

## DR. ROXANNE GARCIA-FRANCE

### *Superintendent of Schools*



### FAVORITES

Ice Cream Flavor:  
*Salted Caramel Cluster  
Cashew Milk*

Favorite Sport:  
*Dancing*

Superhero:  
*Neytiri, heroine in Avatar*

Color:  
*Ruby Red*

Vacation Spot:  
*Negril, Jamaica*

Musical Artist:  
*Bob Marley*

Fiction Novel:  
*“Jungle Book” by  
Rudyard Kipling*

Television Show:  
*“Saturday Night Live”*

Movie:  
*“Avatar” by  
James Cameron*

### MEET DR. GARCIA-FRANCE

#### **Who would play you in a movie about your life?**

Eartha Kitt, she was a famous, versatile, international artist and social activist, who didn't let her adverse childhood experiences impact her ability to believe in herself, achieve her dreams and use her platform to advocate for others.

#### **Where did you grow up?**

Primarily on Long Island, New York as well as in Jamaica, West Indies. I am a second-generation immigrant. I was born in America, and I am of Cuban and Jamaican descent. When I was young, I was often treated differently because of my mixed cultural backgrounds. I struggled trying to figure out where I fit in with my family and school. As I got older, I learned I had the very best of

both worlds because being a second-generation immigrant allowed me to develop cultural perspective and empathy for others.

#### **What was the most difficult school subject for you?**

I grew up speaking two dialects of English, British English and Jamaican Patois. As a child, being fluent in both dialects made it difficult for me to learn American English in the areas of pronunciation, spelling, figurative language and grammar. Now I am fluent in three dialects of English. I am often asked, “Do you speak Spanish?” I speak and understand a little Spanish. For me it is important I keep learning Spanish because it's a part of my cultural identity.

#### **When did you know you wanted to become an educator?**

I knew I wanted to become an educator, when I decided to immediately pursue a Master of Education degree upon graduating from Baruch College with a Bachelor of Business Administration. I graduated in two years and began my life-long journey of educating, inspiring, and empowering students, teachers, and leaders.

#### **Why are you excited to rejoin the Valley Stream 30 school community?**

I am excited to rejoin a community whose commitment to diversity, inclusivity, equity, and access creates a culture of belonging and connection for all students to reach their maximum potential.

**If you could live anywhere, not on Long Island, where would it be?** It's not about a location for me. I want to live on a horse ranch which allows my family and me to activate and maximize the potential of families in our community with the assistance of therapeutic horses

**If you could have any superpower, what would it be?** Activator, Maximizer of Potential, aka AMP