



GREEK ORTHODOX ARCHDIOCESE

Direct Archdiocesan District Office of Education

ARCHDIOCESAN COUNCIL MEETING

May 30-31, 2013

Renaissance Boston Waterfront Hotel, Boston, MA

REPORT ON PAROCHIAL SCHOOL EDUCATION

By Maria Makedon, Director

The Office

The *District Office of Education* serves the parochial day and afternoon schools of the *Direct Archdiocesan District*. It provides curriculum guides and in-service training to the teachers and administrators who serve in the District schools with the purpose of enhancing the professional knowledge and skills of the teachers and, in turn, benefit the thousand of students who attend.

The *District Office of Education* serves also as an advocate for the New York City parochial day schools to the education authorities in an effort to secure services and materials for these schools that are funded by the federal government.

Day & Afternoon School Enrollment

During the current school year (2012-2013), there are **53 schools** operating within the *District* – **nine** day schools and **44** afternoon/Saturday Greek schools. These schools employ **223** Greek teachers and have an enrollment of **5,395** students.

In addition, **five** of the day schools maintain *Universal Pre-K* programs with an enrollment of **270** students. (*The UPK programs are funded by the New York State and operate as separate public school entities within our school establishments.*) Such **UPK** programs exist in the following parochial day schools: *A. Fantis* and *DGK*, Brooklyn; *Jamaica Day School*; *Greek-American Institute*, Bronx and *St. Spyridon*, Manhattan.

Furthermore, the *District* is the host of **five** pre-school centers with **186** students in attendance. Pre-school centers are maintained by the following parishes: *St. Nicholas*, Flushing; *Holy Cross*, Whitestone; *Koimisis*, Brooklyn; *Archangel Michael*, Port Washington, and *Our Saviour Church*, Rye.

And this brings the number of students who regularly attend our District's schools to a total of **5,851**.

Representing the Day Schools to the Authorities

The *District Office of Education* represents the New York City parochial day schools (or faith-based schools) to the education authorities at the federal, state and city levels.

Under this capacity, the *Office* has been instrumental in securing federally funded materials and services for the schools. The funds are allocated per pupil, according to a **formula** used by the NY State Education Department, which takes into consideration the student's academic performance in state tests as well as his/her family's finances and the finances of the district (impoverished or not) where the student resides.

For the current school year (2012-2013), **\$45,247.00** was allocated to the NYC day schools for specific programs. Thus, in collaboration with the principals and the NYC Department of Education, the *Office* was able to offer the following programs and services to the schools:

1. Cover the **tuition cost** (fall and spring semesters) of **five teachers**, who are presently attending *St. John's University* studying for their Master degrees in **Educational Leadership**.
2. Cover the cost of an on-site **three-day teacher training** on *Literacy and Educational Technology*, which is scheduled to resume this month at **three** of our day schools that have students with special needs. These schools are: *Jamaica Day School*, *St. Spyridon School*, and *Greek American Institute, Bronx*.
3. Cover the **cost** of the District's **Annual Teachers Seminar**. This year, the Seminar was held on February 15th, at St. Demetrios High School in Astoria.

It is important to note that securing and handling federal funds for educational purposes requires a great deal of communication with the central offices of the NYCDOE as well as the certified agencies, which eventually provide the teacher training.

Attending Conferences and Meetings

The director of the *District Office of Education* attends conferences and meetings that are held regularly by the U.S. Department of Education in Washington, DC, the State Education Department in Albany, and the New York City Department of Education in Brooklyn.

The director is also 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 as well as with the Chancellor of Education of the City of New York. (*Note: The Committee is scheduled to meet with the Education Chancellor, Dennis M. Walcott, on June 11, 2013.*)

Furthermore, the *Office* holds regular meetings with the principals of the NYC parochial day schools. At these meetings, representatives of the NYCDOE are invited to attend and discuss the federally funded programs and various other state mandates and regulations.

Organizing Events & Celebrations

The *District Office of Education* organizes events and celebrations that attract teachers, students, and parents in large numbers. Such events are the following:

The District's Annual Staff Development Seminar

This year's *Annual Staff Development Seminar* for the District school teachers was held on **February 15th**, at St. Demetrios School in Astoria and focused on the national *Common Core Standards*. It was attended by 232 administrators and teachers.

The *Seminar* featured a *keynote* speaker and **six** workshops for the English program teachers. It also included **five** presentations for the Greek teachers, which examined the NY State standards on foreign language teaching and their application on **“The Curriculum of Modern Greek Language - Checkpoint A,”** the new publication of the *Office*.



