



# GREEK ORTHODOX ARCHDIOCESE OF AMERICA

DIRECT ARCHDIOCESAN DISTRICT CLERGY-LAITY ASSEMBLY

MAY 16-17, 2011

CHURCH OF OUR SAVIOUR, RYE, NY

## REPORT ON THE PAROCHIAL SCHOOL EDUCATION

### Our Focus

The *Office of Education* of the *Direct Archdiocesan District* provides guidance and assistance to the parochial schools of the *District*, in order to help them provide a comprehensive program of studies that encompasses the teaching of the Greek language and culture and our Christian Orthodox Faith.

Over the past six to seven years, however, the *District Office of Education* has focused its attention for the most part to the needs of the 11 day schools located in New York City.

It was at the request of the principals and the blessings of His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios of America that the *District Office of Education* undertook the responsibility to work collectively with the principals of the District's parochial day schools and to lead their efforts at improving the existing curricula and empowering their teachers.

Acting in unison with the schools and under the auspices of the Archdiocese, the *District Office of Education* today represents the NYC based Greek Orthodox parochial day schools at the education authorities on the *federal, state, and city* levels and has succeeded in benefitting thousands of students and teachers.

### Allocation Of Federal Funds For The NYC Day Schools

The *District Office of Education* is a member of the *Standing Committee of New York City Religious & Independent Schools* - an alliance representing major religious institutions and their affiliated schools to the education authorities of the *State* and the *City of New York*.

The members of this *Committee* meet regularly with the executive director and staff of the **Bureau of Nonpublic School Reimbursable Services** at the **NYC Department of Education** to discuss such issues as: federal funding, state and city requirements, special education, immunization requirements, etc. Once a year, this *Committee* meets also with the **NYC Schools Chancellor**.

At these meetings of the **Standing Committee of New York City Religious & Independent Schools** with the NYC education authorities, the Archdiocese and the day schools are represented by the *director* of the *District Office of Education*, Mrs. Maria Makedon, who also represents the Archdiocese at the **New York State Education Department** in Albany as well as the **U.S. Department of Education** in Washington, DC

As a result of the direct and on-going communication of the *District Office of Education* with the authorities and the participation of its director in numerous meetings and conferences, the *Office* was able to secure for the NYC day schools approx. **\$160,000.00** in federal funds for the current school year (2010-2011). This money was spent – as required – on **teacher training** and for the **purchase of materials and equipment**.

In addition, **two** of the day schools received laptops for their eligible students that are worth well over **\$100,000.00**, bringing thus the total amount of federal assistance to our parochial schools to **\$260,000.00**. And it is without a doubt that the *District Office of Education* was instrumental in securing these funds for the NYC parochial day schools.

Following is how the allocated for our day schools funds were disseminated:

### 1) For Teacher Training

1. Paying for the **tuition** of **three** of our teachers who are enrolled in a master degree program in school administration at St. John's University. They presently teach at the St. Demetrios School, *Astoria*, the "W. Spyropoulos", *Flushing*, and the Greek-American Institute, *Bronx*.
2. Covering the expenses of **23 workshops** that were organized by the *District Office of Education* during the current school year (2010-2011) providing in-service training to all teachers.

### 2) For the Purchase of Materials & Technology Equipment

1. **Smart boards** - fully equipped with projectors, rails, audio systems, cables, and speakers;
2. **Overhead projectors**;
3. **Thousands of library books** and **textbooks** for K-12 students;
4. **Software**
5. **Hardware** (laptops) for eligible students only.

## The Schools

Following are the most current statistical data on the schools of the *Direct Archdiocesan District*:

<b>The Schools</b>	<b>Student Enrollment</b>
<b>11 Parochial Day Schools</b>	<b>1,955</b>
<b>47 Afternoon Greek Schools</b>	<b>3,565</b>
<b>5 Pre School Centers</b>	<b>206</b>
<b>5 UPKs</b>	<b><u>295</u></b>
<b>Total No. of Students</b>	<b>6,021</b>

**244 Greek Teachers** serve in the schools

NOTE: Please refer to the following **charts** and **graphs** attached at the end of this report for specific information on the operation of the *District's* day and afternoon schools.

