



Hellenic Orthodox Community of Astoria
Saint Demetrios Greek-American School
Αἰὲν Ἀριστεύειν | Ever to Excel

Dear St. Demetrios School Parents:

On Wednesday, October 17, Stefanos Kasselakis expressed his interest in visiting St. Demetrios School in Astoria and St. Nicholas Shrine at Ground Zero through the Consulate General of Greece in New York.

Mr. Kasselakis is the leader of the second political party of Greece "Syriza" and constitutionally is the fourth in the hierarchy of Greece, after the President of Greece, the President of the Greek Parliament, and the Prime Minister of Greece, playing an essential role for democracy in Greece. He is the latest of many politicians and officials from Greece and Cyprus to visit our school to experience the strong academic environment that is steeped in Hellenic and Orthodox Christian traditions.

On Friday, October 19, Mr. Kasselakis visited St. Demetrios Cathedral and our School. We also had a previously planned Divine Liturgy for Grades 4-12 at the church that day. This celebration of the Divine Liturgy didn't occur because of our visitor; he was not present for the church service.

As is typical with other officials who visit our school, Mr. Kasselakis arrived at our main campus and visited the library to see the book fair, science lab, and gymnasium.

Our school follows the Orthodox ethos, culture, and heritage. We teach our students in every class to keep this ethos and the vital traditions of the Holy Church through teachers who care for and value them and a curriculum centered on our Christian faith, Greek language, and heritage. That Orthodox Ethos teaches us to be open-hearted, accepting our fellow man as a creature of God, condemning the deeds but respecting the person, following the commandment of our Lord: "And if any man hears My words and believe not, I judge him not; for I came not to judge the world, but to save the world" (John 12:47).



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However, we sincerely apologize for not informing you about this specific official visit in advance. This did not happen intentionally. We will make every effort to inform you of upcoming official visits or other important events that impact the students' schedules as soon as possible and in advance of the specific visit or event.

St. Demetrios stays true to its core mission, rooted in Orthodox Christianity, in the Hellenic language and culture, and focused on delivering solid academics and growth for every student.

Please let us know if you have any questions, comments, or concerns.

We thank you.

St. Demetrios School Administration