

**SOCRATES GREEK SCHOOL**

**LEARNING KEYS FOR SUCCESS**

**Presented by Educational Committee**

## VISION

- ✓ To offer a rich, high quality, stimulating, and fun learning environment of the Greek language, history, and culture.
- ✓ To create awareness and a sense of pride of Greek culture, and encourage its preservation, in a diverse and multicultural society.
- ✓ To have a strong and respectful partnership with the students, parents, and teachers.

## LEARNING PHILOSOPHY

- ✓ Students are in contact with teachers who are native speakers of the Greek language. Students are encouraged to communicate in Greek and participate in conversations between teacher to child(ren) and child(ren) to child(ren). English is spoken, only if necessary.
- ✓ Levels of language proficiency range from Kindergarten to Level 6. At the Kindergarten level (between the ages of 5-6) children become familiar with very basic concepts. Levels 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6 are progressive levels and divided into three categories: Beginner; Intermediate; and Advanced. Outlined below, are learning outcomes – for all levels.
- ✓ Students will be assessed by the teachers to determine their level of language proficiency. The goal of placing students at the appropriate level is twofold:
  - to have students enjoy learning the language in a fun, challenging, and engaging manner.
  - to ensure that students successfully master language concepts and have a solid foundation before they advance to the next level. Teachers will dialogue with parents and share progress updates.
- ✓ Colourful, visually appealing books, and bilingual books and workbooks (including other relevant materials), will be used to help with reading and writing, spelling, and grammar skills, at the various levels, (Kindergarten to Level 6). Topics such as, geography, history, mythology, customs & traditions, songs, dances, poems, are part of the learning curriculum.

## LEARNING PHILOSOPHY (cont'd)

- ✓ Educational research has shown that meaningful and consistent homework improves learning. Child(ren) will be assigned homework regularly to be completed at home.
  
- ✓ Support outside the school environment, plays an important part in forming positive attitudes towards learning and homework. Speaking and listening to the Greek language as well as experiencing the Greek culture and heritage are important elements of success. Asking child(ren) to explain what they learned (e.g., stories, songs, dances), playing guessing word games, reading fairytales & myths, listening to Greek music – are just a few ideas to promote and encourage learning.
  
- ✓ **P**arents are recognized as partners in the education of their child(ren), since they are making a conscious decision to have their child(ren) learn the Greek language. Parents are invited to maintain open communication and dialogue with teachers and are requested to attend, parent-teacher interviews, twice a year (January and May) - to learn what their child(ren) accomplished.
  
- ✓ School supplies (pencils; pencil sharpener; eraser; crayons, pencil crayons; exercise books), a healthy snack and water are required for all students. Cell phones/personal electronic devices and game equipment are not allowed in class. Favourite toys are not encouraged to be brought to school.

## KEY LEARNING OUTCOMES

**Kindergarten, Level 1, Level 2, Level 3, Level 4, Level 5, Level 6 (outlined in pages 4-10).**

### **Kindergarten**

#### **Easiest level for ages 5-6**

Listening & Speaking: Listen to basic Greek words and sentences, repeat them, and explain their meaning. Expand vocabulary through themes (e.g., colours, animals, vegetables and fruits, numbers, various objects). Speak using basic greetings. Use puzzles with various Greek words and pictures.

#### Reading:

Identify letters of the alphabet and sounds. Use letter cards for sorting and recognizing. Share stories from Greek mythology and literature.

#### Writing:

Trace and copy letters of the alphabet, as well as basic words. Recognize letters and words - and match them together.

#### Cultural history:

Celebrate Greek historical holidays (e.g., 28<sup>th</sup> of October, Christmas, 25<sup>th</sup> of March, Easter) through poems, songs and dances.

#### Dance:

Learn basic dance steps to perform in various school celebrations and festivals.

## **Level 1**

### **Beginner level for ages 6+**

#### Listening & Speaking:

Review the alphabet taught in Kindergarten. Use letters to make syllables and words. Form basic sentences, repeat and respond to conversations. Expand vocabulary through cards, books, other materials. Review themes (e.g., days of the week, animals, vegetables, fruits, seasons, colours, and numbers). Pronounce Greek names. Listen to stories and understand what the stories tell us. Listen to and learn key words in stories, including their Greek meaning. Use basic words in conversation.

