)

Calling all Retirees!

Please reach out and let VSTA know what you've been up to!

Feel free to email the editor:
Caldo202@gmail.com
Or send a letter to:

The Valley Stream Teacher's Association
738 Franklin Ave
Franklin Square, NY 11010

Don't Forget to Vote!

VSTA Elections will take place
on

May 19th

One hour BEFORE the school
day and 1/2 hour AFTER the
end of the school day!

**Annual School
Budget Vote:**

May 18th

In the next issue, meet the candidates!

President:
Tim Boyens and Noele Villa

VP of Communications:
John Reece and Thomas Schiavo

VP of Operations:
Ellyn Fitzgerald

VP of Membership:
Virginia Calderaro

Secretary/Treasurer:
Ronald Rini

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Jan./Feb. '21