



Direct Archdiocesan District Clergy-Laity Assembly

Saturday, April 2, 2016
Holy Trinity Church, New Rochelle, NY

PAROCHIAL SCHOOL EDUCATION

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.

The *District Office of Education* represents also 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 meetings ensures that our schools get their portion of funds, services, and materials from the federal government.

The District Schools

During the current school year (2015-2016), there are **49 schools** – **eight** day schools and **41** afternoon/Saturday Greek schools operating within the *District*. These schools employ **249** Greek teachers and have an enrollment of **5,131** students.

Furthermore, the following **three** parishes: St. Nicholas, Flushing; Kimisis Tis Theotokou, Brooklyn; and Archangel Michael, Port Washington maintain pre-school centers with a total enrollment of **133** students.

Additionally, a few of the day schools maintain Universal Pre-K programs with a total enrollment of **253 students**. (*UPK programs are funded by the New York State and operate as separate public school entities*). UPKs are located in the following schools: **St. Demetrios of Astoria**; **A. Fantis of Sts. Constantine & Helen** and **DGK** of Holy Cross, Brooklyn; the **Greek-American Institute**, Bronx; and **St. Spyridon School**, Manhattan.

That brings the total enrollment of our District schools to **5,517** students.

Various Projects & Events

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

1. The annual *Staff Development Seminar* in November (on *Election Day*) for all the teachers serving in the District schools that is held under the auspices of His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios Geron of America. The *2015 Seminar* was held at St. Demetrios School of Astoria and was met with great success. **263** teachers and administrators attended various **presentations** and **workshops** of both the English and Greek programs.
2. The *Spelling Bee Contest* among the students of the Greek American Day Schools of the District organized and coordinated by the District Office. Sponsored by the *Hellenic Times Scholarship Fund*, the *2016 Spelling Bee Contest* took place on January 15th, at the Archdiocesan Headquarters. This year, school bees and runner ups competed and all received a *Certificate of Award* and monetary gifts.
3. The *Student Awards of Excellence Event* - organized by the District Office in conjunction with the Feast Day of the Three Hierarchs - was held January 30th with great success. Over 280 people attended the Event where 52 students of the day and afternoon schools who achieved the highest grade in the *2015 Comprehensive Examination in Modern Greek* were presented with the *Three Hierarchs Awards of Excellence* by His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios Geron of America.
4. The *Comprehensive Examination in Modern Greek* - developed by the District Office - is a foreign language exam assessing student skills in listening, reading, writing and speaking the Greek language. The Examination is recognized by the education authorities in the State of New York and elsewhere. Students who pass this exam receive foreign language credits from their high schools and colleges.

Publications

The District *Office of Education* has developed the following publications in collaboration with the **Institute of Modern Greek Studies** of the University of Thessaloniki:

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

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

Both curriculums are useful tool for the Greek teachers in guiding students to learn Greek according to the philosophy and standards of the New York State Education Department.

Website and Facebook Page

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 recommend that you visit them as follows:

www.education.goarch.org and www.facebook.com/greekamericanschools.



Submitted by
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Director

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