



# GREEK ORTHODOX ARCHDIOCESE OF AMERICA

## DIRECT ARCHDIOCESAN DISTRICT OFFICE OF EDUCATION

### ARCHDIOCESAN COUNCIL MEETING

May 4 & 5, 2017

Marriott Chicago Downtown Magnificent Mile

### DAD - PAROCHIAL SCHOOLS REPORT

#### **The Education Office**

The primary goal of the *Office of Education of the Direct Archdiocesan District* is to assist the community day schools as well as the afternoon/Saturday ones in providing a sound academic program to their students – in both the English and Greek curricula. In doing so, the Office offers curriculum guides, in-service teacher training, and materials.

Furthermore, the *District Office of Education* represents the Greek-American day schools (or *faith-based*) to the education authorities at the **federal, state, and city levels**. The participation of the director of the *Office* in various conferences and committee meetings ensures that our NYC day schools get their portion of funds, services, and materials from the federal government.

#### **The District Schools**

During the current school year (2016-2017), there are **49 schools** – **seven** Greek- American Day schools and **42** Greek Afternoon / Saturday schools – operating in the District. These schools have an enrollment of **5,043** students and employ **292** Greek teachers.

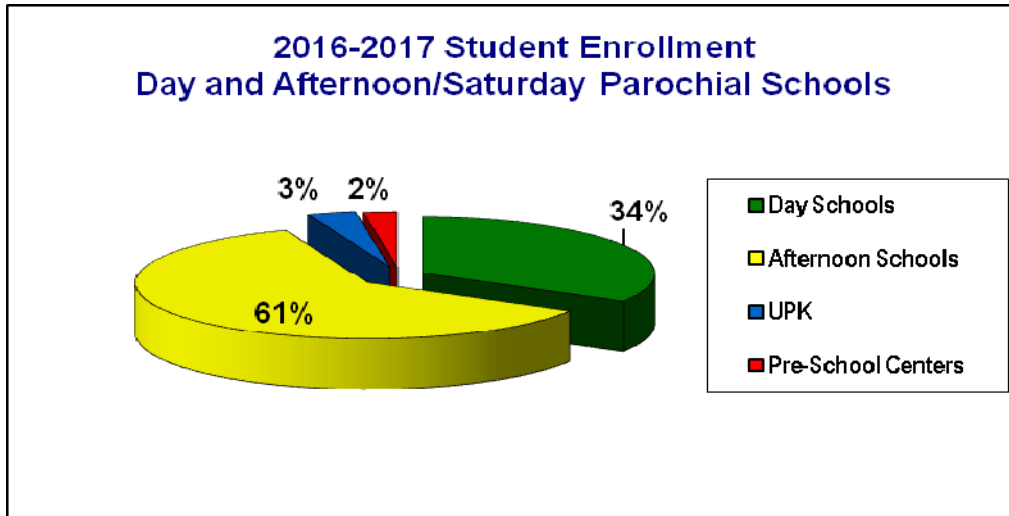
In addition, the following **three** parishes: **St. Nicholas**, Flushing; **Kimisis Tis Theotokou**, Brooklyn; and **Archangel Michael**, Port Washington, maintain pre-school centers, which have a total enrollment of **126** students.

**Four** Greek- American day schools maintain *Pre-K for All*, which are funded by the New York State and operate as separate public school entities. **UPKs** have the following schools: **St. Demetrios of Astoria**, **A. Fantis of Sts. Constantine & Helen**, Brooklyn, **DGK of Holy Cross**, Brooklyn, and the **Greek-American Institute**, Bronx.

The four *Pre-K for All* programs have an enrollment of **180 students**, which brings the total enrollment of our District's day and afternoon schools to **5,349** students.

## Notes:

1. The St. Spyridon Greek-American Day School ended its operation in June 2016 due to a steady decline in student enrollment that greatly impacted the School's finances.
2. Pertinent data regarding the District's schools are depicted in the following statistical graphs.



## Various Projects & Events

The *Office of Education of the Direct Archdiocesan District* is responsible for organizing projects and events that take place each year as follows:

1. **November** – The annual **Staff Development Seminar** was held on **November 8<sup>th</sup>**, on *Election Day*, for all the teachers serving in the District schools, at St. Demetrios School of Astoria and was very successful.

**256** teachers and administrators attended various **presentations** and **workshops** for both the English and Greek curricula. The Seminar is held under the auspices of His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios Geron of America.



The Greek teachers had the opportunity to hear **Prof. Haroula Ntalla**, Early Childhood Education/Brooklyn College/CUNY on the subject of “*Learning Disabilities/Difficulties of Students.*” **Dr. Maria Kaliampou**, Yale University/Hellenic Studies Program addressed the teachers on the Power of “*Folktales to teach and learn Modern Greek.*”

2. **January** – The *Spelling Bee Contest* among the students of the NYC Greek American Day Schools. The **2017 Spelling Bee Contest** took place on **January 12<sup>th</sup>**, at the Archdiocesan Headquarters. Day school bees and runner ups received a *Certificate of Award* and gifts. His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios Geron of Americas was represented by Bishop Sevastianos of Zela.

The Contest is organized and coordinated by the *District Office of Education* and is sponsored by the **Loukoumi Foundation**.



3. **January** – The **Student Awards of Excellence Event** was held on **January 30<sup>th</sup>** with great success. **74** students of the day and afternoon schools who achieved the highest score in the **2016 Comprehensive Examination in Modern Greek** were presented with the **Three Hierarchs Awards of Excellence** by His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios Geron of America.

Dr. George Liakeas was the main speaker of the event. Following the Awards Ceremony, a festive program of music and dance featured our national poet **Dionysios Solomos** and dances from Cappadokia.



4. **June** – The *Comprehensive Examination in Modern Greek* was administered on **June 19<sup>th</sup>**. The *Examination* is developed and administered by the District Office of Education and students who pass the examination receive foreign language credits from high schools and colleges. It is a foreign language exam assessing student skills in listening, reading, writing, and speaking Modern Greek.

The Examination is recognized by the education authorities of the State and City of New York as well as elsewhere in the country.



## 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 *District Office* invites representatives from the NYC Department of Education as well as various vendors to inform the principals on certain programs.

## Publications

The District Office of Education has published the following publications in collaboration with the *Institute of Modern Greek Studies* of the University of Thessaloniki. The Curricula follow the philosophy and standards of the New York State Education Department in teaching/learning a second/foreign language.

The **Modern Greek Language Curriculum - Checkpoint A –**  
*Beginners Level*

The **Modern Greek Language Curriculum - Checkpoint B –**  
*Intermediate / Regents Level*



## Website and Facebook

The *District Office of Education* has created a **Website** and a **Facebook** page, both of which are full of useful information and current events.

We suggest that you visit both of them at the following addresses: [www.education.goarch.org](http://www.education.goarch.org) and [www.facebook.com/greekamericanschools](https://www.facebook.com/greekamericanschools).



Submitted by  
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May 4-5, 2017