



GREEK ORTHODOX ARCHDIOCESE OF AMERICA

Direct Archdiocesan District Office of Education

REPORT TO THE 41st BIENNIAL CLERGY LAITY CONGRESS

June 30 – July 5, 2012

JW Marriott Desert Ridge Resort & Spa, Phoenix, AZ

Focus

The Direct Archdiocesan District Office of Education serves the parochial day and afternoon schools of the District. It provides schools with **a)** curricula and materials for the teaching of Modern Greek, **b)** in-service training to all teachers (Greek and English programs), and **c)** the *Comprehensive Examination in Modern Greek* as an assessment tool of student learning.

In addition, the District Office of Education represents the parochial day schools of New York at the **federal** (U.S. Department of Education, Washington, DC), **state** (State Education Department, Albany), and **city** (NYC Department of Education) education authorities.

The District Office of Education is also represented at the *Standing Committee of NYC Religious Schools Officials* by its director. This Committee consists of representatives from the following religious institutions: *the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of New York, the Roman Catholic Diocese of Brooklyn, the Board of Jewish Education, Agudath Israel of America, the Lutheran Schools Association, and the Islamic Schools Association.*

The District Schools

Following are the statistical data on the schools of the *Direct Archdiocesan District* for the current school year (2011-2012):

The Schools	Student Enrollment
9 Greek American Day Schools	2,066
47 Afternoon Greek Schools	3,370
5 Early Childhood Centers	<u>267</u>
	5,436 Total

Note 1:

5 Day Schools operate state funded programs (UPK) for pre-school children with an additional **290 students** in attendance.

Note 2:

270 Greek Teachers serve in the District day and afternoon schools.

(Please refer to the charts at the end of this Report for more information on the District schools.)

FEDERAL FUNDS ALLOCATED FOR THE NYC DAY SCHOOLS

The New York City Department of Education (NYC DOE) is responsible for ensuring that services are provided equitably to nonpublic schools throughout NYC under federal funding of Titles I-IV of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965. Funds for education services to nonpublic schools are proportioned according to the number of students attending these schools, their family's income, and their scores in state tests.

Under Title I, nonpublic schools receive supplemental education services in reading and writing, mathematics, and English as a Second Language (ESL) as well as ancillary student support services to students who demonstrate academic needs and live within the attendance area of a public school eligible for such services. Title IIA funds are allocated for the professional development of nonpublic school teachers to improve teaching and learning in those schools. Title III funds provide resources to children who are limited English proficient to help them attain English proficiency. And Title IV supports programs that involve parents and the community.

The **Division of Nonpublic Schools/21st Century Partners in Learning** of the NYC Department of Education consults regularly with the members of the ***Standing Committee of Religious and Independent School Officials***, in order to ensure that federal funds are appropriately distributed to the NYC faith-based schools.

As a member of the ***Standing Committee of Religious and Independent School Officials***, the director of the Office of Education of the Direct Archdiocesan District, Maria Makedon, participates in meetings with the NYC Chancellor of Education, **Dennis Walcott** as well as attends conferences held in Albany, the New York State capital, and at the U.S. Department of Education, in Washington, DC.

For the past two school years (2010-2011 and 2011-2012), the *Direct Archdiocesan District Office of Education* was able to secure approximately **\$197,000.00** in federal funds as a result of its direct communication with the authorities. The funds were spent – as required – on **teacher training** and for the **purchase of materials and equipment**, such as *textbooks*, *smart boards*, and *overhead projectors*. In addition, low performing students of schools that are located in low income populated areas received laptops as well as storage cabinets for books worth over **\$100,000.00**.

It is worth noting that **five** teachers who are currently serving in the NYC parochial day schools are doing graduate studies in colleges and universities, their tuition paid by federal funds.