#### Reading:

Learn the letters of the alphabet, upper and lower case, and sounds they make. Read syllables, words, short sentences and later in the year, able to read short stories. Recognize words and their definitions. Use cards with pictures and words to connect and learn the alphabet, as well as new vocabulary.

#### Writing:

Practice writing letters, syllables, words, short sentences. Form words and learn their meaning. Practice spelling of basic words (at home), in writing books. Print words on the board from lessons. Practice writing their name.

#### Grammar:

Match capital letters with small letters. Speak in short sentences. Begin to understand the difference of female, male, neutral words. Understand the alphabet in consonants and vowels.

#### Cultural History:

Celebrate Greek historical holidays (e.g., 28th of October, Christmas, 25<sup>th</sup> of March, Easter), through poems, songs and dances, including reading and writing about holidays.

#### Dance:

Learn basic dances to perform in school celebrations and various community festivals. Learn steps (e.g., holding hands, keeping an open circle).

## **Level 2**

### **Beginner level for ages 7+**

#### Listening and Speaking:

Expand vocabulary through new themes (e.g., fruits, vegetables, parts of a house, transportation, clothing cultural and seasonal), as well as review previous themes.

#### Reading:

Review alphabet (upper and lower case). Learn consonant and vowel digraphs (αι, ει, οι, ου, αυ, ευ). Review word skills (syllabication, context, visual clues). Read stories.

#### Writing & Spelling:

Practice writing letters of the alphabet, vowels and consonants, words, sentences. Practice copying 2-3 sentences from text each week (αντιγραφή). Compose basic sentences to accompany pictures or drawings. Activities: match/unscramble words and sentences; fill in blanks (words, letters). Recognize words in and out of context. Prepare for weekly spelling review.

#### Grammar:

Learn to say the alphabet by heart. Distinguish between vowels, consonants, σύμφωνα, and φωνήεντα. Begin parts of speech with articles ο, η, το; nouns; singular-plural: ένα, πολλά. Using various punctuations (period, comma, and stress mark).

#### Cultural History:

Celebrate Greek historical holidays (e.g., 28th of October, Christmas, 25<sup>th</sup> of March, Easter), through poems, songs and dances, including reading and writing about holidays.

Dance: Basic steps: Kalamatianos, Tsamikos, Karagouna, Hasaposervikos, Syrtos, Gaida.

## Level 3

### Intermediate level for ages 8+

#### Listening & Speaking:

Speak in basic conversations with teacher in Greek on topics discussed in class. Follow instructions, learn to give instructions. Vocabulary: review and expand on themes. Listen to stories read in Greek at an appropriate level of difficulty. Learn new songs, poems, word games,

#### Reading:

Review alphabet, vowel and consonant combinations. Review vowel digraphs ( αι, ει, οι, ου, αυ, ευ). Learn consonant digraphs (e.g., Στ, Μπ, Ντ, γγ, γκ, τζ, τς, γθ, θλ, χρ, ρτ, πρ). Review skills to unlock new words (using context/visual clues, syllabication). Prepare and review weekly reading lesson at home. Learn new vocabulary and prepare for weekly spelling tests.

#### Writing & Spelling:

Improve handwriting. Copy 2-3 sentence texts. Spell one sentence from weekly reading lesson.

#### Grammar:

Review alphabet: vowels, consonants, vowel/consonant digraphs, upper and lower Case. Nouns: concrete, common, proper, use of capitals, gender (ο η, το), number (ένα - πολλά). Adjectives: agreement with nouns (ο μικρός σκύλος, η μικρή γάτα, το μικρό παιδί) Verbs: Auxiliary verbs: είμαι, έχω (used in sentences), negatives using δεν.

#### Culture History:

Celebrate Greek historical holidays (e.g., 28th of October, Christmas, 25<sup>th</sup> of March, Easter), through poems, songs and dances, including reading and writing about holidays.

Dance: Basic steps: Kalamatianos, Tsamikos, Karagouna, Hasaposervikos, Syrtos.

## **Level 4**

### **Intermediate level for ages 9+**

#### Listening & Speaking:

Speak with teacher and students in class on a variety of topics (e.g., stories read or discussed in class, real life situations). Learn new songs, poems, word games.

#### Reading:

Read various texts. Practice reading at school and at home. Word study: vocabulary lists, dictionary use, new words in different contexts, frequent review to consolidate.

#### Writing & Spelling:

Improve handwriting: copy passages from text. Spell two basic sentences. Improve handwriting: copy passages from text. Creative writing: write stories consisting of 2-3 sentences on assigned topic. Work collaboratively with partner to compose a story or report.

