



***The William Spyropoulos Greek - American Day School
Of St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church***

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*Mary Tzallas
Principal*

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Assistant Principal*

Dear Parents,

Welcome back to another exciting school year. The focus of science instruction has shifted in recent years from learning content and facts to authentic study and involvement in investigations that mimic the work of scientists and engineers. The vision for science education now and in the future is to establish a program for all students that will allow them to be actively engaged in investigations, to explore scientific and engineering phenomena, to theorize and hypothesize, and to make conclusions in order to communicate their discoveries. After careful thought and consideration amongst ourselves and outside consultation, we have decided for the upcoming school year and in the foreseeable future to implement certain changes in regards to our junior high school science curriculum. This transition will be gradually implemented over the next few years to not only keep pace with the new standards set forth by New York City and State but to ultimately create a science program that is unique, competitive, and one that surpasses current expectations.

Our new junior high school curriculum will continue to include a diverse spectrum of disciplines in science that have become a staple of our program over the years. However, our ultimate goal is to create a curriculum that gives our students the opportunity to prepare and to succeed in taking two Regents exams in both Earth Science and in Biology (Living Environment). Currently, we only offer the opportunity for a select group of our 8th graders to take an Earth Science Regents. As this gradual transition commences, we hope to offer this particular Regents exam to our 7th graders beginning in the 2019-2020 school year while allowing our 8th graders to take for the first time the Living Environment Regents beginning in the 2020-2021 school year.

As always, our students are our top priority. Along the way during this transition certain challenges may arise that will require patience and understanding. Please be assured that our intent with this new science curriculum will benefit our students as they advance towards high school. Our students will be a part of an exclusive science program that will catapult their understanding of science to new levels and make a significant impact in their lives.

Sincerely,

Mary Tzallas
Principal

Charles Constantinou
Science Teacher

*An outstanding environment,
where children learn and grow happily and successfully*