The Three Hierarchs Student Awards Event



The *Three Hierarchs Student Awards Event* was held on **February 2nd**, at the Holy Trinity Cathedral in Manhattan.

This event is a celebration of Greek Letters, and students who excel in Greek language studies are presented with the *Three Hierarchs Award of Excellence*. It featured a *keynote* speaker and was followed by a festive program of traditional songs and dances. More than 300 persons – parents, students, teachers, and guests – attended this event.

The District's Spelling Bee Finals

This year's District *Spelling Bee Finals (in English)* among the finalists of the NYC parochial day schools were held on **January 16th**, at the Archdiocesan headquarters.

His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios and His Grace Bishop Andonios, Chancellor, congratulated the winner and all bees and presented them with a *“Certificate of Award”* and a gift card from Barnes & Nobles.



Publishing Curriculum Guides

The Curriculum for Modern Greek Language – Checkpoint A



The *District Office of Education* has recently published *The Curriculum for Modern Greek Language – Checkpoint A* (beginners' level) to be used as a guide by the teachers who prepare students for the *Comprehensive Examination in Modern Greek* for foreign language credits. The *Curriculum* is in adherence with the philosophy and standards for the teaching of foreign languages of the NY State Education Department.

The Curriculum for Modern Greek Language – Checkpoint A was created by the *Institute of Modern Greek Studies of the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece*, in collaboration and under the direction of the *Office*. The Institute's director, Prof. George Papanastasiou, has assured our *Office* that they are currently developing the *Checkpoint B level of the Curriculum*, which is the required level for the *Comprehensive Examination in Modern Greek*.

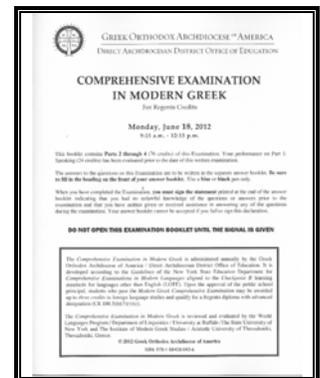
The Curriculum for Modern Greek Language has been met with great success. The *Office* has received positive remarks from the District teachers. It has also received numerous requests for the *Curriculum* from around the country. It is offered at no cost to the Greek teachers. (*Note: To request a copy of the Curriculum, please complete the attached form.*)

Developing an Assessment Tool

The Comprehensive Examination in Modern Greek

For many years, the *District Office of Education* has been developing a foreign language assessment tool - *The Comprehensive Examination in Modern Greek* – that assesses student proficiency in *listening, speaking, reading, and writing* Modern Greek, according to the specifications of the New York State Education Department and is aligned to the learning standards for languages other than English (LOTE).

The New York State Education Department ceased to develop foreign language examinations last year. Actually, the state education authorities transferred this responsibility – and the expense – to the local school districts to develop foreign language examinations locally and according to their needs.



The Archdiocese's *Comprehensive Examination in Modern Greek*, however, has always been considered and accepted for credits as a *"locally developed examination."* Thus, the *District Office of Education* has secured the assurances of the Commissioner of Education, Dr. John B. King, Jr., to continue developing the *Comprehensive Examination in Modern Greek*. And students who pass it will be eligible for high school credits in foreign language studies and apply for a Regents diploma with advanced designation upon graduation.

The 2013 *Comprehensive Examination in Modern Greek* is currently under development and is scheduled for administration on **June 17th**.

Publishing a Compilation of Past Examinations

Comprehensive Examinations in Modern Greek (2003 2011)



The *District Office of Education* has also published **nine** of the most recent *Comprehensive Examinations in Modern Greek (2003 2011)*, compiled into **two books** – one for the **student** and one for the **teacher**.

The books include an abundance of authentic Greek texts that can be used for practicing the *listening* and *reading* skills of students; a large number of communication tasks for *speaking drills*, and a variety of topics for *writing* compositions. In addition, 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 are highly recommended as **instructional material** for students in grades 6 and above.

The books are offered to schools at no cost.

Maintaining a Web Page

The *District Office of Education* maintains its own web page - www.education.goarch.org - offering its visitors an abundance of informative materials and resources.



Submitted by:
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May 1, 2013

ORDER FORM

The Curriculum For Modern Greek Language - Checkpoint A

OFFERED AT

- NO COST TO TEACHERS & SCHOOLS
- **\$10.00** TO INTERESTED INDIVIDUALS

Please, indicate:

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