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.

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.**
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 Spyliopulos, 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

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

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

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<td>Dr. Bryan Smith, Headmaster</td>
<td>Session 1: Legal Issues in Private Education</td>
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<td>St. Peter’s Classical School, Ft. Worth, TX</td>
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<td>Director, Orthodox Schools Association</td>
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<td>Scott Malo, Vice President</td>
<td>Session 2: Student Administrative System</td>
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<td>Sales &amp; Costumer Service</td>
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<td>REDIKER SOFTWARE, INC,</td>
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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](http://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 website 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](http://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](http://www.education.goarch.org) or from the *Orthodox Marketplace* [www.orthodoxmarketplace.com](http://www.orthodoxmarketplace.com). All orders will be handled by the *Orthodox Marketplace* from now on.

Submitted by:
MARIA MAKEDON
Director
*Direct Archdiocesan Office of Education*