

SECTION VI

Our School



OUR SCHOOL HISTORY

In the early 1920s, as Greek-speaking families began settling in Corona, New York, their primary focus was on establishing an official Greek Orthodox community and securing a place of worship. Having built it with their own effort and dedication, the members of Transfiguration of Christ Church felt a deep sense of pride and fulfillment. As they gave thanks to God for granting them the strength and determination to reach their goal, they also remained mindful about their children's education. Parents soon began calling for a proper school.They believed that the Greek language and culture deserved to be taught in a more suitable and structured environment rather than in temporary, inadequate spaces then being used.

During those very early days, it was Mrs. Sophia M.Cavalliotis who originally instigated a program for teaching Greek to the children. A graduate of the Harlem Hospital School of Nursing, Mrs. Cavalliotis was a woman of vision who founded a group called "Agape," dedicated to raising funds for a proper classroom. The first teacher of the Greek school was Eleni Demetriou.





Mrs. Sophia Cavalliotis, Founder and First President of "Agape"

In later years, the balcony of the second home of the Transfiguration of Christ Church was repurposed as a classroom. It was there that Mr. Vamvourakis gathered about twenty school-age children from the community and began teaching them the richness, meaning, and complexities of the Greek language.



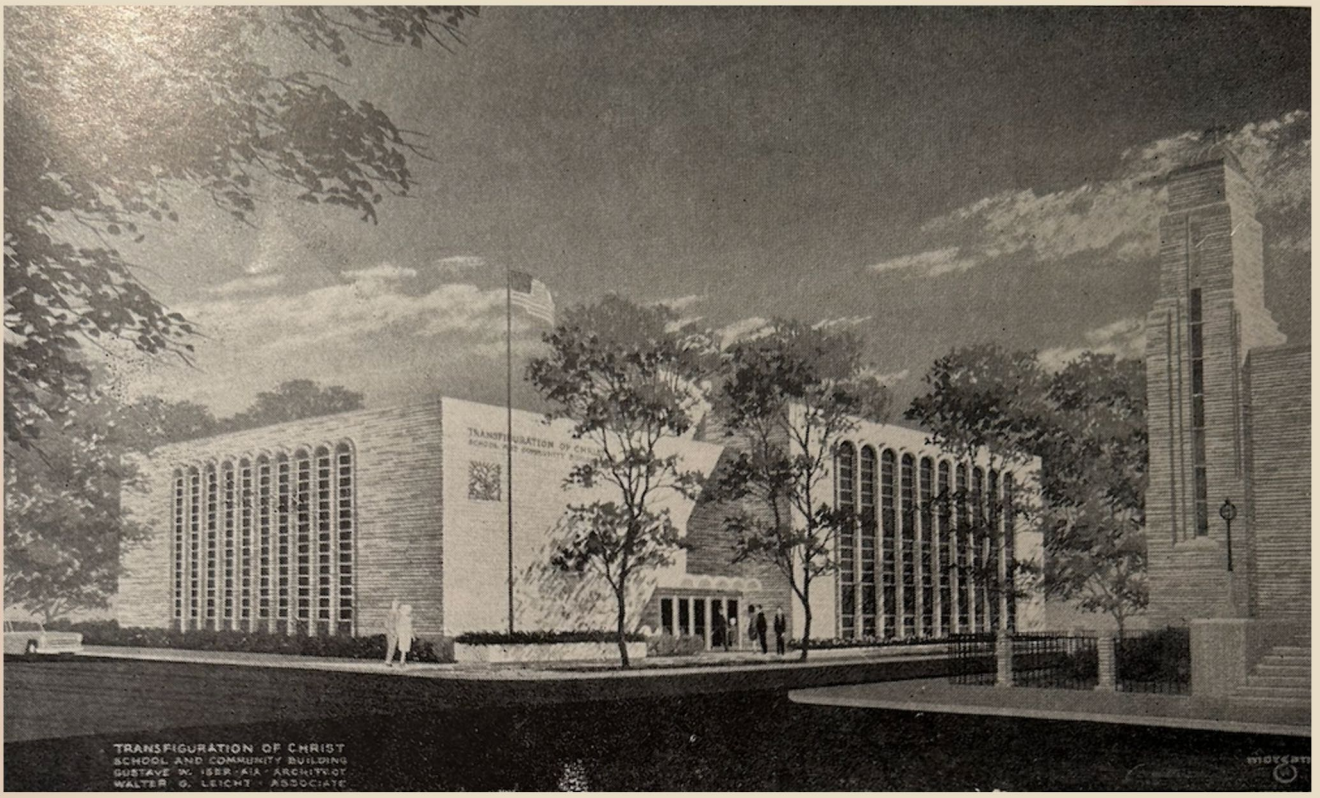
Teacher Mr. Vamvourakis with his students