CONFERENCES AND MEETINGS

Since the **40th CLC (July 4-8, 2010)**, the *Direct Archdiocesan District Office of Education* has participated in conferences and meetings representing the Archdiocese and the parochial day schools of the *District* as follows:

At the U.S. Department of Education, Washington, DC

September 22, **2010** - The **6th** Annual Private School Leadership Conference

September 28, **2011** - The **7th** Annual Private School Leadership Conference

The Conferences at the U.S. Department of Education are by invitation only. Participants have the opportunity to listen to panel discussions and receive information on new and innovative programs that are available to nonpublic school students and teachers. At both occasions, the **U.S. Secretary of Education, Arne Duncan**, addressed the group and shared their concerns.

Note:

The 8th Annual Private School Leadership Conference will be held on September 27, 2013.

At the New York State Education Department, Albany

November 14, **2011** – The 27th Annual Conference for Administrators of Independent and Religious Schools

Note:

The 26th Annual Conference for Administrators of Independent and Religious Schools (November 2, **2010**) coincided with the *Annual Archdiocesan District Staff Development Seminar*, and the District Office of Education and the NYC parochial Greek American Schools did not participate.

At the New York City Department of Education, Brooklyn

Fall 2010 September 15; October 20; November 17; December 15

Spring 2011 January 12; March 2; April 6, *May 11; June 15

Fall 2011 *September 14; November 9; December 13

Spring 2012 January 11; February 14; March 20; April 24; May 23; *June 12

Note:

The asterisk (*) indicates meetings of the *Standing Committee of Religious Schools Officials* with the **NYC Chancellor of Education, Dennis Walcott**, and his associates that took place at the headquarters of the NYC Department of Education.

At the Embassy of France, New York City

June 1, **2012** - A meeting on the *Teaching and Learning of Languages in New York State*, sponsored by the Office of Bilingual Education and Foreign Language Studies/The State Education Department, Albany.

MEETINGS OF DAY SCHOOL PRINCIPALS

Since the last **CLC (July 4-8, 2010)**, the following meetings of the principals have taken place at either the Archdiocesan headquarters or the St. Demetrios School in Astoria:

Fall 2010 September 30; December 2

Spring 2011 February 15; March 17, April 7; May 26

Fall 2011 September 23; December 13

Spring 2012 February 17; April 3; May 31



Meetings among the principals of the NYC parochial Greek American day schools stimulate discussion, build collegiality, and lead to better collaboration on projects that are beneficial to all schools. The Direct Archdiocesan District Office of Education has taken a leading role in organizing such meetings of the principals, at regular intervals. At these meetings, the Office invites representatives of the NYC Department of Education and other faith-based institutions as well as various vendors to inform principals on various issues and educational materials.

Such guests and their topics of discussion included the following:

- **Professor Roger Rooney** on Early Intervention Programs (Feb. 15, 2011)
- **Michael Stoff** and **Eric Lynn** of the NYC Nonpublic Schools Office on Title I and Title II Federal Funds allocated for low performing students and teacher education (March 17, 2011)
- **Dr. Robert Bedford** on Testing and Evaluation (Apr. 7, 2011)
- **Joan Benfatto** of the NYC Nonpublic Schools Office on Title III Federal Funds for the Limited English Proficient Students (December 13, 2011)
- **Linda Mitchell, Corinne DiStephan** and **Marlene Lund** (Wheat Ridge Ministries) on the local and national issues facing the Lutheran Schools (February 17, 2012)
- **Dr. Steven Albert** and **Lois Kessler** of the NYC Department of Education on Special Education & English Language Learning (April 3, 2012)
- **Caren Moncher Zayde** and **Dr. Ruth A. Abrams** of the NYC Division of Nonpublic Schools/21st Century Partners in Education on all issues concerning nonpublic school education in New York and the new state mandated tests on English Language Proficiency (May 31, 2012)

MAJOR PROJECTS & EVENTS

Following are the major projects and events of the Direct Archdiocesan District Office of Education that have taken place since the last CLC (July 4-8, 2010):

