Saint Demetrios Greek Orthodox Bilingual Day School

Founded 1999

Approved by the Maryland State Department of Education
and the Maryland Child Care Administration

Our Vision & Mission

It takes a Greek village...

In today's fast paced 21st-century society, it is becoming increasingly important to establish a firm foundation educationally, culturally, and spiritually in a child's critical early years of life. The Saint Demetrios Greek Orthodox Bilingual Day School offers preschool-age students a loving Orthodox Christian environment in which the Greek language and culture are not only accepted but integrated in all facets of learning. Offering students a launchpad into Kindergarten, our unique preschool program provides a natural first extension of the Orthodox child's home life.

Our vision is to contribute to the healthy growth and development of our Orthodox children. We strive to provide children with opportunities that develop their intellect, social, spiritual, emotional and physical skills. Embarking on a journey of lifelong interest and appreciation for spiritual and cultural yearning, our educationally based philosophy and curriculum emphasizes that each child will be elevated to his/her own individual potential at his/her individual pace.

Our mission is to provide a learning and nurturing environment that develops the whole child by:

- Amplifying our faith and cultural values in collaboration with the church and partnership with the students' parents;
- Creating opportunities for the development of social skills in an atmosphere of respectfulness, caring and helpfulness toward others and their differences;
- Providing a climate for academically challenging age-appropriate learning activities within a safe environment.

As a youth ministry of the church, the Saint Demetrios Greek Orthodox Bilingual Day School is a non-profit preschool and pre-kindergarten program for children ages three through five. We believe in active learning in an Orthodox Christian-centered environment that will ready the children to enter elementary school and encourage them to be curious and excited about life-long learning and discovery. In our program, the children learn letters, colors, shapes and numbers while singing, cooking, dancing, drawing, painting, listening to special visitors, field trips and many other learning adventures. Our program also enriches and enhances cultural, ethnic and spiritual growth. We take pride in providing the community with a unique program that teaches children the value of our Hellenic heritage, Greek language and Orthodox Christian faith.

Our Advantage:

- Greek Language & Culture
- Chapel Chats with Fr. Lou (Orthodox Religion)
- Weekly Music Instruction with nationally renown music director
- Library Time with experienced teacher/librarian
- Physical Education (Outdoor Playground and Nature Walks)
- Numerous Field Trips (Pumpkin Farm, Greek Independence Day Parade, Cromwell Valley Park)
- Drama (Christmas Pageant, Graduation Day Ceremony)
- Art (integrated w/lessons)
- Computer Center Time
- Health/Nutrition Focus
- Science Experiments

Parents' Perspective:

"The teachers are excellent and they really work with the kids. I think it is important to have both the secular and religious education integrated.

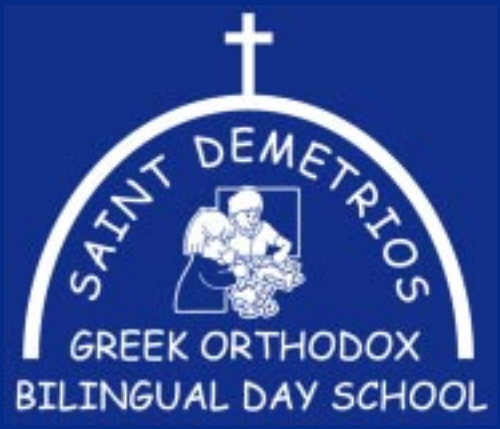
It is important also for the children to be with others with their same background and heritage, creating an environment in which they are both eager to learn and proud to be Greek. Rather than an obligation, they look forward to it! They learn that the language and the culture is a way of life. If we don't keep up the traditions they will get lost. This unique school is a great opportunity to do just that...and more!"

- Kerrie Antonopoulos,
mother of Sophia, age 4 &
Peter, preschool graduate

"As a mother of twins who are enrolled in this school, I have been so impressed by their educational and spiritual growth. They are proud to be Greek and enjoy learning the Greek language, culture and religion. They look forward to going to school, and they speak fondly of their teachers, classmates and staff. This lets me know that they are being nurtured and taught with love and respect."

- Karen Rallis, mother of twins
Janette & Maria, ages 4

DESERT
SPRINGS



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