As the years passed, Greek education for the children of the Transfiguration of Christ community in Corona continued steadily despite the absence of a proper school building. The community's strong cultural spirit endured, determined that nothing would hinder the preservation of their heritage. Eventually, classes were held during the day in the basement of the new church, and additional space was provided at local schools. Mrs. Spanos became especially well known for her dedicated work as part of the small but committed Greek teaching staff. In time, however, the community recognized that decisive action was needed towards the construction of a proper school.

With that in mind, at the General Assembly of 1964, the members of the community approved the creation of a dedicated reserve fund specifically for building the school. William Poll, Nicholas Spanos, and Christ Stratakis were appointed to oversee and manage this fund. On October 23, 1964, it was officially announced that the preliminary design for the new school had been completed. By the end of that year, the construction fund amounted to approximately fifty thousand dollars.

Transfiguration of Christ Greek-Parochial School

The founding of the School of Metamorphosis was driven by a deep commitment to preserving Greek heritage through language and education. Guided by this vision, a committee of past community leaders embarked on the mission to construct a dedicated school building in 1965. With the contract signed on December 5, 1966, the stage was set for the school's opening.



















The groundbreaking of the Transfiguration School at Christmas 1966 and the laying of the cornerstone on May 28, 1967.

On September 10, 1967, the School of Metamorphosis officially opened its doors at 98-07 38th Avenue, directly adjacent to the church, welcoming 15 students under the guidance of its first principal, Edward Stanley. As the decades unfolded, the school expanded its curriculum eventually offering education from Pre-K through ninth grade. With a strong commitment to innovative educational programs, it provided not just knowledge and academic growth, but a sense of family, community, and a steadfast connection to Greek heritage.





















Mr. Edward Stanley, the first principal of the Day School of Transfiguration, with School staff and Board Members.











