



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

43-15 196 St., Flushing N.Y.11358
Tel. (718) 357-5583/ Fax (718) 428-3051
www.wmspyropoulosschool.org

Mary Tzallas
Principal

Georgia Kakivelis
Assistant Principal

August 28, 2019

Dear William Spyropoulos Parents,

On behalf of Father Paul Palesty, our Pastor, Mrs. Elaine Mallios, our School Board President, Mrs. Georgia Kakivelis, our Assistant Principal, our faculty and staff, I would like to welcome you all to the 2019-2020 school year - a year that is filled with promise and opportunity as we continue to strive to find ways to implement programs that will help us grow and become better in order to meet the challenges and demands of education in the 21st century. As we cross the threshold of this new school year, we would like to start with a promise that this will be another year of engaging, productive, rigorous work inside and outside of the classroom. We have been working and planning diligently to make sure that we provide a warm and welcoming school environment that will address the needs of all of our students.

Our highly qualified, enthusiastic teachers have been planning and preparing to welcome their students into their classrooms. Our dedicated office staff is working around the clock to register new students, order supplies, update student records and schedules so that we are ready for the first day. Our maintenance committee and hardworking custodians have spent the entire summer painting and cleaning the building, making sure it is ready for the new school year. Our PTA officers are getting ready to welcome old and new families while planning events that will benefit us all as a school and as a community. Watching us all work together preparing for that first day of school, makes it very clear that we are all one community with a common goal, which is to create *an outstanding school environment where our children learn and grow happily and successfully.*

In our effort to make sure that each year brings growth and positive change, it gives me great pleasure to inform you of the wonderful things that are happening in our school this year. First, we have added two new enthusiastic and promising teachers to our staff. We are excited to welcome Mrs. Maria Kontolemakis as our new Kindergarten teacher. Maria brings a lot of experience, enthusiasm, love and nurturing into the classroom, making the individual needs of her students her top priority. We also welcome Mrs. Stella Vasileiadou as our new Greek teacher. Stella brings a lot of experience, passion and innovation in teaching Greek as a second language. We are fortunate to have both these wonderful educators on our faculty. We also would like to welcome our new nurse, Garifalia Vasilopoulos, who has both the skills and sensitivity to meet children's health and emotional needs.

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Another very exciting change for this new year is the renovation of our Art room into a brand new Art Studio that will inspire our Spyropoulites and give them the opportunity to express themselves artistically while enjoying the process in an environment that fosters creativity and allows them to develop mentally, socially, and emotionally. We would like to express our sincere gratitude to the family of an alumna for making this project possible with their very generous donation. Also, in an effort to enhance our Music Curriculum, and thanks to the generosity of our wonderful PTA, we have ordered two class sets of boom whackers to offer our students an inspiration for creative expression. We hope our Spyropoulites will enjoy making music! We are also in the process of scheduling professional development workshops for our faculty so that we can, more actively, integrate the principles of STEAM in our daily lessons across our entire elementary and middle school curriculum. Lastly, because of the challenging times we live in, security in schools has become a priority in all academic institutes that house our most precious possessions, our children. For this reason, our St. Nicholas Parish Council has hired a professional security team that will be in charge of the safety of our building and children during school hours and throughout the day. We would like to thank our Parish Council for making this important move towards keeping us safe.

In addition to all these positive and exciting changes, I would like to let you know that a great deal of time, effort, and thought has gone into the process of students' placement for the 2019-2020 school year. Careful consideration was given to teachers' input and students' learning style. Class lists have been made so that they reflect an academic and social balance. Keeping that in mind, please understand that moving students is very difficult without causing a disruption to that balance. I thank you in advance for being cooperative and helping your child understand that it's not always possible to place students with a preferred friend or teacher. We are all a family, and we all work together to make school a place where we all get along and accept each other while striving to make it a positive experience for all. Please remember that it can take a few days for a child to adjust to a new school, grade, group and teacher, so please be encouraging and positive. We look forward to making this year a great one for all our students.

Please know that here at Wm. Spyropoulos, we highly value positive home/ school communication as it is a vital and integral part of a student's success, so let's all work together to do what is best for our Spyropoulites and our school in this new school year!

Καλη Σχολικη Χρονια!

Sincerely,
Mary Tzallas

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