The Comprehensive Examination in Modern Greek

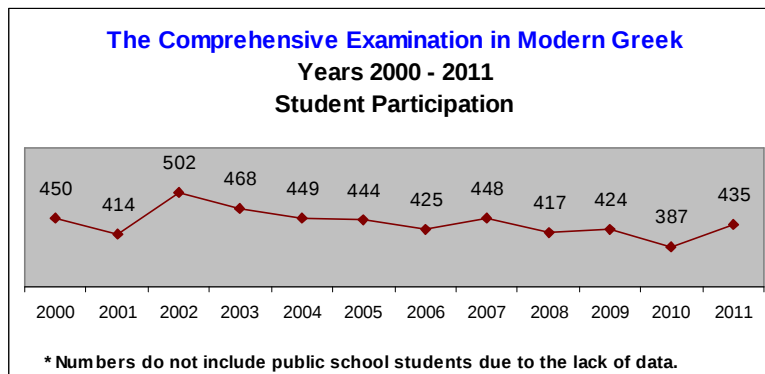
The *Comprehensive Examination in Modern Greek* is a foreign language test that assesses student proficiency in *listening, speaking, reading, and writing* Modern Greek. Public and nonpublic school students in New York who pass the *Examination* receive foreign language credit in high schools. It developed and administered by the District Office of Education in June of each year.



Despite the substantial changes made lately to the NY State Assessment Program that included the elimination of all comprehensive examinations in languages other than English, the Direct Archdiocesan District Office of Education continues its efforts to uphold the right of the Archdiocese to develop the *Comprehensive Examination in Modern Greek* benefitting the students of the parochial day and afternoon schools of the District. The Office estimates that more than 20,000 students have taken the *Examination*.

This year's *Comprehensive Examination in Modern Greek* is scheduled to be administered on **Monday, June 18, 2012** to **515** students at **12** test sites located in New York, New Jersey, Virginia and North Carolina. All in all, students from **48 Greek American day and afternoon schools** as well as from **4 high schools** and **1 Charter School** in New York will be taking the Examination.

It is worth noting that the number of students who have taken the *Comprehensive Examination in Modern Greek* during the past 10 years has remained almost the same as indicated in the Table below. (*This Table does not include public school students due to lack of information*)



The Curriculum on Modern Greek Language (at Checkpoint A)

In collaboration with the Institute of Modern Greek Studies of the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, the Direct Archdiocesan District Office of Education has developed a ***Curriculum of Modern Greek Language (at Checkpoint A)***.

The *Curriculum* was created in accordance with the standards and objectives of teaching a second/foreign language stated in the **Syllabus “Modern Languages for Communication”** of the New York State Education Department. It offers valuable guidance to the Greek teachers who prepare students for the *Comprehensive Examination in Modern Greek*.

The Annual District Staff Development Seminar



In November of each year, the Direct Archdiocesan District Office of Education organizes a ***Staff Development Seminar*** offering in-service training to the teachers of the day and the afternoon schools of the *District*.

Held under the auspices of **His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios of America**, the ***Seminar*** includes an array of workshops pertaining to the English and Greek curricula – covering pre-K to high school grades. More than **300** administrators and teachers attend the ***Seminar*** each year.

Since the last CLC (**July 4-8, 2010**), **two** *Staff Development Seminars* have taken place:

1) November 2, 2010 – St. Demetrios High School, Astoria

Professors of the School of Literacy & TESOL/St. John’s University and of Manhattanville College made special presentations on how to enhance the English program of the day schools. The Greek teachers attended the presentations of two distinguished university professors of the *Aristotle University of Thessaloniki*, Greece -- Dr. Georgios Papanastasiou, professor of Linguistics, who spoke on “*Loan Words: How to Use Them in Teaching the Greek Language*,” and Prof. Panagiotis Andreou, who entertained the topic “*Student Assessment of Language Skills*” that has an important bearing on modifying teaching strategies.

