



GREEK ORTHODOX ARCHDIOCESE OF AMERICA  
DIRECT ARCHDIOCESAN DISTRICT OFFICE OF EDUCATION

**ARCHDIOCESAN COUNCIL MEETING**  
**May 1-2, 2014**  
Washington Marriott Wardman Park Hotel, Washington, DC

**PAROCHIAL SCHOOLS EDUCATION REPORT**

Maria Makedon, *Director*

**The District Schools**

**1) Day Schools**

There are **eight** parochial day schools currently (school year 2013-2014) operating in New York City. Their total enrollment is **2,376** students. This includes **219** students enrolled in the *Universal Pre-Kindergarten* (UPK) programs and **196** students enrolled in **five** pre-school centers.

**Notes:**

1. The *Jamaica Day School* of St. Demetrios Church ended its operation in September 2013 due to a steady decline in student enrollment that greatly impacted the School's finances.
2. The *Universal Pre-Kindergarten* (UPK) programs are funded by the New York State and operate as independent public school entities within our parochial schools. Such **UPK** programs co-exist at the following **four** parochial day schools: A. *Fantis School, Brooklyn*; *DGK School, Brooklyn*; *Greek-American Institute, Bronx*; and *St. Spyridon School, Manhattan*.
3. **Five** parishes maintain *pre-school centers* as follows: *St. Nicholas, Flushing*; *Holy Cross, Whitestone*; *Koimisis Tis Theotokou, Brooklyn*; *Archangel Michael, Port Washington*, and *Our Saviour Church, Rye*.

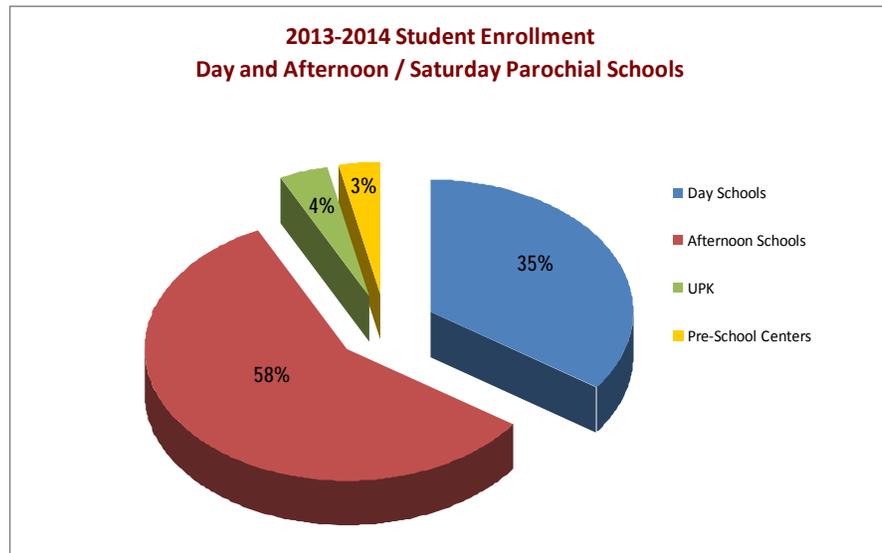
**2) Afternoon/Saturday Schools**

**41** Greek Afternoon/Saturday Schools currently operate (2013-2014) within the Direct Archdiocesan District. **3,292** students attend these schools.

In conclusion, the **total** number of students enrolled in the District's day and afternoon schools is **5,668**. The number of Greek teachers serving in the District schools is **236**.

*(This data are depicted in the statistical graph below. More graphs are attached at the end of this Report.)*

## STATISTICAL DATA GRAPH – DISTRICT DAY & AFTERNOON SCHOOLS



### The Education Office

The primary concern of the *Office of Education of the Direct Archdiocesan District* is the quality of education that the young students who attend the parochial day and afternoon schools receive. To assist the schools in offering a well-rounded high academic program – in both the English and the Greek curricula – the *Office* provides them with curriculum guides, in-service teacher training, and materials. And it represents the schools to the authorities at the federal, state and city levels.

The director of the *Office* attends and/or participates in various conferences and meetings that take place 1) at the U.S. Department of Education, Washington, DC; 2) the New York State Education Department, Albany, NY; and 3) the New York City Department of Education/Office of Nonpublic Schools, New York City, trying to make sure that the Greek Orthodox day schools abide by the federal and state mandates as well as spend wisely the allocated to them federally funded services.

For the current school year (2013-2014), the NYC parochial day schools received **\$51,498.00** earmarked for professional development and materials. Thus, the day schools were able to cover the cost of the District's annual *Staff Development Seminar*, held in November 2013, which included **11 workshops** geared toward their English program and a keynote speech delivered by a prominent educator. The rest of the money was spent on teacher in-service training, done on-site, as well as on graduate studies of qualified teachers serving in the day schools.