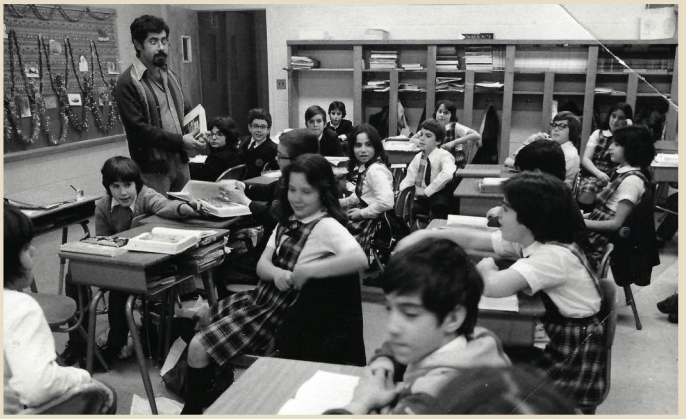



EASTER — LAND













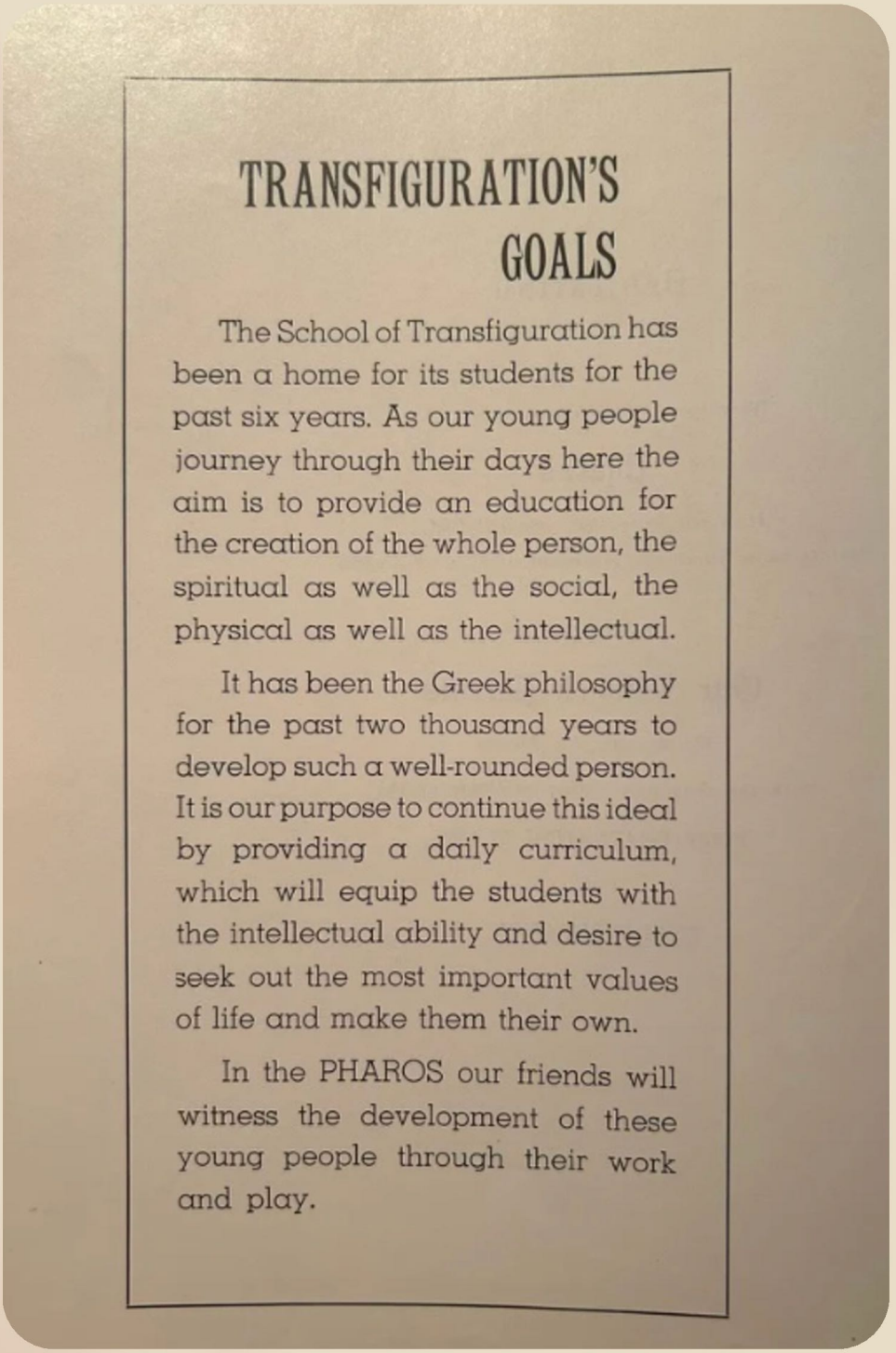







9019





TRANSFIGURATION'S GOALS

The School of Transfiguration has been a home for its students for the past six years. As our young people journey through their days here the aim is to provide an education for the creation of the whole person, the spiritual as well as the social, the physical as well as the intellectual.

It has been the Greek philosophy for the past two thousand years to develop such a well-rounded person. It is our purpose to continue this ideal by providing a daily curriculum, which will equip the students with the intellectual ability and desire to seek out the most important values of life and make them their own.

In the PHAROS our friends will witness the development of these young people through their work and play.

From the school yearbook PHAROS, in 1973.


SCHOOL OF THE
TRANSFIGURATION
CORONA NY
MRS MANN
MISS ZANTHIS
GRADE 5
FEBRUARY 1969







Ἑλληνισμός καί Παραδόσεις

"Ἴσως νά μήν ὑπάρχῃ ἄλλος λαός στή γῆ, πού νά ξενιτεύεται ἀπό τήν πρώτη χαραυγή τῆς ἱστορικῆς του ὑπάρξεως, ὅπως ὁ Ἑλληνικός.

