



GREEK ORTHODOX ARCHDIOCESE ^{OF} AMERICA

DIRECT ARCHDIOCESAN DISTRICT OFFICE OF EDUCATION

ARCHDIOCESAN COUNCIL MEETING

November 6-7, 2008
The Chicago Hilton Hotel

THE DIRECT ARCHDIOCESAN OFFICE OF EDUCATION REPORT

Mission

The *Direct Archdiocesan District Office of Education* has the privilege of serving the teachers and students of the 10 parochial day schools and the 47 afternoon Greek language schools of the Direct Archdiocesan District. The *Office* provides the community schools with the following services:

1. Professional training for all teachers (English & Greek Departments).
2. Materials for the teaching of the Greek language and culture.
3. *The Comprehensive Examination in Modern Greek* – An assessment tool for the evaluation of student learning in Greek.

THE DISTRICT SCHOOLS

The NYC Greek Orthodox Parochial Day Schools

For the school year 2008-2009, **2,018** students have been enrolled in the **10** Greek Orthodox parochial day schools of New York City. **220** teachers, including **41** of the Greek language, serve in the day schools.

All of the day schools maintain pre-school centers, kindergartens, elementary and junior high schools. The Cathedral of St. Demetrios, in Astoria, is the only parish in the United States that sustains a high school. The day schools adhere to the New York State mandates regarding curricula and student testing as well as to the regulations of the New York City Department of Education.

Despite the financial hardships that the New York City parochial day schools encounter, they all offer an academic program of the highest standards that includes the teaching of our Greek Orthodox faith and the universal Hellenic ideals, customs, and traditions.

The Afternoon/Saturday Schools

There are **47** afternoon/Saturday Greek language schools operating within the Direct Archdiocesan District. 44 of these schools responded to the Survey conducted by our *Office* last year.

For the school year 2007-2008, the afternoon/Saturday schools reported an enrollment of **3331** students and **196** Greek teachers in service.

Table 1 below depicts the enrollment of students per region. The vast majority, **71 percent**, reside in New York City and on Long Island.

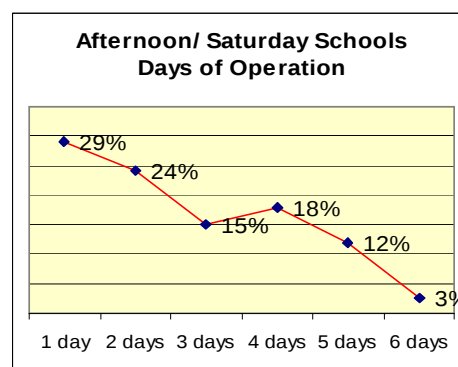
Table 2 below indicates how many days the afternoon/Saturday schools are in operation. The majority of the schools hold classes on a week day, and only **11 percent** operate on Saturdays.

Also worth noting is that **68 percent** of the afternoon/Saturday Greek language schools have **grades K – 8th**.

Table 1

Number of students per Region		
NYC	1129	34%
Long Island	1238	37%
Westchester	272	8%
Upstate	223	7%
CT	340	10%
DC	129	4%
TOTAL	3331	

Table 2



Advocating for the Parochial Day schools

The contribution of the Greek Orthodox parochial day schools to the Greek-American community and the American society at large has been invaluable. Recognizing the importance for the existence of the parochial schools in the life of the Church, the *Direct Archdiocesan District Office of Education* has intensified its efforts, in recent years, to be of assistance to the schools and has become an advocate for them at the federal, state, and New York City education authorities.

The participation of the *District's Office of Education* in various conferences and committee meetings, notably the *NYC Standing Committee of Religious & Independent Schools* has initiated contacts that have helped the parochial day schools receive various funded services and resources, taking thus advantage of the provisions of the **"No Child Left Behind Act"** for the equitable participation of students and teachers of religious schools in its major programs.

Recent Office Activities

Since the start of the current school year (2008-2009), the *Direct Archdiocesan District Office of Education* has participated and/or will be participating in the following conferences and meetings:

The NYC Roundtable (Sept. 23, 2008)

Headed by His Eminence **Archbishop Demetrios of America**, a delegation of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese, including the director of the *District Office of Education*, Mrs. Maria Makedon, attended the **NYC Roundtable** on “**Inner-City Children & Faith-Based Schools.**”

Sponsored by the *U.S. Department of Education*, Washington, DC and the *NYC Committee of Religious Schools*, the **NYC Roundtable** took place on **Tuesday, September 23, 2008**, at the Mutual of America Life Insurance Bldg. in Manhattan. A number of notable government and church representatives, educators, politicians, and businessmen addressed a select group of attendees on issues such as: **tax tuition credits, vouchers, and scholarships for students of private/faith based schools.**

The **NYC Roundtable** was chaired by the **Rev. Joseph M. McShane, S.J.**, President of Fordham University. Speakers and panelists included: the **Hon. Raymond Simon**, Deputy Secretary, The U.S. Department of Education, the **Hon. Karl Zinsmeister**, Assistant to the President for Domestic Policy, His Eminence **Edward Cardinal Egan**, Archbishop of New York, **Dr. Catherine Hickey**, Chair and **Rabbi David Zwiebel**, Vice Chair/ NYC Religious Schools Committee, and the New York State representatives the **Hon. Martin Golden** (R – Brooklyn) and the **Hon. Michael Benjamin** (D – Bronx).