2) November 8, 2011– St. Demetrios High School, Astoria

His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios of America was the keynote speaker at this Teachers Seminar. Dr. Christos Tsolakis, professor emeritus of the Paedagogical School / Department of Elementary Education /The Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, addressed the Greek teachers on the topic “*Language, Paideia, & Teaching.*” Dr. Tsolakis is a renowned educator in the field of teaching the Greek language and writer of Greek grammar and other school books.

The Annual Spelling Bee Competition

The Direct Archdiocesan District Office of Education organizes a **Spelling Bee Competition** among students of the New York City parochial day schools. Local school competitions take place during the months of October-November. The *District’s* finals are held at the Archdiocese in December.

Since the last CLC (July 4-8, 2010), two *Spelling Bee Competitions* were organized by the District Office as follows: 1) on Tuesday, **December 14, 2010** and 2) on Tuesday, **January 10, 2012**.



The *District’s Spelling Bee Competition* is held under the auspices of **His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios of America**. The Archbishop congratulates and presents each finalist with a “*Certificate of Award*” and the Merriam-Webster’s Collegiate Dictionary. At this year’s finals, **His Grace Bishop Andonios** of Phasiane, Chancellor of the Archdiocese, sent a congratulatory letter, on behalf of the *District*, to each school bee along with a \$200 check and a \$500 check to the finalist.

For the past four years, Mr. Nick Katsoris, Esq, president of the *Hellenic Times Scholarship Fund* (HTSF) and author the *Loukoumi* Book Series, offers a \$100 award to each school bee and \$500 to the finalist.

The *Spelling Bee Competition* is an educational endeavor sponsored by *The E.W. Scripps Company*, in conjunction with over 260 newspapers around the world. Sponsors organize spelling bee programs in their locales and send their champions to the finals of *The Scripps National Spelling Bee* that takes place in Washington, DC, in the spring of each year.

The Three Hierarchs Awards Student Event



In conjunction with the Three Hierarchs Feast Day and in celebration of Greek Letters, the Direct Archdiocesan District Office of Education organizes, in January of each year, a special event to honor the students who demonstrate excellence in the Greek language. Honorees are selected on the basis of their score attained on the *Comprehensive Examination in Modern Greek*.

The Three Hierarchs Awards Student Event is held under the auspices of **His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios of America**, who presents the honorees with the *Three Hierarchs Award of Excellence*.

Since the last CLC (July 4-8, 2010), the following events have taken place:

1) Saturday, January 29, 2011 – Holy Trinity Cathedral, NYC

Mrs. Maria Perdikogiannis Zolotas, an educator and school board chairperson of the *Greek Afternoon School “Stephanos & Areti Tserpelis”* of St. Nicholas, Flushing, was the keynote speaker. She spoke on **“Studying Greek Language & Culture: A Pathway to Success.”** Mrs. Anne Prokop, principal of the *Greek American Institute*, Bronx, was the MC. The program featured a musical performance by the students of *St. Demetrios School*, Astoria, under the direction of Mr. Vagelis Hazioglou.

2) Saturday, January 28, 2012 – Holy Trinity Cathedral, NYC

Mrs. Aravella Simotas, a member of the New York State Assembly representing the Queens District, was the keynote speaker. The topic of her speech was **“Greek: The Language of Democracy.”** Mrs. Athena Kromidas, principal of the “W. Spyropoulos” Greek-American Day School of St. Nicholas, Flushing, was the MC. The program featured a musical performance by the students of “W. Spyropoulos” Greek-American School, under the direction of Ms. Areti Giovanou.

Useful Information & Resources Online

The Direct Archdiocesan District Office of Education maintains a **website** that offers visitors an abundance of informative documents, useful links, and a *Catalog of Selected Books and Resource Materials*. Please visit www.education.goarch.org.