The director of the *Office* is a member of the *New York City Standing Committee of Religious & Independent Schools Officials*, which is comprised of representatives of the City's major religious institutions. This Committee meets regularly, throughout the year, at the New York City Department of Education / Office of Non Public Schools and with the Chancellor of Education of the City of New York.

In addition, the director of the *Office* is a member of the *New York State Education Commissioner’s Advisory Council for Nonpublic Schools*, which again is comprised of representatives of major education institutions from throughout the State. This *Committee* meets in Albany.

### Day School Principals Meetings

The *District Office of Education* holds meetings regularly with the principals of the NYC parochial day schools, in order to disseminate information, discuss, and plan various projects. Occasionally, the *Office* invites to these meetings representatives from the New York City Department of Education, who explain further the federally funded programs and assist the principals on how to apply. Representatives of various vendors are also invited to enlighten the principals on various educational materials and technology equipment.



### Events & Celebrations

The *District Office of Education* organizes a number of events, throughout the school year, in order to offer a) professional development to teachers and b) award students for excellence in Greek studies. Such events promote the Greek Orthodox heritage and the Greek language teaching and are as follows:

#### The District’s Annual Staff Development Seminar



Three-hundred (300) teachers and school administrators participated in the District’s annual **Staff Development Seminar** that was held on Tuesday, November 5, 2013, at the High School of St. Demetrios Cathedral, Astoria, NY.

His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios of America attended the Seminar and praised the participants, in His speech during luncheon, for their untiring work and devotion to the noble vocation of teaching.

Specifically, the Archbishop attended the presentation of Prof. Al Martino, director of Foreign Languages & ESL at SUNY, Albany, on the **“Fun Ways and Methods of Teaching a Foreign Language,”** a topic that captivated the attention of the Greek teachers. His Eminence also attended the presentation of Prof. Panagiotis Andreou on the **“The Pronunciation in the Language Classroom: Issues of teaching and learning”** and of Dr. George Papanastasiou, director of the *Institute of Modern Greek Studies* of the University of Thessaloniki, who made a special reference to the collaboration of the *Institute* and the *Direct Archdiocesan District Office of Education* for the development of the **Modern Greek Language Curriculum – Checkpoint B.**

The *Seminar* also featured a keynote speech on “*Leadership: Making the Home-School Connection*” by Dr. Ron Valenti and a presentation on the “*Communication and Culture through Student Centered Learning*” by Mrs. Vivian Selenikas, principal of the Long Island City High School, Queens, NY, another distinguished educator.

The very encouraging participation of educators serving in the parochial day and afternoon/Saturday Greek schools of the Direct Archdiocesan District, along with the very well structured and informative workshops and presentations, made the 2013 *Seminar* a great success.



### The Three Hierarchs Student Awards Event



The *Direct Archdiocesan District Office of Education* successfully organized a festive **Awards Ceremony**, again this year, honoring the students who excelled in the *Comprehensive Examination in Modern Greek* in June 2013, in conjunction with the Feast of the Three Hierarchs (January 30<sup>th</sup>) and in celebration of Greek Letters.

The Awards Ceremony took place on Saturday, February 1<sup>st</sup>, inside the Holy Trinity Cathedral in Manhattan and welcomed students from all over

New York as well as from neighboring states. More than three-hundred people attended, including Mr. George Iliopoulos, Consul General of Greece and Mr. Manos Koumbarakis, Vice Consul, as well as priests, principals, teachers, and family members of the honorees.

Addressing the audience, His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios of America referred extensively to the humble life and holy works of the Three Hierarchs - St. Basil the Great, St. Gregory the Theologian, and St. John the Chrysostom. His Eminence placed a significant focus on the writings of St. John the Chrysostom, which have impacted the writings of many contemporary thinkers. The Archbishop congratulated the 72 honorees and presented them with the *Three Hierarchs Award of Excellence*.

Ms. Yanna Darilis, production director and presenter of New Greek TV, was the keynote speaker. Using examples from her personal life, she explained how the Greek language helped her advance in her career. Young student, George Papastefanou, a graduate of the “*Stephen & Areti Tserpelis*” *Greek Afternoon School of St. Nicholas*, Flushing, also spoke about his personal experience as a student of an afternoon school.

In her welcoming speech, Mrs. Maria Makedon, director of the *Direct Archdiocesan District Office of Education*, congratulated the honorees and expressed her gratitude to the parents and teachers. Mrs. Athena Kromidas, principal of “*W. Spyropoulos*” *Greek-American Day School of St. Nicholas*, Flushing, presented the program and briefly commented on the importance of the Greek language.