Ἁπλώθηκε ἀπό τήν μητροπολιτική του χώρα εἰς ὅλα τά νησιά, στά παράλια τῆς Θράκης, τῆς Μ. Ἀσίας, τῆς Ν. Ἰταλίας, τῆς Σικελίας, τῆς Ἀδριατικῆς, τοῦ Εὐξείνου Πόντου καί ἔφθασεν ἕως τά Δωδεκάνησα καί στήν Κύπρο καί κατά τούς Ἱστορικούς χρόνους ἀπετέλεσε τόν Ἑλλαδικό χῶρο, ὅπου ἀνθισε τό πιό ὁμορφο λουλούδι, πού ἐγέννησε τό πνεῦμα καί ἡ ψυχή ἑνός λαοῦ, τό Ἑλληνικό θαῦμα!

Τήν ὁμαδική αὐτή μετανίνησιτοῦ Ἑλληνικοῦ στοιχείου, πού τό ξεκίνημά της γινόταν μέ τελετές, ὠνόμαζαν τότε ἀποικισμό καί τόν Ἕλληνα ἄποικο.

Καί σήμερα ξενητεύονται οἱ Ἕλληνες, ὠθούμενοι κυρίως ἀπό τήν ἀνάγκη τῆς ἐπιβιώσεως. Ὁμως σήμερα δέν λέγονται ἄποικοι, ἀλλά μετανάσται καί δέν φεύγουν ὅπως τότε μέ τελετές, ἀλλά μέ σφιγμένη τήν καρδιά γιά ἐκείνους πού ἀφήνουν πίσω καί μέ τήν ἀγωνία τί τούς περιμένει εἰς τήν νέα χώρα.

Δέν ἀργοῦν ὅμως νά προσαρμοσθοῦν. Ἐργάζονται σκληρά, δημιουργοῦν, μορφώνονται, προκόβουν. Ἀγαποῦν καί σέβονται καί ὑπηρετοῦν τήν θετή τους Πατρίδα.

Ὁμως ὅλους, ὅπου καί ἄν εὑρίσκωνται τούς ἑνώνει ὁ ἀκατάλυτος δεσμός τοῦ αἵματος, ἡ κοινή κληρονομία τοῦ ἐνδόξου Γένους, οἱ κοινοί ἀγῶνες καί ἡ προσπάθεια νά διατηρηθῆ ἀμείωτη ἡ Ἑλληνική Παράδοσις καί ἡ κοινή ὑπερηφάνεια διά τήν συμβολήν τῆς αἰώνιας Ἑλλάδας εἰς τόν ἀνθρώπινον πολιτισμόν.

Ἀπαραίτητα μέσα διά νά διατηρηθοῦν οἱ ἑλληνοχριστιανικές παραδόσεις, τά ἱερά καί τά ὅσια τῆς Φυλῆς μας, ἐκτός τῆς Ἑλληνικῆς Ὀρθοδόξου Ἐκκλησίας μας, εἶναι καί τό Ἑλληνικόν Σχολεῖον καί εἰς αὐτό στρέφεται ἡ προσοχή καί τό ἐνδιαφέρον πάσης ἑλληνικῆς Κοινότητος.

Ἐδῶ εἰς τήν Ἀμερικήν ἔχουν ἱδρυθῆ ὄχι χωρίς κόπους καί μόχθους πολλά Ἑλληνοαμερικανικά Κοινοτικά Σχολεῖα, τά ὁποία μέ τήν συνεργασίαν τῆς Ἐκκλησίας σκοπόν ἔχουν νά σταλάξουν εἰς τίς ψυχές τῶν Ἀμερικανοπαίδων Ἑλληνικῆς καταγωγῆς τά νάματα τῆς Ἑλληνοορθοδόξου πίστεως καί νά τούς κάμουν νά νοιώσουν τίς πνευματικές, ἠθικές, διανοητικές καί αἰσθητικές ἀξίες πού χαρακτηρίζουν τόν Ἑλληνικό Πολιτισμό εἰς ὅλες τίς ἐκφάνσεις καί νά ζοῦν ἔτσι, ὅπως ἁρμόζει σέ μιά καλλιεργημένη προσωπικότητα.

Τό Σχολεῖον τῆς δικῆς μας Κοινότητος σέ λίγο, μέσα σέ μιά ἀτμόσφαιρα χαρᾶς, καί συγκινήσεως θά τιμήσῃ τούς ἐφετεινούς ἀποφοίτους μας.