The Direct Archdiocesan District Office of Education provides the day and afternoon **schools** of the District with curriculum guidelines, **teachers** with in-service training, and **students** with the *Comprehensive Examination in Modern Greek* to assess their knowledge of the Greek language.

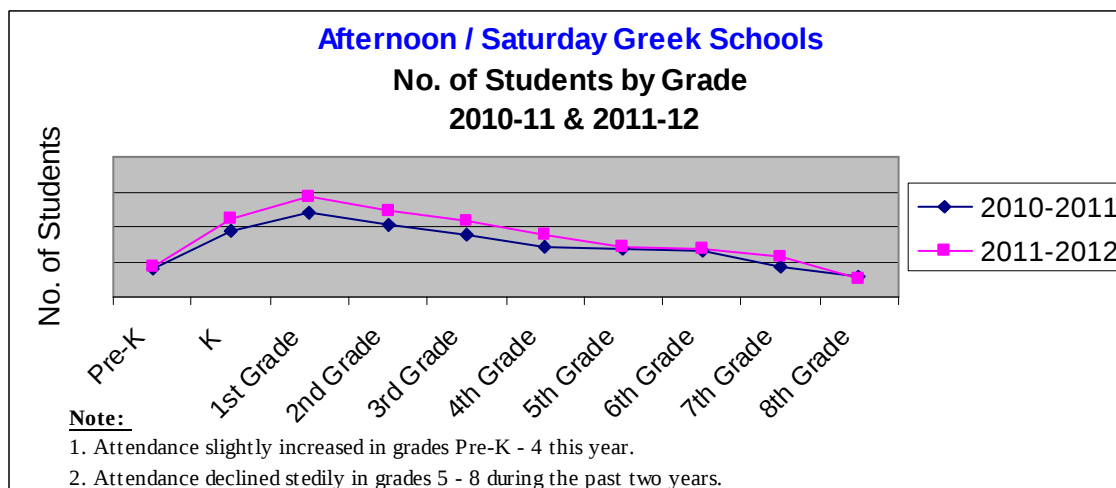
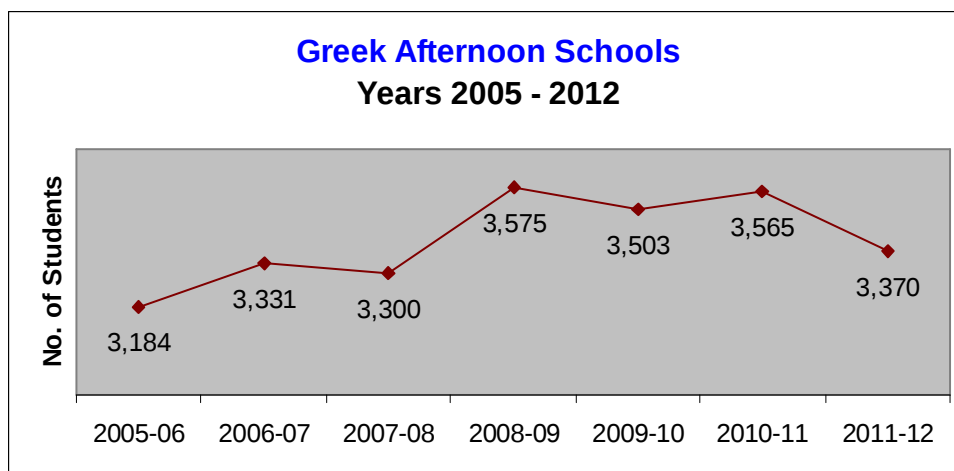
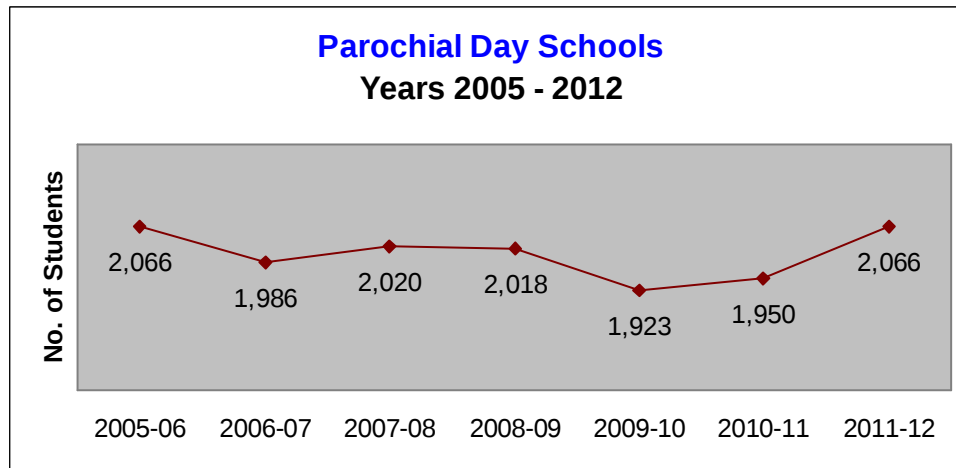
The Office strives to promote academic excellence and project the Greek Orthodox cultural heritage – an enormous task for the **two** employees of the Office – the director, Maria Makedon and an assistant, Efsthia Katechi. We believe, however, that we carry out our everyday work with efficiency, professionalism, and respect to all – clergy, administrators, teachers, students, and parents alike. And that not only energizes us, but it makes us feel very proud.

