



GREEK ORTHODOX ARCHDIOCESE OF AMERICA

DEPARTMENT OF GREEK EDUCATION

Report to the 45th Biennial Clergy Laity Congress

Department of Greek Education



The Office of the Director of Greek Education is committed to the promotion, preservation, and growth of all Greek Schools in the Archdiocese. It strives for the development of programs of educational excellence that preserve and promote the Faith, language, and culture.

The Department of Greek Education provides competent leadership and effective resources for the elementary, secondary, and afternoon school programs of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America. The Department of Greek Education assists parishes in establishing and sustaining a Greek studies program that includes the teaching of the Modern Greek language, Greek history, Greek culture, as well as Greek Orthodox faith. This office works directly with principals and/or clergy to strengthen Greek Orthodox identity, curriculum and assessment, accreditation, personnel, and administrative/ teacher professional development in their schools.

Dr. Anastasios Koularmanis was appointed as the new Director of Education on January 1, 2020. Dr. Koularmanis, an educator/administrator over his 28-year career at the K-12 levels since 1992, was appointed principal of Saint Demetrios on September 1, 2000. Koularmanis worked his first 4 years in education for the NYC Department of Education 1992-1996 where he was tenured. He transitioned to the Hicksville School District where he received his tenure in 1999. On February 1, 1999, he was appointed as the Assistant Principal of the Saint Demetrios School system. Immediately after, he was elevated to Principal. During his 20 years as the Chief Administrator of the Saint Demetrios School system, Dr. Anastasios Koularmanis raised the bar

for Greek-American Education in the United States. Under his administration, the Saint Demetrios School system has been recognized not only as a top Greek-American school but has also ranked as one of the best parochial schools in NYC.

<https://www.goarch.org/-/dr-anastasios-koularmanis-appointed-director-of-greek-education>



GREEK ORTHODOX ARCHDIOCESE OF AMERICA

DEPARTMENT OF GREEK EDUCATION

High Council of Greek Education

Vision, Diversity of talent, Information, Service, Support, Enthusiasm

In addition to the appointment of a new Director of Education, His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros re-established the High Council of Greek Education. The Committee serves as an essential means of support and consultation for the Director of Education. This committee, whose membership is drawn from diverse geographical locations throughout the Archdiocese is consultative to the Director of Education for:



<https://www.goarch.org/-/high-council-for-greek-education-2020>

- Developing and Revising the Greek Education Policy and Procedures Handbook
- Developing and implementing the Annual Professional Development
- Reviewing and suggesting educational materials
- Reviewing and revising the K-12 Education Curriculum
- Developing and implementing a teacher certification process



GREEK ORTHODOX ARCHDIOCESE OF AMERICA

DEPARTMENT OF GREEK EDUCATION

Moving Ahead

The schools/programs in the Archdiocese will remain relevant, valuable, and effective for the Parishes and their families. Our schools/programs have a long track record of success however, we must try to reach an even higher level of academic excellence. The vision of Office of Education will be achieved by the development of a clear strategic plan for Greek education promoted from archdiocesan leadership and carried out by the priest, teachers, principals, board members, and benefactors.

The schools in Archdiocese must become an excellent choice for parents seeking an outstanding education for their children. Students will should be taught by a faculty appropriately credentialed and qualified. Not only must our schools be competitive they must be superior to other programs being offered in their immediate area.

Our plan going forward will focus on what our schools could and should be. The Office of Education along with the Higher Council are working on the improvement of 1) Academic Excellence, 3) Governance, and 4) Operational Vitality.

The Office of Greek Education aims to assist parishes in:

- Creating a mission statement that embraces our Greek Orthodox faith, and commitment to academic excellence.
- Providing a comprehensive and challenging curriculum and will be recognized for its quality education.
- Implementing appropriate use of technology should be integrated throughout the instructional program to enhance student learning.
- Recruiting, retain and motivate highly qualified teachers.
- Supporting strong professional development.
- Working with school leaders to identify, train and mentor potential school administrators and staff.
- In order for our schools and programs to become successful Greek Education must be valued as a critical mission and responsibility of the entire Archdiocese.



