

Letter from Georgia Vasilopoulos (translated from the Greek original)

As a philologist, teacher of the preparatory classes for the test of Greek Language Certification (Ellinomatheia) at the school of the community of Agios Nikolaos Greek Church in Bethlehem Pennsylvania and as the person responsible in recent years for the students who elect to take part in the exams, I must attest that, as an institution, the Ellinomatheia exams that stand in the promotion of Hellenism are what our Greek students needed: After so many years of studying in the Greek Schools of our respective communities to be able to bring their efforts to fruition and to be able to earn and feel the degree of dignity they deserve for themselves and their families, after their long investment in learning Greek!

A language with such a long and glorious history in our world, a language in which the most important writings of antiquity were written, a language of unparalleled beauty, plasticity, vocabulary, wealth and depth of meaning. Students admit that preparing for the exam matures their Greek language consciousness, and attending the exams is a unique experience. I must be fair, and say that the experience is positive not only because the tests are worthwhile on their own but also because of the way Ms. Kyriakoula Micha holds and organizes them, which is remarkable.

Ms. Micha, with her deep knowledge of Greek and her organizational skills, inspires enthusiasm and security, as well as respect and appreciation, not only for the exams but also for the Odyssey Charter School where they are held. Her vitality, her friendliness, her honesty, her loyalty to an adherence to the rules of conducting the exams, and above all her encouragement to children is what makes candidates talk excitedly about the exams and they return every successive year for the next level of Greek language acquisition testing.

As an educator with 25 years of experience in teaching and collaboration with colleagues, I want to congratulate Ms. Micha, who has managed to create this climate around the institution and through her efforts and zeal to keep alive the interest of hundreds of students; to participate in the exams and to choose the Odyssey Charter School testing center in particular. This particular school clearly reflects the love for the Greek letters and therefore the whole experience of participating in the exams at the particular center is positive and serves as a source of inspiration for our students to continue the pursuit of Greek language studies.

Of the number of my students who participate every year, half of them say to me, "Ms. Micha remembered me from last year when I came to take the exams for the previous level" and the other half tell me: Ms. Micha definitely told me to come to take and the next level! How grateful we should be to people like Ms. Micha who succeed with their passion and love for all things we value to serve in this role with such a high sense of responsibility, respect and enthusiasm!

I congratulate the Odyssey Charter School, which hosts such an institution, gaining the high estimation of hundreds of Greek families at the same time. And the Center for the Greek Language for the selection of moderators and organizers of the exams like Ms. Kyriakoula Micha!

Good luck in keeping the program strong and successful, just as you have done so far!

Georgia Vasilopoulos