Respectfully submitted by:

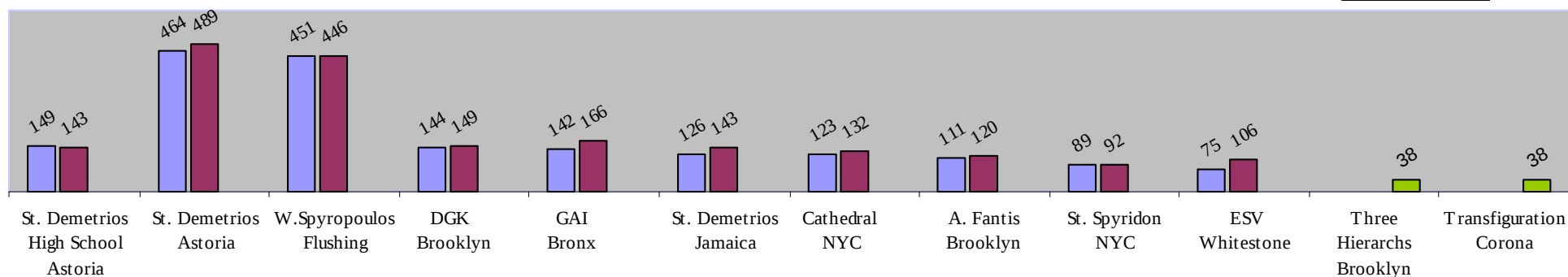
MARIA MAKEDON

Director

Direct Archdiocesan District School Enrollment Trends



NYC Parochial Day Schools Enrollment 2010-11 & 2011-12



Note:

2 Schools - the Transfiguration, Corona & Three Hierarchs, Brooklyn - closed down in September 2011.

Faith Affiliation of NYC Parochial Day School Students School Year 2010-2011

School	Greek Orthodox	Other Orthodox	Non Orthodox
D.G.K, Brooklyn	63%	6%	31%
Transfiguration, Corona	63%	7%	30%
GAI, Bronx	47%	2%	51%
The Cathedral, NYC	46%	9%	45%
A. Fantis, Brooklyn	40%	0%	60%
Jamaica	30%	55%	15%
Aristotle Academy, Brooklyn	25%	34%	41%
St. Spyridon, NYC	0%	0%	100%
TOTAL	39%	12%	49%
W. Spyropoulos, Flushing	99%	1%	0%
St. Demetrios, Astoria	96%	4%	0%
TOTAL	65.5%	8%	26.5%