



ARCHDIOCESAN COUNCIL MEETING

October 27-28, 2005 – Boston, MA

GREEK EDUCATION DEPARTMENT Report of the Direct Archdiocesan District Office

The *Direct Archdiocesan District Office of Greek Education* is responsible for overseeing the 11 parochial day schools and the 47 Greek afternoon schools, which operate within the Archdiocesan District (New York, Connecticut, and the District of Columbia).

Furthermore, the *Office* acts as the liaison between the 11 parochial day schools that are located in metropolitan New York and the New York State educational authorities and other nonpublic school officials for matters pertaining to the implementation of state curricula and mandated assessments. To successfully carry out its responsibilities, the *Direct Archdiocesan District Office* does the following:

Holds Meetings & Attends Conferences

- *Meetings:* Since the beginning of the new school year 2005-06, the Office has held **two** meetings with the day school principals of metropolitan New York: the first on *September 20th* and the second on *October 12th*. At the last meeting, the Office invited Dr. Robert Bedford, a curriculum and assessment specialist of the Nassau County BOCES, who informed the principals on the new tests that were mandated by the State of New York.
- *Meeting:* A meeting took place on *September 7th*, at the *Archdiocese of New York (Catholic)*, between the Archdiocesan District Office director, Mrs. Maria Makedon, and Dr. Mary Jane Krebbs, associate director of Education of the Archdiocese of New York. The purpose of this meeting was to discuss the collaboration of the two Archdioceses in providing in-service training to the teachers of the Greek-American day schools in New York City.
- *Conference:* The *United States Department of Education/Office of Innovation and Improvement* organized a ***Conference of the Private School Leadership*** that took place on *September 28th*, in Washington, DC. The *Conference* aimed at informing the private school sector (Independent and Faith-based schools) on the major programs of the ***No Child Left Behind Act of 2001*** that require the equitable participation and provide benefits to private school students, teachers and other education personnel, including those in religiously affiliated schools. (These services are considered to be assistance to students and teachers and not to private schools.)

Mrs. Maria Makedon, representing the Direct Archdiocesan District, attended the *Conference*, which included two panel discussions, numerous presentations, and a luncheon speech on the value of parochial/private education. *Ms. Margaret Spellings*, Secretary of Education, addressed the participants at the conclusion of the *Conference*.

Pertinent information regarding the programs offered through the ***No Child Left Behind Act*** was disseminated to the principals at their October 12 meeting.

Offers Assessment & Evaluation Tools

A major project of the *Direct Archdiocesan District Office* is the annual development and administration of the *Comprehensive Examination in Modern Greek*, a foreign language test that assesses student proficiency in listening, speaking, reading, and writing Modern Greek.

The *Examination* is given to public and parochial school students, in grades eight and above, in the State of New York and to a number of students in various other parts of the country. Students who successfully pass the Examination receive a “*Certificate*”, issued by the Archdiocese, which is accepted for credits in a foreign language by public high schools, colleges and universities.

The *2005 Comprehensive Examination in Modern Greek* was given last June to 552 students coming from 47 parochial day and afternoon schools and *five* public high schools, which offer Greek language courses. 96% of those students passed the *Examination* with an average grade of 91.5.

Supplies Teaching Materials

To assist the students in preparing for the *Comprehensive Examination in Modern Greek*, the *Archdiocesan District Office of Greek Education* proceeded in ordering a **second** publication of the two handbooks – one for the student and one for the teacher – that were published through a grant from the *Stavros S. Niarchos Foundation* a year ago.

The two handbooks contain 11 actual examinations, more than 200 communication tasks, directions on the administration of the test, an answer booklet, and an *Appendix* of the most commonly used Greek words, phrases, and grammatical structures. They are accompanied by *six* CDs that help students strengthen their ability to comprehend oral communication from native Greek speakers. Recommended for the teaching of Modern Greek to higher-grade students, the two handbooks are offered **gratis** to schools and interested students.

Offers In-Service Training

The *Archdiocesan District Office* is currently coordinating the work for its *Annual Staff Development Seminar* that is scheduled to take place on Tuesday, **November 8, 2005**, at the St. Demetrios High School in Astoria. The *Seminar* is held under the auspices of **His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios** and will include a variety of workshops that cover the whole spectrum of the English curriculum as well as the Greek.

The English workshops will cover areas such as: literacy in primary grades; integrating technology in the curriculum; the science lab; use of myths, legends, and folk tales to enhance social studies; ADD & ADHD disorders; classroom management and bullying prevention; and the new State tests in ELA and Math. The Greek teachers will attend four presentations and participate in a discussion.

In addition to the workshops, Mrs. Polaxeni Maouris Hillier, associate director of the *St. Photios Greek Orthodox National Shrine*, St. Augustine, FL will speak at lunchtime on “*Honoring the Memory of our Forefathers: Greek Pilgrims Arrive in America 1768.*”

Dr. I. Efthymiopoulos, director of Greek Education of the Archdiocese, is overseeing the workshops intended for the Greek teachers. Mrs. Maria Makedon, Direct Archdiocesan District director, has the overall coordination of the *Seminar*.