

GreekNews Online article about our Greek School:

Online Learning at the Greek School of St Paul, Hempstead

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Afternoon Greek School students and their parents have shown great enthusiasm to the online programs that teachers and schools started following after the closures of Greek schools.

As it seems unlikely students will return to their classrooms any time soon, many schools have implemented online teaching methods, which allows teachers to continue to teach the year's course work, to test students' comprehension of that work, to promote discussions between students, and to use videos and other resources found online to enhance the virtual classroom experience.

Dr Anastasios Koularmani, Director of the Archdiocese Department of Education, is following these developments closely and has called all Greek School principals to a conference call on Monday March 30th to discuss these latest developments

Afternoon Greek School: Greek Orthodox Cathedral of St Paul, Hempstead, New York

Exemplary is the work being done at the afternoon School of the Greek Orthodox Cathedral of St Paul in Hempstead, which had it online school ready and active immediately upon the school's closure. Their program has also been able to fully incorporate even those teachers who may not be as comfortable with new technology through the use of tele-conferencing, which allows those teachers to spend 20 to 25 minutes with each of their students.

Mary Vlogiantis, the principal of the school told us that their students have not little classtime, and Saturday Day students, who have not even missed one day of lessons. She states that "it important in these difficult times that we keep our connection with the students and their parents. It helps bring a sense of normalcy and continues our education program at a very high standard."

Mrs. Vlogianitis and each of the school's 11 teachers are able to keep in touch with their students through the video conferencing platform Zoom, where they teach the lesson and the interact with their students, answer their questions, review or do in class homework etc. and in the case where a student may require extra help, additional videos are created to assist them, or tele-conferences are arranged.

Ms. Vlogianitis notes that "the parents have fully embraced our online program. Many parents came into the video conference the first days wanting to say hi and to thank us. They were very happy to be able to see and speak to us. I think this online connection helps everyone feel that they are not alone in this crisis."

Ms. Vlogianitis observed that "it's these little things that we can all do at times like these to bring our students, parents and our whole Greek community together. The same technology that had made us all become disconnected and remote from one another, is now helping us come together at this difficult time."

Because the school's 25 of March Celebration were canceled, the teachers spoke to their students about the significance and the importance of the Greek Independence and its heroes. The students read

poems and sang songs. Mrs. Vlogiitis said that many parents told the teachers and herself that they were moved to tears and that their hearts were filled with pride.

The Cathedral of Saint Paul afternoon Greek School has over 180 students ranging from pre-K to 6th grade and Regents classes. Additionally, Mrs. Vlogianitis also oversees conversation classes for children as well as Adult Greek education classes, and its own Greek School dance program.

The school's educational and cultural activities are not just contained to the classroom. Ms. Vlogianitis advised that last year the students produced and performed the traditional Karagiozi with actual shadow puppets from Greece. During the first Day of Lent "Clean Monday," the children made and flew their own kites, had a Lenten picnic and even danced. She states that "[w]e try to bring some traditions that we had in Greece to the students here. These are traditions with which we grew up and greatly miss. The children here will never have an opportunity to learn about them, if we do not teach or show them. Ms. Vlogianitis concluded that "it's our responsibility and we are all very passionate with what we do. "

"The work that is being done out the St Paul Greek School over the past few years is outstanding. We have teacher who have come from Greece and have brought with them a fresh new approach and perspective, and more importantly, they brought with them their love for Greece and its language and have been able to pass it along to the students", said Nikolas Kontoleon, who is currently serving as Financial Secretary on the Parish Council and is also a parent of a Greek School student. He noted that "our children want to attend Greek school and that is extremely gratifying for us".