

ST. NICHOLAS GREEK SCHOOL
ANN ARBOR, MICHIGAN
Joanna P. Ioannou, Teacher/Principal

2017-18 GENERAL INFORMATION

Dear parents,

Welcome to our Saint Nicholas Greek School for the 2017-18 school year. I would like to introduce you to the St. Nicholas Greek School and provide you with some helpful information.

Classes for all levels will be held **4:45–6:15 or 6:30–8:00** (Monday–Thursday). The typical class for all levels will follow the outline below:

4:45–5:00 or 6:30–6:45 - Conversation

5:00–5:15 or 6:45–7:00 - Review previous lesson

5:15–5:45 or 7:00–7:30 - Presentation of new lesson

5:45–6:15 or 7:30–8:00 - Songs, games, etc.

Please plan to have your children arrive at school 5–10 minutes ahead of time. This will give everyone the opportunity to take their seats and settle down. Class starts exactly at 4:45 or 6:30 according to your student's schedule. To minimize interruptions and improve the concentration of the entire class, late arrivals will be escorted into the classroom by the Room-Parent on duty and not the parent or guardian.

Assignments

Every week students will be assigned a new dialogue that includes everyday and new words and uses simple grammar. For first grade students the dialogue is also written phonetically until they learn how to read. A translated version of the dialogue will be provided to help students and parents. Students need to understand its meaning and memorize it (slight variations with the same meaning are also acceptable).

In addition, the students according to their level will be given a passage to read (from either a book or a handout) and a writing assignment. These will be complemented with other simple and fun activities. Mythology, history, geography, religion, customs and traditions enrich the learning process of all the students and will become part of the curriculum as the students become more familiar with the language.

Communication

To ensure a successful school year, please check your child's blue folder every week. The outside of this folder will have a class schedule to keep you informed of any upcoming events. In the space under homework you can write comments. Inside the folder your student should have the weekly homework-packet on the left and all the study papers on the right. Corrected papers should be left at home. The **cover page** of the weekly homework-packet lists all assigned homework, the name of the Room Parent for the following week and provides space for parent comments which are always welcome. Please read the papers, notes, and homework assignments that are sent home as soon as

possible so you have the necessary time to plan and prepare accordingly. As in past years, each student will have an assigned cubby in the Greek School classroom. At the end of class students and parents should check their cubby and take home all papers. If a student misses a class, the associated homework packet will be placed in the cubby so you can pick it up when convenient. The church office is open from 9:30 to 3:00 o'clock.

Homework

Greek School classes are held only once a week. Students need to practice at home. Ten minutes a day is all that is needed for the students to learn and memorize a dialogue. Remember, practice makes perfect!

Homework is: A positive and valuable extension of the school day.

- A vital link between school and family.
- A positive interaction between parent and child.

Evaluation - Assessment

Student learning is assessed throughout the year in a variety of ways, including homework, class performance, quizzes and tests. We also have a midterm exam and a final exam. The week before the exams we practice using a pretest. This helps familiarize the students with the test and gives them the opportunity to review and ask questions. After the exams are corrected, the teacher and parents have conferences to discuss student progress and needs.

What your student needs for Greek School

- A positive attitude!
- A good binder or a backpack
- Two note books (one for notes and one to make a dictionary)
- A set of washable markers (8-10)
- A set of crayons (8-10)
- Two pencils and a good eraser

Rules of Student Behavior and Consequences

A handout concerning expected student behavior, classroom rules and consequences is available separately. Please go over it with your student so he/she knows what is expected in the classroom.

Room Parent Program

Our Room Parent program has worked very well over the past 22 years and will continue this year. All Greek School parents will take turns and serve as Room Parents every few weeks depending on the size of the class. The Room Parent Schedule will be available soon after the start of classes.

- The Room Parent program ensures the safety of the students. During Greek School hours the teacher should not be the only adult in the building. Having a Room Parent makes it safer for the students in case of an emergency.
- It enables the teacher to concentrate on academics and give more to the classroom as a whole.
- It provides parents with the opportunity to learn first-hand what goes on in the classroom and to observe the students and their progress.

A separate handout describing the Room Parent Program and Room Parent responsibilities is available. All parents should obtain a copy and familiarize themselves with the program.

Emergencies - Keeping in touch

The Greek School phone number is **332-8230**. My home number is **996-0481** and my e-mail address is **jioannou@gmail.com**. In case of an emergency or in case your student is not coming to school please call to let us know.

School closing

Our Greek School will follow Ann Arbor Public Schools in **emergencies** and **weather-related closings**.

Greek School Website / Documents on the Web

The Greek School website can be accessed in two ways:

- Through the St. Nicholas Church website:
www.stnickaa.org > Ministries > Greek School
- Directly:
<http://greekschool.stnickaa.org/>

The Greek School website includes the live Greek School Calendar (always up-to-date), all Greek School Orientation documents, the Greek School Registration Forms, the Emergency Card, etc. You will find that it is an extremely useful resource.

Greek School Calendar

The Greek School Calendar is available in the classroom and also on line at our website (see above). At the website, the Greek School Calendar can be found as a document and a live Google calendar. Please go over the new schedule to mark your calendar for all special events. We will use the live Google calendar at the website to inform everyone about last minute changes, such as school closure due to bad weather. Again, you will find it a very useful resource.

Greek School Directory

A Greek School Directory will be provided to all families as soon as possible so we can communicate with each other. If you have not filled out a Registration Form yet, please do so as soon as possible, so I can put all the information together and distribute it to you.

Thank you!

I wish everyone a productive and fun year!

Joanna P. Ioannou
Greek School Teacher/Principal