The *Awards Ceremony* was followed by a beautiful artistic program that took place in the Cathedral Ballroom. The program was a dedication to the renowned Greek novelist **Alexandros Papadiamantis**, the *saint of Greek Literature*,” as Mrs. Makedon noted. It was arranged by actress Martha Tomboulidou and music professor, Vagelis Chazioglou. The *St. Demetrios Greek-American Day School Choir* performed songs based on A. Papadiamantis’ novels.

### The District's Spelling Bee Finals



The *Spelling Bee Finals* for the students of the New York City Greek American parochial day schools took place on Thursday, January 9<sup>th</sup>, with the blessings of His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios of America, at the Headquarters of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese.

Nicholas Molinaro, student of the *Cathedral School of Holy Trinity*, Manhattan was the finalist, while Alexandra Rachiele, student of the *Greek- American Insitute of Zoodochos Peghe, Bronx*, was the runner-up. Both students are in the 8th grade.

His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios of America presented each spelling bee champion with a *Certificate of Award* and a beautiful hardbound publication of the Metropolitan Museum of Art on *Greek Mythology*.

Mr. Nick Katsoris, Esq., author of the *Loukoumi Book Series* for young children and president of the *Hellenic Times Scholarship Fund* (HTSF), which sponsors this competition every year, presented each student with a \$100.00 check and the finalist with a \$500.00.



The Spelling Bee competitions are sponsored nationally by The E.W. Scripps Company. In NYC, the competitions are sponsored by the newspaper DAILY NEWS, while the *Direct Archdiocesan District Office of Education* coordinates the competition among the NYC parochial day schools.

## THE NY STATE PHILOSOPHY AND STANDARDS ON THE TEACHING OF GREEK AS A SECOND/FOREIGN LANGUAGE

The *District Office of Education* has long realized that the students who attend the District schools – especially the afternoon/Saturday ones – are mainly motivated to study the Greek language for a longer period of time if they know that they will receive recognition for their Greek studies by the public schools in the form of foreign language credits.

Foreign language “*credits*” are offered to the students by passing the *Comprehensive Examination in Modern Greek*, an **assessment tool** that measures the knowledge and skills in the Greek language, which is developed by the *District Office of Education*. The awarding of foreign language credits, however, has always been at the discretion of the local high school principal.

### The Comprehensive Examination in Modern Greek

The *2014 Comprehensive Examination in Modern Greek* is currently under development and is scheduled for administration on **Monday, June 23<sup>rd</sup>**.

The *Comprehensive Examination in Modern Greek* assesses student proficiency in *listening, speaking, reading, and writing* Modern Greek and is aligned to the **Checkpoint B** learning standards for Languages Other Than English (LOTE) as described in the *Syllabus* of the NYS Education Department “*Modern Languages for Communication.*”

The *Examination* may also afford high school students, who pursue studies in the Greek language for more than two years, the opportunity to earn a **Regents** diploma with advanced designation in the State of New York.



### The Curricula for Modern Greek Language – Checkpoint A & Checkpoint B

To support the validity of the *Comprehensive Examination in Modern Greek* and exhibit its compliance with the NY State standards on the teaching of languages other than English (LOTE), the *District Office of Education* has published *The Curriculum for Modern Greek Language – Checkpoint A* (beginners level) and is in the process of publishing *The Curriculum for Modern Greek Language – Checkpoint B* (intermediate/Regents level).



Both *Curricula* are in adherence with the **philosophy and standards** of the New York State Education Department. They were developed by the *Institute of Modern Greek Studies of the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki*, Greece, in collaboration and under the direction of the *District Office of Education* and are meant to be used as a guide by the teachers who prepare students for the *Comprehensive Examination in Modern Greek* to receive for foreign language credits.

## A Compilation of past Comprehensive Examinations in Modern Greek (2003 2011)

To assist teachers and students in preparing for the *Comprehensive Examination in Modern Greek*, the *District Office of Education* published a *Compilation* of nine past *Greek Examinations (2003 2011)* in **two** books – one for the **student** and one for the **teacher**. The two books include an abundance of authentic Greek texts, communication tasks for *speaking drills*, and a variety of topics for *writing compositions*. An *Appendix* of the most commonly used words, verbs, phrases, and basic grammar accompanies the *Student Edition*.



Intended mainly for the students preparing to take the *Comprehensive Examinations in Modern Greek*, these books could very well be used as **instructional material** for students in **grades 6 and above** and are offered at no cost.

## Our Website

The *District Office of Education* maintains its own web page - [www.education.goarch.org](http://www.education.goarch.org) - within the Archdiocese's main portal. The web page of the *Office* is updated often offering its visitors the opportunity to peruse an abundance of informative materials and resources as well as reports, school mailings, and current news of the *Office*.



Submitted by:  
MARIA MAKEDON

April 1, 2014