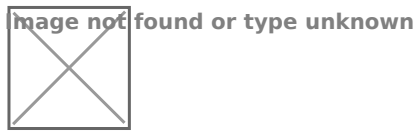


Successful Conference Advances Greek Education



In a vibrant gathering of dedicated educators from the district parishes and day schools, a professional development session took place on November 5, 2024 at the Holy Cross Greek Orthodox Church in Whitestone, NY. The focus of this session was the transformative role of artificial intelligence in education today.

The enlightening workshop delved into the myriad ways AI can enhance teaching and learning experiences, exploring its potential to personalize education, streamline administrative tasks, and bolster student engagement in meaningful ways. Participants engaged in rich discussions about how these cutting-edge technologies can create more interactive and tailored educational environments. However, the workshop also candidly addressed the challenges and pitfalls associated with AI, such as data privacy concerns and the risk of over-reliance on technology. This underscored the importance of maintaining a balanced approach to integrating these powerful tools into the classroom, ensuring that the human element of teaching remains front and center.

A key highlight of the conference was a separate professional development session for Greek language educators, led by the esteemed Mrs. Angeliki Mastrochimahalaki, a highly decorated educator invited by the Department of Education from Greece. She captivated attendees with her focus on effective strategies for promoting literacy and teaching the rich tapestry of Greek language and culture.

The annual Greek Education conference, held every year, serves as a wonderful opportunity for all of our teachers to come together and celebrate our accomplishments as a community. This year, the conference was organized by Dr. Anastasios Koularmanis, the Director of the Department of Greek Education.

The event was graced by the presence of His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros of America. In his address, the Archbishop spoke passionately about the importance of our schools and programs, emphasizing their crucial role in preserving and promoting Greek language and culture. He expressed deep appreciation for our teachers, acknowledging the sacrifices and hard work they invest in their students'

education. His heartfelt words resonated with attendees, reinforcing the value of dedication and commitment in shaping the next generation.

Fr. Vasilios Tsourlis, the President of the High Council for Greek Education, was also present and welcomed everyone to the event. His remarks highlighted the significance of collaboration among educators and the importance of nurturing the Greek heritage within the educational framework.

Additionally, representatives from the NYC Department of Education attended to host a private meeting with the principals of the Greek American day schools. This meeting was an important opportunity to discuss significant changes in policies and procedures affecting the schools, ensuring that educators are well-informed and prepared for upcoming developments.

The Holy Cross Community deserves heartfelt thanks for hosting this significant event, which served as a beacon of collaboration and professional growth. The participation of educators not only fosters personal development but also strengthens our collective commitment to enriching the Greek educational landscape. Organizers warmly encourage all educators to seize future opportunities for collaboration and continuous learning, ensuring that the spirit of community and shared purpose thrives.

For more information about the conference and ongoing initiatives, please contact Mr. Anastasios Koularmanis at [\[email protected\]](#).

Photos: GOARCH/Dimitrios Panagos

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