#### Grammar:

Review alphabet, punctuation. Improve dictionary skills: alphabetical order. Review auxiliary verbs such as έχω, είμαι; nouns in singular, plural, 3 genders, appropriate endings –declensions. (Ο πατέρας μου είναι καλός/Το όνομα του πατέρα είναι Νίκος./Αγαπώ τον πατέρα μου); adjectives: agreement in number and gender with the nouns they modify; verb tenses - understand simple present. (Εγώ γράφω το όνομα μου. Εσύ τι γράφεις; Αυτός γράφει ένα γράμμα κλπ.) .

#### Culture History:

Celebrate Greek historical holidays (e.g., 28th of October, Christmas, 25<sup>th</sup> of March, Easter), through poems, songs and dances, including reading and writing about holidays.

Dance: Partner work Kalamatianos, Tsamikos, Karagouna, Hasaposervikos, Syrtos.

## Level 5

### Advanced level for ages 10+

#### Listening & Speaking:

Speak with the teacher and students in class, using new vocabulary.

Use role play and dramatizations of imaginary & real life situations. Oral presentation in Greek: individual/group projects on topics assigned by teacher. Learn new songs, poems, word games.

#### Reading:

Select lessons from texts. Word study: vocabulary review. Use the dictionary.

#### Writing & Spelling:

Improve handwriting skills: Copy passages from texts. Emphasis will be on expression, **not** on correct spelling or grammar. Dictation: 2 – 3 sentences from a story. Stress on correct spelling of noun and verb endings, adjective-noun agreement (e.g., Διαβάζω - βιβλίο / άνθρωποι - πίνει - αδελφή).

#### Grammar:

Dictionary skills: words in alphabetical order. Parts of speech such as, Nouns: concrete, ισοσύλλαβα, ανισοσύλλαβα, αρσενικά: ος, ας, ης, ους, ες; Θηλυκά: α, η, ου; Ουδέτερα: ο, ι, ος, μα, μο. Noun case in context: (Το αμάξι της μητέρας είναι κόκκινο). Adjectives singular and plural in comparative degree: (μικρός, μικρότερος, κλπ.). Declensions of nouns and adjectives: (ο μικρός σκύλος). Review auxiliary verbs: είμαι, έχω. Verb tenses in Simple and continuous present tense.

#### Culture History:

Celebrate Greek historical holidays (e.g, 28th of October, Christmas, 25<sup>th</sup> of March, Easter), through poems, songs and dances, including reading and writing about holidays.

Dance: Kalamatianos, Antikristos, Ballos, Tsamikos, Baidouska, Koftos.

## Level 6

### Advanced level for ages 11+

#### Listening & Speaking:

Speak with the teacher and students in class about various topics. Prepare for oral presentations, including formal and informal individual/group projects. Topics will be assigned by the teacher. Learn new songs, poems, word games. View videos relating to mythology

#### Reading:

Select lessons from texts. Word study, vocabulary lists, frequent word review, and dictionary use.

#### Writing & Spelling:

Improve handwriting skills. Copy passages from text. Emphasis will be on expression, **not** on correct spelling or grammar. Dictation: 2 – 3 sentences from story. Stress correct spelling of noun and verb endings, adjective-noun agreement.

#### Grammar:

All parts of speech such as, Nouns: Concrete, abstract, *ισοσύλλαβα/ανισοσύλλαβα* -all declensions, singular/plural. Adjectives: comparative degree, agreement with nouns, singular and plural. Decline adjectives such as: *ός, ή, ό, ιά*. Verbs: First and second conjugations. Tenses conjugated in the past, future, and simple.

#### Project(s):

My roots: an individual project based on a city or region, home of student's grandparents or parents.

-geographical location, land features (mountains, rivers, etc.)

-places of interest

-historical interest of the area

-common occupations, way of life, products for trade

-population, climate

Resources: Internet, interviews (relatives, friends), travel brochures, family photos

Personal writing: Learner describes the above city/region in his/her own words - express personal feelings about his/her roots. Oral/Visual/Written components required.

#### Culture History:

Celebrate Greek historical holidays (e.g., 28th of October, Christmas, 25<sup>th</sup> of March, Easter), through poems, songs and dances, including reading and writing about holidays.

Dance: Kalamatianos, Antikristos, Ballos, Tsamikos, Baidouska, Kofto.