GREEK ORTHODOX ARCHDIOCESE OF AMERICA

DEPARTMENT OF GREEK EDUCATION

Current and Future Projects



Due to the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic all of our Greek-American Day schools and Afternoon School programs across the country suspended in school instruction and transition to on-line instruction. The Office of Greek Education was constantly in contact with Greek Day Schools as well as Parish Afternoon Language Programs. The department held weekly meetings with the administrators of Day and Afternoon Greek Schools/Programs to better understand their challenges. They sent out vital information to administrators and teachers regarding virtual learning, student emotional learning and family support as well as information received from the various Health and State Education agencies.

Weekly educational webinars were offered to every teacher in the Archdiocese. The webinars were geared to assist those teachers struggling to transition into online teaching.

- Google Classroom
- Introduction to Zoom
- Various online platforms (Staellinika, Ellinopoula, Papaloizos Publishing)
- Teaching Online
- Lesson planning for online instruction

Several guests were also invited to speak such as His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros, Ms. Niki Kerameus Minister of Education, Research and Religious Affairs, Professor. Pericles Mitkas, Mr. Ioannis Chrysoulakis, secretary General for Greeks Abroad, representatives from the University of Thrace, as well as other prominent speakers.

<https://www.goarch.org/-/greek-american-day-schools-transition-to-on-line-learning>



GREEK ORTHODOX ARCHDIOCESE OF AMERICA

DEPARTMENT OF GREEK EDUCATION

Instructional Material and Resources



<https://www.goarch.org/-/ta-ellinika-mou?inheritRedirect=true&redirect=%2Fdepartments%2Fgreekeducation>

The book series, "Ta Ellinika mou," comprise uniform teaching materials and define a common curriculum for all classes of Greek school, from preschool through the ninth grade. The series continues to be used in many schools throughout the country. In order to alleviate the cost for our schools, we have started to create put the books into a pdf format and offering it to the schools at no cost.

The Department has started centralizing resources and materials so that every parish which requires assistance may contact the office for books, staffing needs, policy and procedure material, resources, etc. Moreover, the Office of education is in the process of creating a central database of school contact information which will assist us to better understand the concerns and needs of the parishes throughout the country.

Instructional Seminars/Webinars

Every year the Department of Greek Education organizes, coordinates and executes the annual teacher training seminar held in New York, meeting the ongoing training needs teachers in the Greater New York Metropolitan Area and across other Metropolises.

This November the Office will host a virtual two-day seminars/webinar that will be made available to all teachers throughout the country. These seminars/webinars, will be geared towards he training needs of our teachers. Our main focus will be on virtual teaching.



GREEK ORTHODOX ARCHDIOCESE OF AMERICA

DEPARTMENT OF GREEK EDUCATION

Seminars Abroad

For many years the Office has conducted seminars in Greece and in Cyprus. We are in contact with the Greek Department of Education and are hoping to create a new partnership that will offer our teachers an opportunity to participate in summer seminars abroad.

School Visits

Continuous and open communication with Greek schools across the county is one of our top priorities. In order for us to better understand the needs of our various schools across the county the Director has conducted and will continue to conduct several visits in the areas that require immediate assistance and guidance.

Partnerships



<https://www.staellinika.com/login>

The Office of education has also created several partnerships with Universities in the United States and abroad. (**Greek Ministry of Foreign Affairs, University of Vancouver, Simone Fraser, University of Thrace, Papaloizos Publishing, Ellinopoula Learning Platform**) These partnerships will help in offering our parish schools valuable resources with no financial strain whatsoever.

There are several projects that the Office of Greek Education will be working on in the near future. One of the projects is the collaboration between **Democritus University of Thrace** in creating online professional development courses for our teachers. In addition, the creation of appropriate educational material for the students of our parishes. Another project is the implantation of the online educational platform **Staellinika** in schools across the country at no cost.