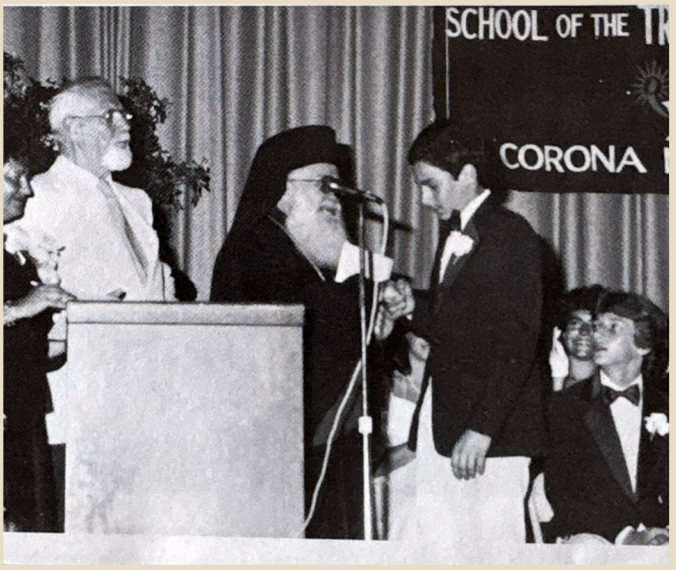
Ἐμεῖς, οἱ ἐκπαιδευτικοί τοῦ Ἑλληνικοῦ τμήματος τούς εὐχόμεθα ὁλόψυχα νά στεφθοῦν ἀπό ἐπιτυχίαν ὅλες τους οἱ προσπάθειες εἰς τά ἀνώτερα πνευματικά ἱδρύματα καί νά ἔχουν μέλλον λαμπρόν.

Ἀλίκη Καβαλλιώτη

In the words of Mr. Apostolos Litsakis, Parish Council President and President of the Board of Directors of the community of Corona: "Though the prevailing lifestyle may be far different from what it was even a few short years ago and the youth of today takes so much more for granted, it is encouraging and a magnificent tribute to Greek parents who unceasingly infuse into the minds of their children the meaning of being Greek. Accordingly, the children, even the tiny tots come to school well prepared." (1976)




SCHOOL OF THE
TRANSFIGURATION
CORONA, NEW YORK

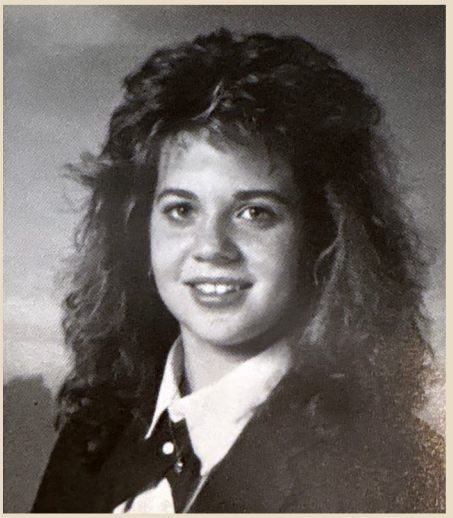

SCHOOL OF THE
CORONA


SCHOOL OF THE TRANSFIGURATION
CORONA NEW YORK



Father Chrysostom Panos (left), current presiding priest of Transfiguration of Christ Church, Lori Bothos (middle), current President of Parish Council, and Ari Tzannetis (right), current Vice-President of Parish Council as students of the School of Transfiguration.









Members of our Day School Faculty












The School Closure

While the school of Metamorphosis (Transfiguration) had long stood as an educational and cultural pillar for the Greek community in Corona, challenges emerged in the 21st century. Shifting demographics and changing dynamics within the community, led to a decline in the Greek population in Corona. Over time, many Greek-American families who once formed the backbone of the school began relocating to other parts of New York or beyond due to factors such as the transformation of the neighborhood. This gradual demographic shift significantly reduced the school's core student base, weakening the very foundation on which it had thrived for decades.

Internally, the school of Transfiguration also faced mounting difficulties. Management challenges and financial instability compounded the external pressures. Declining enrollment meant reduced tuition revenue, while operational costs continued to rise. These financial deficits created a cycle that was difficult to break - fewer students led to fewer resources, which in turn made it harder to maintain programs and attract new families.

In June 2011, a somber chapter unfolded as the school closed its doors. This decision was not sudden but rather the result of years of strain. For alumni, families, and community members, the closure was deeply emotional- a symbolic end to an institution that had nurtured generations, preserved language and traditions, and served as a cultural anchor.