The Fourth Annual Private School Leadership Conference (Sept. 26, 2008)

The *Direct Archdiocesan District Office of Education* Director, Mrs. Maria Makedon attended the **Fourth Annual Private School Leadership Conference**, on “*Educational Choice: Keeping Private Schools a Viable Option for Inner City Youth*,” which took place on *Friday, September 26, 2008*, in Washington, DC. Dr. Tony Vrame, Director of the Archdiocese’s Department of Religious Education, also attended.

Sponsored by the *U.S. Department of Education / Office of Innovation and Improvement / Non-Public Education*, Washington, DC, the **Conference** featured a number of presentations and panel discussions. Among the speakers were: **Mr. Doug Mesecar**, Assistant Deputy Secretary / Office of Innovation and Improvement (ONRE), **Mr. Jack Klenk**, Director, Office of Non-Public Education (ONRE), **Mrs. Pamela Allen** and **Ms. Maureen Dowling**, Education Program Specialists (ONRE). Five outstanding teachers of faith-based schools, from around the country, were honored with the **American Stars Teaching Awards.**

The 24th Annual Conference for Administrators of Independent & Religious Schools (Nov. 17-18, 2008)

His Eminence **Archbishop Demetrios** is this year's recipient of the **Leadership in Education Award** sponsored by the *Coalition for Independent & Religious Schools*. The Award will be presented to the Archbishop at a **Luncheon**, on *Monday, November 17, 2008*, in Albany.

The Luncheon will mark the opening of the **24th Annual Conference for Administrators of Independent and Religious Schools**, which offers the opportunity to the administrators of religious schools in the State of New York to attend useful workshops and meet with State education representatives. All the principals of the NYC Greek Orthodox parochial day schools will be attending the event honoring the Archbishop.

The *Direct Archdiocesan District Office of Education* has been a co-sponsor of the *Conference* for the past four years, and its director, Mrs. Maria Makedon, serves on the Chairs Committee.

Principals Meeting (Oct. 2, 2008)

The *Direct Archdiocesan District Office of Education* held the first for the new school year **Principals Meeting** on **Thursday, October 2, 2008**, at **St. Demetrios High School** in Astoria. Among various other issues, the NYC Department of Education latest requirements and were discussed. The principals also discussed the workshops and the finances of the upcoming annual **Staff Development Seminar** for the District teachers.

Every one of the principals attended the meeting. They were: **Mr. Anastasios Koularmanis**, St. Demetrios School, Astoria; **Mrs. Athena Krommidas**, "W. Spyropoulos School" of St. Nicholas Church, Flushing; **Mrs. Anne Prokop**, Greek American Institute, Bronx; **Mrs. Sonia Celestin**, Cathedral School, Manhattan; **Mrs. Magdalini Orfanos**, Transfiguration School, Corona; **Dr. George Melikokis**, Jamaica Day School; **Mr. Marc Spyliopoulos**, DGK School of Holy Cross Church, Brooklyn; **Dr. Alice Farkouh**, "A. Fantis" School of SS. Constantine & Helen Church, Brooklyn; **Mr. John Anderson**, Three Hierarchs School, Brooklyn; and **Rev. George Passias**, St. Spyridon School, Manhattan.

The Annual Staff-Development Seminar

Under the auspices of **His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios of America**, the *Direct Archdiocesan District Office of Education* is currently organizing the annual *Staff Development Seminar* to offer in-service training to the teachers serving in the District's day and afternoon schools. This *Seminar* is scheduled to take place on **Tuesday, November 4, 2008 (Election Day)** at **St. Demetrios School, in Astoria**. (The NYC day schools will be closed on November 4th.)