**TABLE A – PAROCHIAL DAY SCHOOLS**

**TABLE B – FAITH AFFILIATION OF DAY SCHOOL STUDENTS**

**TABLE C – AFTERNOON/SATURDAY GREEK SCHOOLS**

**TABLE D – STUDENT ENROLLMENT TRENDS**

## **MAJOR PROJECTS & EVENTS**

Many of the activities and projects of the *District Office of Education* also address the needs and affect the education process of the afternoon Greek schools. They are as follows:

### The Annual Staff Development Seminar

The *District Office of Education* organizes annually an all-day **Teacher Seminar** for the professional development of all teachers. The *Seminar* takes place on *Election Day* of each year and consists of **two** components: 1) A series of workshops, which aim at providing in-service training to the teachers of the English programs of the day schools; and 2) Special presentations that offer insight and enhance the teaching skills of the Greek teachers.

### The Comprehensive Examination in Modern Greek

The **Comprehensive Examination in Modern Greek** is the most sought after product of the *District Office of Education*.

The *Examination* is being developed and administered by the *Office* since 1973. It is offered to students of public and community (nonpublic) schools who obtain foreign language credits in high

school (or in college) upon passing it. Evidence suggests that the *Examination* is the strongest motive for the Greek American student to stay longer in Greek school studying Greek and preparing for the *Examination*.

The *2011 Comprehensive Examination in Modern Greek* will be administered on **June 22<sup>nd</sup>**. The *Office* has informed the education authorities accordingly and has mailed all pertinent information and documents to the *District* schools.

## A Course of Study (Level A)

In collaboration with the *Institute of Modern Greek Studies / Aristotle University of Thessaloniki*, the *District Office of Education* is currently working on the development of a **Course of Study in Greek for Beginners (Level A)**.

This publication will include the specific topics, situations, and grammar that the students need to be gradually immersed in as they are learning to *speak, read, and write* Greek. It is intended to be used as a guide by the Greek teachers of all grades, especially those who prepare students for the *Comprehensive Examination in Modern Greek*.

## The Annual Student Awards Event

In conjunction with the *Three Hierarchs Feast Day* and in celebration of *Greek Letters*, the *District Office of Education* organizes a special **Student Awards Event**, in January of each year, to honor the students whose mastery of the Modern Greek language is exemplary. Honorees are selected based on their achieving excellence on the *Comprehensive Examination in Modern Greek*.

## The Annual Spelling Bee Competition

The *District Office of Education* organizes annually a *Spelling Bee Contest (in English)* among students of the NYC parochial day schools. Local school competitions start in October of each year and conclude with the *District Finals* held at the Archdiocesan Headquarters in December.

Students competing at the *District Finals* receive a “Certificate” from His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios and monetary prizes from the *Hellenic Times Scholarship Fund*.

## Catalog of Resource Books and Audio-Visual Materials Online

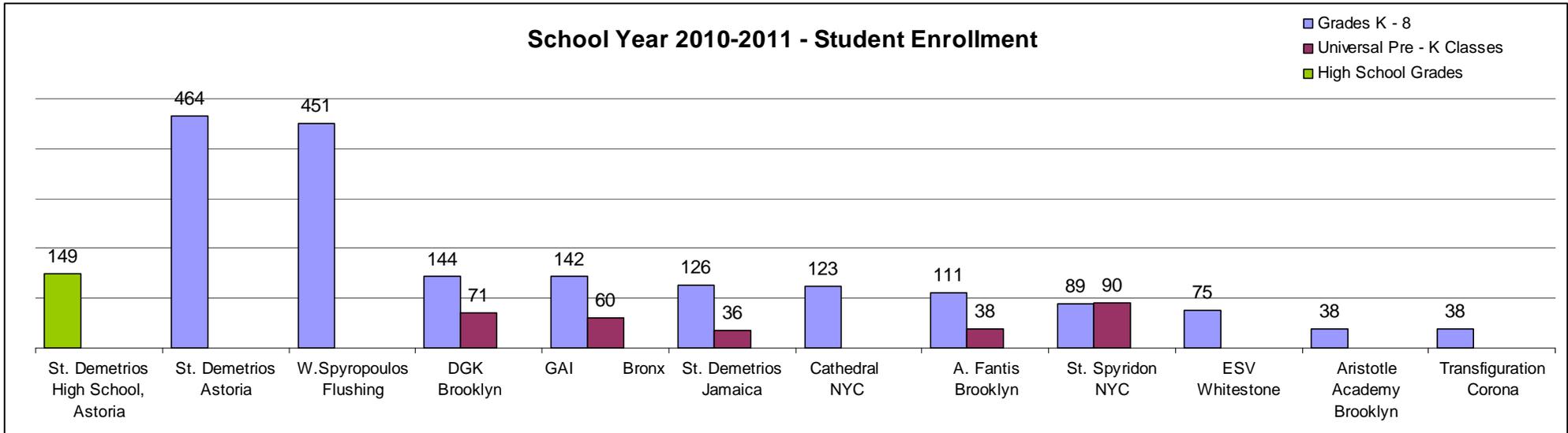
The *District Office of Education* has compiled a new *Catalog of Books and Resource Material* for the 2010-11 school year to assist the Greek teachers. The *Catalog* can be viewed at the *Education Office's web page* [www.education.goarch.org](http://www.education.goarch.org), which also offers visitors an abundance of information on the Office's projects, news, and events.



