

A. Fantis students take educational pilgrimage to Greece



Students from the A. Fantis School of Saints Constantine and Helen Greek Orthodox Cathedral of Brooklyn recently returned from a transformative educational journey through Greece, experiencing firsthand the living connection between Hellenism, Orthodox Christianity, history, and modern Greek life through a carefully curated itinerary designed to bring classroom learning to life.

Led by Fr. Evagoras Constantinides, Dean of Saints Constantine and Helen Greek Orthodox Cathedral, the trip offered the schools 8th grade students and parents a unique opportunity to engage with the spiritual, cultural, and historical foundations that define both the school's mission and the broader legacy of Greek Orthodoxy.



Throughout the journey, students explored some of Greece's most significant religious, historical, and cultural landmarks. Among the highlights was a visit to the National Gallery Annex in Nafplion, where students encountered important works of Greek art that helped contextualize the nation's history and identity through visual storytelling.

In Athens, students visited the Presidential Guard and received a rare behind-the-scenes tour of the workshops where the iconic uniforms of the Evzones and Tsarouchia are meticulously crafted. The experience gave students a deeper appreciation for the symbolism, precision, and tradition that continue to shape one of Greece's most recognizable institutions.

The group also toured the Metropolitan Cathedral of Athens and its museum under the guidance of Father Thomas Synodios, who provided students with insight into

the history of the Cathedral, the sacred treasures preserved within the museum, and the enduring role of the Church in Greek society and national identity.

A new addition to this year's itinerary was the Museum of Ancient Greek Technology, where students explored the remarkable ingenuity of the ancient Greek world and discovered how Greek innovation helped shape the foundations of science, engineering, and modern civilization.

No visit to Greece would be complete without a pilgrimage to the Acropolis, where students stood before the Parthenon and reflected on the enduring legacy of classical Greece and its continuing influence on the modern world.

One of the most memorable experiences of the trip came through a special visit to the Embassy of the United States, Athens. The A. Fantis group became the first educational delegation to tour the embassy following its extensive eight-year renovation project. Students received an exclusive behind-the-scenes presentation from the head of construction overseeing the renovation and participated in a briefing from embassy staff about the diplomatic mission and work of the embassy in Greece.

"For our students, Greece is not simply a place they read about in textbooks," said Father Evagoras. "It is the living inheritance of our faith, our culture, and our identity. Every church, museum, monument, and conversation becomes an opportunity for them to understand more deeply who they are as Orthodox Christians and as young people connected to the legacy of Hellenism. This trip has become one of the defining experiences of the A. Fantis journey."

Principal Theodore Tasoulas emphasized the unique role these experiences play in the formation of A. Fantis students.

"What makes A. Fantis different is our commitment to educating the whole child through faith, heritage, academic excellence, and lived experience," Tasoulas said. "This trip is not tourism. It is formation. Our students return with a stronger understanding of Greece, a deeper appreciation for Orthodoxy, and memories that will remain with them for the rest of their lives."

Fr. Evagoras has led young people to Greece for more than fifteen years through his work with Ionian Village and has continued developing the A. Fantis Greece program over the past eight years during his ministry at Saints Constantine and Helen Cathedral.

For A. Fantis students, the trip served as far more than an educational excursion. It

was an immersive encounter with the faith, history, and culture that continue to shape the mission of the school and the lives of its students, reinforcing the unique identity and educational vision that distinguish A. Fantis within Orthodox Christian education.

Photo courtesy of A. Fantis

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