



Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America

Direct Archdiocesan District Office of Education

ARCHDIOCESAN COUNCIL MEETING
October 15-16, 2015
NY Marriott Marquis, New York

PAROCHIAL SCHOOLS EDUCATION REPORT

The 2014-15 School Year was a year full of activities - a very successful year for the community parochial schools as well as for the District Office of Education.

The District Schools

1) Day Schools

In 2014-15, there were **eight parochial day schools** in operation with a total enrollment of **2,309** students. This number included the **226** students enrolled in the *Universal Pre-Kindergarten* (UPK) programs and **141** students enrolled in the **three** pre-school centers.

Note:

1. 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*.
2. *Pre-school centers* exist in the following parishes: *St. Nicholas, Flushing; Koimisis Tis Theotokou, Brooklyn* and *Archangel Michael, Port Washington*.

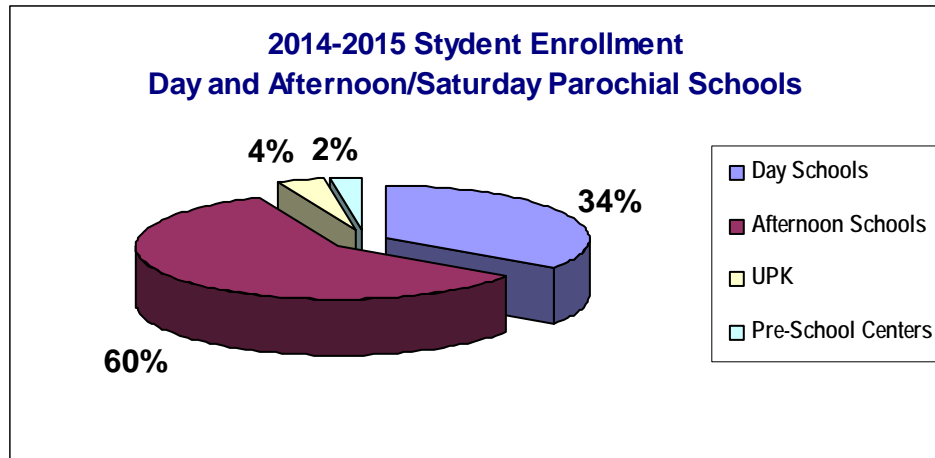
2) Afternoon/Saturday Schools

In 2014-15, there were **42** Greek **Afternoon/Saturday** Schools in operation with an enrollment of **3,335** students.

Therefore, the **total** number of students enrolled in the District's day and afternoon/Saturday schools was **5,644**. The number of Greek **teachers** serving in the District schools has been estimated as **264**.

*(This data are depicted in the statistical graph below)

STATISTICAL DATA GRAPH – DISTRICT DAY & AFTERNOON SCHOOLS



The District 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.

The *Office* is also the liaison of the parochial day schools with the education authorities at the federal, state, and city levels. In doing so, the Office has been advocating on behalf of the schools and has succeeded, through the years, to allocate federally funded services for our community day schools.

During the school year 2014-15, the parochial day schools of the District received **\$55,021.00**. This money was earmarked for the professional development of teachers and educational materials. For example, the District's annual **2014 Staff Development Seminar** that is held in November of each year was paid from these funds. Federal funds also cover the tuition fees of a number of our teachers who further their studies at the graduate level.

Principals Meetings

The *District Office of Education* holds regular meetings with the principals of the NYC parochial day schools. At these meetings, principals exchange information, discuss, and plan various projects. On certain occasions, the *Office* invites representatives from the NYC Department of Education to assist the principals on how to apply for certain programs.



In 2014-15, eight such meetings took place as follows: (2014) *September 12; October 10; November 18* - (2015) *January 16; February 5; March 20; May 19; June 26*.

Events & Celebrations

The *District Office of Education* organizes a number of events, throughout the school year, that promote the Greek Orthodox heritage and Greek language teaching. They are as follows:

The Annual Staff Development Seminar

In November of each year, the *Office* organizes a **Seminar** for the professional development of all teachers under the auspices of His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios of America.

On **November 4, 2014**, one such *Staff Development Seminar* was held at the High School of St. Demetrios Cathedral, Astoria. The Seminar included 11 workshops and presentations for the English and Greek programs and was met with great success. The Archbishop praised the 300 teachers who were in attendance for their untiring work and devotion to the noble vocation of teaching.



The *Office* had invited Dr. Marios Koukounaras – Liagkis, Professor at the School of Theology of the University of Athens, who presented current methodologies and techniques to the Greek teachers by means of using Art and Applied Theater.

The Three Hierarchs Student Awards Event



Another successful event organized by the *Office* is the **Student Awards Ceremony**, during which students who have excelled the previous year in the *Comprehensive Examination in Modern Greek* are honored. This year's event took place on **Saturday, January 31st**, at the Holy Trinity Cathedral in Manhattan, and honored students from the New York State as well as from other states.

His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios of America congratulated the **64** honorees and expressed gratitude to the parents and teachers.