**Submitted by**  
**MARIA MAKEDON**

**Direct Archdiocesan District / Parochial Day Schools  
School Year 2010-2011**

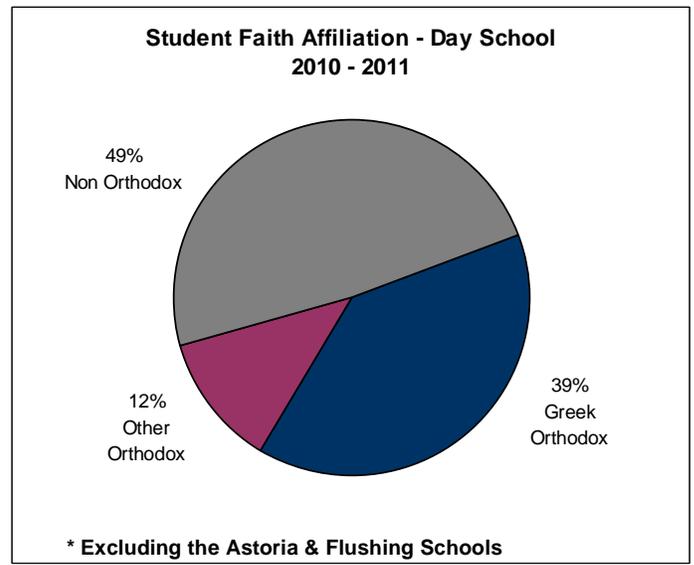
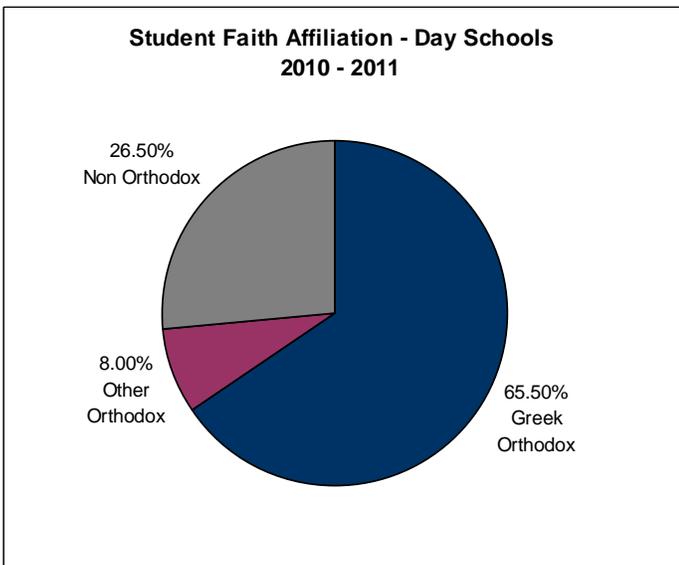
<b>Enrollment</b>	<b>1,955</b>	<b>Day Schools</b>	<b>11</b>
<i>Plus</i>		<b>Queens</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>5 Universal Pre-Ks (State-Funded Programs)</b>	<b>295</b>	<b>Manhattan</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>5 Pre-School Centers (Parish Sustained)</b>	<b>206</b>	<b>Bronx</b>	<b>1</b>
		<b>Brooklyn</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2,456</b>		