The *District Office of Education* has secured the most experienced professionals in the field of education to conduct a series of workshops that will cover the entire spectrum of studies and from pre-K to high school grades. The workshops to be conducted at the November Seminar are as follows:

For the English Curriculum

Presenter	Workshops	Grades
Dr. Patricia Vardin Manhattanville College	Session 1: Guiding Young Children's Behavior in the Early Childhood Classroom Session 2: Strategies of Teaching Young Children	Pre-K - K
Dr. Smita Guha St. John's University	Session 1: Playful Science Activities for Young Children Session 2: Mathematics Everywhere	Pre-K - 2nd grade
Dr. Joanne Robertson St. John's University	Session 1: Literature That Engages K-3 rd Grade Students Session 2: (continued)	K – 3rd grade
Dr. Sharon Freedman NYC Dept. of Education	Session 1: Student Assessment: Preparing for State Exams Session 2: Repeat	All Grades
Dr. Patrick McCabe St. John's University	Session 1: Comparing Elementary and Secondary School Literacy Tasks Session 2: The Role of Motivation in Literacy Across the Grades	All Grades
Mr. Sheldon Shulman Director, The Human Connections Institute Inc.	Session 1: Resolving Students Conflicts Session 2: Parent-Teacher Relations	All Grades
Dr. Bryan Smith Headmaster, St. Peter's Classical School, Ft. Worth, TX – Director, Orthodox Schools Association	Session 2: Creating a Faculty Dialogue Across the Disciplines	All Grades

For the Greek Curriculum

Presenter	Workshops	Grades
Mrs. Haroula Ntalla Lecturer, Brooklyn College/ School of Education (CUNY) - SEIT Supervisor, IMPORTANT STEPS, INC.	Session 1: Children with Developmental Delays, Learning Challenges: Classification, Evaluation, Early Intervention, and Therapy Session 2: Repeat	All Grades
Mr. Stavros Tsividakis Computer Science Teacher St. Demetrios High School, Astoria	Session 1: Learn How to Use Microsoft Word and the Internet Explorer (E-mail, Google search, maps, images etc.) Session 2: Learn How to Create Power Point Presentations	All Grades
Mrs. Mirela Metrou – Xhaferraj Teacher, The Cathedral School, Manhattan (PhD. Candidate in Comparative Linguistics)	Session 1: Methods of Teaching a Foreign/Second Language - Teaching Grammar in a Foreign/Second Language Session 2: Repeat	All Grades

FOR THE PRINCIPALS

Presenter	Workshops
Dr. Bryan Smith , Headmaster St. Peter's Classical School, Ft. Worth, TX Director, Orthodox Schools Association	Session 1: Legal Issues in Private Education
Scott Malo , Vice President Sales & Costumer Service REDIKER SOFTWARE, INC,	Session 2: Student Administrative System

Publications: The Kindergarten Curriculum

The *Curriculum for the Kindergarten* has received great reviews and more than **600** copies have been distributed “*gratis*” to the community schools around the country.

The *Curriculum for the Kindergarten* was created by the *Direct Archdiocesan District Office of Education* to assist the teachers, who teach the Greek language to children of this age group. Its publication was made possible due to the generous support of the “*Stavros S. Niarchos*” Foundation.

Assessment Tool: The Comprehensive Examination in Modern Greek

The *Direct Archdiocesan District Office of Education* develops and administers annually *The Comprehensive Examination in Modern Greek*, a foreign language assessment tool that assesses student proficiency in **listening, speaking, reading, and writing Modern Greek**. The *Examination* is given only once, in June.

The proficiency level of the *Examination* is equivalent to three years of high school studies. Public and parochial school students in the State of New York as well as other parts of the country, upon passing the *Examination*, can receive up to three foreign language credits in high schools, colleges, and universities.

The writing of the *2009 Comprehensive Examination in Modern Greek* will start promptly in December of this year, under the supervision of Mrs. Maria Makedon, Director of the *District Office of Education*. The *Examination* is further evaluated by the **Institute of Modern Greek Studies** of the **University of Thessaloniki** and the **World Languages Institute** of the **State University of New York at Buffalo**.

New Web Page Launched: www.education.goarch.org

With the help of the Archdiocese's IT Department, the *Direct Archdiocesan District Office of Education* has launched its own site on the web. The creation of a separate web page was essential since the *Office* represents the 10 NYC Greek Orthodox parochial day schools at the federal, state, and city education authorities.

The new web site features a detailed listing of the District's parochial **day** and **afternoon** schools. Also, it provides an abundance of information and resources on the teaching/learning of the Greek language and culture, also beneficial to the afternoon Greek language schools.

Parish and school representatives are advised to visit www.education.goarch.org and notify the *Direct Archdiocesan District Office of Education* of any changes and/or corrections.

New Shipping Policy for Book & Resource Material Orders

The *Direct Archdiocesan District Office of Education* has composed a list of recommended books, suitable to the needs of today's young learners of the Greek language. **All books and other resources – certificates and diplomas materials – are now available online.**

Prospective customers may download the *Catalog* either from District's Office web page www.education.goarch.org or from the **Orthodox Marketplace** www.orthodoxmarketplace.com. All orders will be handled by the **Orthodox Marketplace** from now on.



Submitted by:

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