Hon. Madeline Singas, acting District Attorney of Nassau County, Long Island, was the keynote speaker at the *Awards Ceremony*. Also, Mrs. Athena Kromidas, principal of “*W. Spyropoulos*” *Greek-American Day School of St. Nicholas*, Flushing, spoke on the importance of the Greek language. Mrs. Maria Makedon, director of the *District Office of Education*, also congratulated the honorees, while Mr. Ted Kusulas was the MC.

More than 300 attended the *Awards Ceremony*, including Hon. George Iliopoulos, Consul General of Greece and Vice Consul, Hon. Manos Koumbarakis as well as priests, principals, teachers, and family members of the honorees. The *Awards Ceremony* was followed by a beautiful artistic program that took place in the Cathedral Ballroom.

The Spelling Bee Finals

The District’s *Spelling Bee Finals* for the students of the NYC Greek American parochial day schools took place on **Thursday, January 8th**, at the Headquarters of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese. Panagiotis Persianis, an 8th grade student of the *Cathedral School of Holy Trinity*, Manhattan was the finalist, while Anastasia Michialis, a 6th grade student of the *Greek-American Institute of Zoodochos Peghe*, Bronx, was the runner-up.

His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios of America presented each spelling bee champion with a *Certificate of Award* and a silver cross. Mr. Nick Katsoris, Esq., author of the *Loukoumi Book Series* and president of the *Hellenic Times Scholarship Fund* (HTSF), presented each student with a \$100.00 check and the finalist with a \$500.00.



Note: 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.

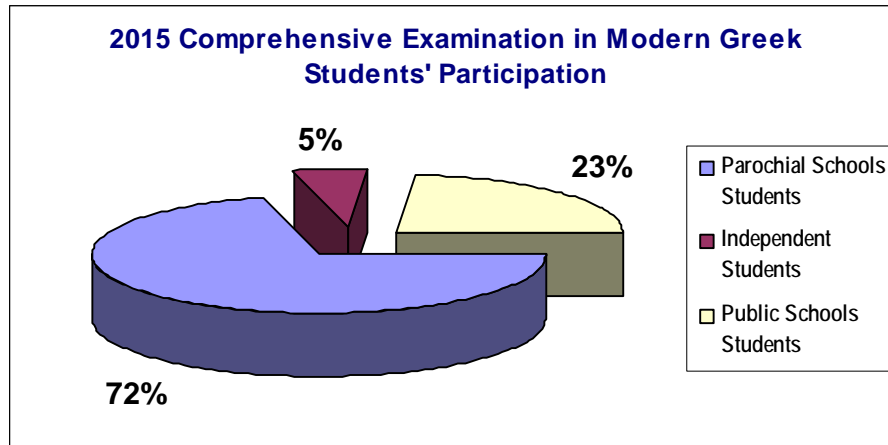
The Comprehensive Examination in Modern Greek



Another major project of the Office is the *Comprehensive Examination in Modern Greek*, which was administered on **Monday, June 22nd** in various examination centers throughout New York State and in neighboring cities.

A total of **430** students took the *Examination*. Specifically, **306** were students of day and afternoon/Saturday schools, **101** public school students, and **23** independent.

These students were attending **50** community schools located in NY as well as CT, NJ, PA, VA, MD, DC, MO, and OH and **six** NYC public schools.



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 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* to the education authorities, the *Office* has developed and published **two** curricula for the teaching of Modern Greek as follows: The **Modern Greek Language Curriculum - Checkpoint A** intended for the *beginners* level and The **Modern Greek Language Curriculum - Checkpoint B** aimed at the *intermediate* (Regents) level.



Both curricula were created by Prof. Panagiotis Andreou, a fellow of the *Institute of Modern Greek Studies of the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki*, under the supervision of Dr. George Papanastasiou, director, and with the collaboration of the Direct Archdiocesan District Office of Education.

The *Curricula of the Modern Greek Language (Checkpoint A and Checkpoint B)* are in total compliance with the philosophy and standards on the teaching of foreign languages (LOTE) as described in the *New York State Department of Education Syllabus: Modern Languages for Communication.* They are an invaluable tool for the Greek language teachers who prepare students for the *Examination.* Thus, they are offered “**gratis**” to teachers and schools.

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



In addition to the *Curricula*, the *Office* published a *Compilation* of nine past *Greek Examinations (2003-2011)* in **two** books – one for the **student** and one for the **teacher**, in order to assist the teachers who prepare students for the *Examination in Modern Greek*.

The 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*. The books are offered “*gratis*” to teachers and schools.

Website & Facebook

The *District Office of Education* maintains a web page - www.education.goarch.org - within the Archdiocese’s main portal. The web page offers visitors an abundance of informative materials and resources as well as the *Office* reports, school mailings, and current news.

In addition, the *Office* has created a **Facebook** page as well. Its address is: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Direct-Archdiocesan-District-Office-of-Education/864168656927334>.



Submitted by:
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