**Direct Archdiocesan District Parochial Day Schools  
School Year 2010-2011**

**Faith Affiliation of Students**

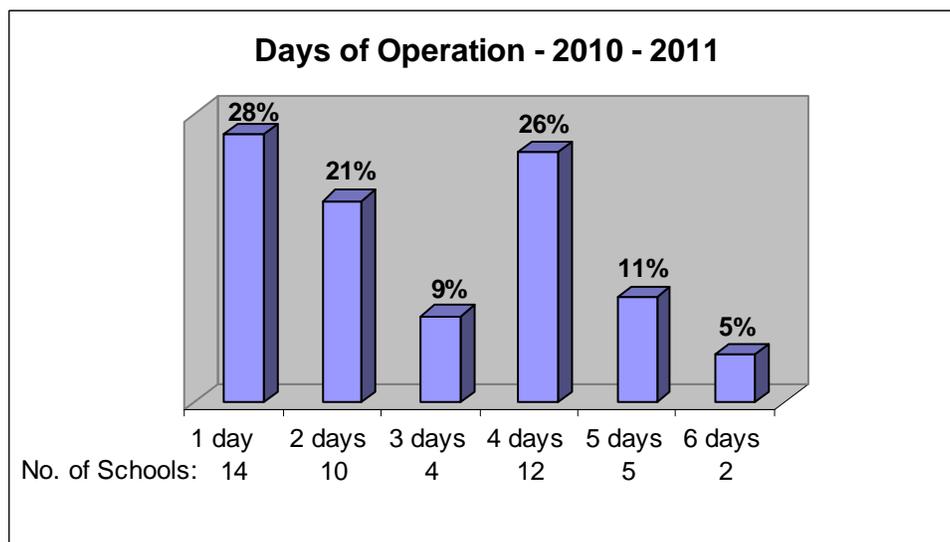
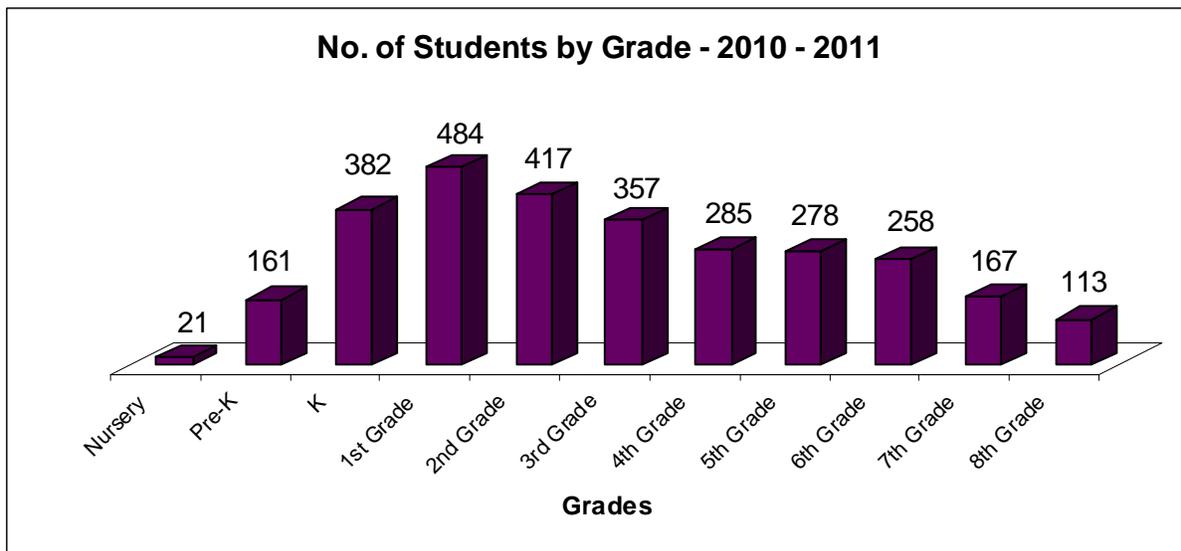
<b>School</b>	<b>Greek Orthodox</b>	<b>Other Orthodox</b>	<b>Non Orthodox</b>
D.G.K, Brooklyn	63%	6%	31%
Transfiguration, Corona	63%	7%	30%
GAI, Bronx	47%	2%	51%
The Cathedral, NYC	46%	9%	45%
A. Fantis, Brooklyn	40%	0%	60%
Jamaica	30%	55%	15%
Aristotle Academy, Brooklyn	25%	34%	41%
St. Spyridon, NYC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



**Direct Archdiocesan District Afternoon / Saturday Greek Schools  
School Year 2010-2011**

Afternoon Schools      **47**  
 Enrollment              **3,565**

Teachers                 **201**



**STUDENT ENROLLMENT TRENDS**  
**Years 2005 – 2011**

