



"Wisdom thoroughly learned
will never be forgotten"
Pythagoras

ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΗ ΟΡΘΟΔΟΞΗ ΕΚΚΛΗΣΙΑ
ΑΓΙΟΥ ΔΗΜΗΤΡΙΟΥ

ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΟ ΣΧΟΛΕΙΟ «ΠΥΘΑΓΟΡΑΣ»

Pythagoras Greek School

Greek Orthodox Church of Saint Demetrios

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**«Η παιδεία μοιάζει με χρυσό στεφάνι, γιατί και αξία μεγάλη έχει
και αποτελεσματική είναι.»**

~ Πυθαγόρας

Dear Parishioners of St. Demetrios and Families of Pythagoras Greek Schools,

May this letter find you and your families healthy and well during these turbulent times. We hope you are enjoying your summer months as best you can under the circumstances. Some families were able to travel to the motherland Greece and enjoy its magnificent beauty and philoxenia. We await their safe return with news of our patria. Others stayed home, using the common term 'staycation'. Regardless, wherever you may have spent your summer, we hope you had an opportunity to enjoy quality time with your loved ones.

These past few months have been historic to say the least. The hardest part is trying to keep our families safe and those most compromised, healthy. With fervent prayers, vigilance, and a steady resolve we find ourselves at the start of yet another school year. Normally during this time we are bustling around to find the best school supplies, cool backpacks, and new clothes for our children. Our teachers are decorating their classrooms and getting excited to meet their new students. Instead, parents are contemplating options about whether to send their children back into the classrooms with face masks and sanitizer or keep them home away from their friends and teachers to learn from a distance. These decisions were not just posed to us here in our community, but to parents all over the world! We hope for a swift resolution and pray that in the future more lives are spared than taken from this pandemic.

We are aware that right about now, families are receiving communication from their children's districts. Some districts are allowing students to return in-person, others are offering remote learning, and still others are suggesting a hybrid model. Yet another new term in the Covid-19 vocabulary. As your directors, we too have been struggling with this decision. We have spent countless hours reading updates from ISBE and the CDC and preparing guidelines with the sole purpose of preparing our classrooms for the safe return of our students.

With the support of the School Board and guidance of the Parish Council and our Parish Priest, we are pleased to announce that we will offer two programs this fall for the Pythagoras Greek School families. One program will meet on Monday and Wednesday afternoons 4:30-6:30pm with a hybrid model. (One day remote/one day in person) The second program will meet in-person on Saturdays from 9:00am -12:00 noon, unless we receive notification from the State to do otherwise.

Our Pythagoras Greek School, here at St. Demetrios in Elmhurst, has been meeting the needs of our Greek Orthodox community for over half a century. We are honored to hold the distinction of being one of the leading Greek schools in our area! We boast over 300 students in attendance between our programs (PCA, PGS, PSGS). This is due in big part because of the support and commitment of families like yourselves. Generations of parents and grandparents have committed to its preservation. Through the years you have given unselfishly to this parish and helped keep programs like the Greek School, Sunday School, PCA, and youth programs alive! Some of you attended Pythagoras as children and now are sending your own children and even your grandchildren to the same school. A school where loving teachers give their very best to educate your children. Where they open their arms and with love teach the beautiful Greek language, Greece's rich culture and history, and our strong Orthodox faith.

This year, however, can be pivotal for our community and school. Like so many institutions and businesses, we are not immune to the ill-effects of this pandemic. As we all struggle to maintain some sense of normalcy in our homes and keep our families safe and healthy, we also have a moral obligation to preserve our beloved parish and sustain our Greek Schools for years to come. Take a moment and look at the beautiful young faces of your children, these faces are the future of our Orthodox faith and Greek language, the future of St. Demetrios. For generations our churches have been the centers not only of our faith, but a way to keep our language, culture, and families united. For this vital reason, we encourage you to continue to support and preserve our church and schools. Enroll your children in the Pythagoras Greek Schools. We are eager for your return. Whether remote or in-person, we will incite the love of the Greek language to our beloved students and keep our Hellenic roots and culture alive for generations to come!

Let us pray for a safe return and fruitful school year! God Bless the parish of St. Demetrios, our Pythagoras Students and Educators!

With reverence,

Your Pythagoras Greek School Directors,

Christina Brales

Demetra Neofotistas