Yet, even in its closing, the school left behind more than just memories. Its legacy sparked reflection and a renewed commitment among former students and community leaders to preserve and honor the school's enduring legacy in new ways.

Though the physical doors of the school of Transfiguration had closed, its legacy continued to thrive within the hearts of those who had been touched by its presence. While the school building itself is now leased to the New York City Board of Education and now houses a public school for children with special needs, the spirit of Metamorphosis lives on, a testament to the indomitable spirit of the community that had once called it home. The Transfiguration of Christ Greek Orthodox Church continues to use the space of the school for its Saturday Greek School program, offering free language education to families of the church members.

The history of the school of Transfiguration in Corona, New York - also known as the Transfiguration of Christ Greek-Parochial School - is a story defined by determination, dedication, and a deep-rooted commitment to preserving Greek heritage. From its humble beginnings as a community-driven vision to its eventual closure, the school made a lasting impact on generations of Greek Americans. Its closure in 2011 marked the end of a formal chapter, but not the conclusion of its impact. Its legacy lives on through cherished memories, continued traditions, and the ongoing efforts of those determined to carry its mission forward. The spirit of Metamorphosis continues to shine brightly, a beacon of cultural preservation and educational excellence.

Saturday Greek School of Transfiguration of Christ

The Saturday Greek School of Transfiguration of Christ in Corona is a distinguished educational institution serving students from kindergarten through eighth grade. Renowned for its rigorous academic standards and exceptional faculty, the school consistently achieves outstanding results while thoughtfully nurturing the intellectual, personal, and moral development of every student.

Its Greek language program builds a solid foundation from early childhood through structured, progressive instruction in speaking, reading, and writing of Greek, reinforced by cultural activities and celebrations. The school supports all learners through individualized and remedial instruction, ensuring steady progress and confidence in Greek language acquisition. Students are well prepared for the New York State Greek Regents exam through a comprehensive curriculum focused on literacy, comprehension, and written expression, while advanced students pursue Ellinomatheia certification at B1 and B2 levels.

The Ellinomatheia B1 and B2 certifications provide students with internationally recognized validation of their Greek language proficiency, aligned with the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR). Earning these diplomas demonstrates a student's ability to use Greek accurately, fluently, and effectively in academic, professional, and real-world contexts. For students in the United States, Ellinomatheia certification strengthens college applications, supports eligibility for language seals and advanced placement, and distinguishes candidates by demonstrating bilingual proficiency at an internationally benchmarked level. Teachers, families, and students work in close partnership to foster a warm, supportive, and unified environment rooted in shared values, mutual respect, and a collective commitment to excellence.
















DAYS of the WEEK
Sunday
Monday
Wednesday
Friday
Saturday
























EXIT












2017






2016


Congratulations Graduates
1. Nikolia Osborne
2. Sofia Guzman
3. Eva Kallonas
4. Ofelia Floratos

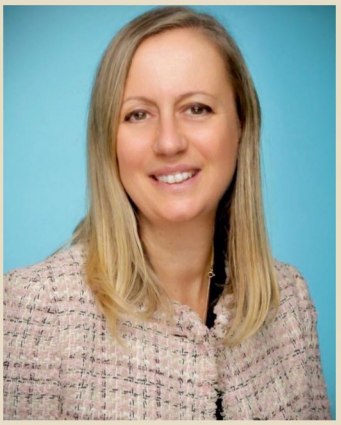




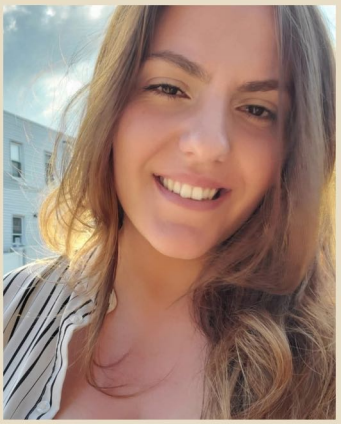




Members of our Greek Saturday School Faculty











Mr. Evangelos Chaziroglou,
Principal of the Saturday Greek School of the Transfiguration of Christ

Transfiguration of Christ Greek School Parent Teacher Association (PTA)

The Transfiguration of Christ Greek School Parent Teacher Association (PTA) has been a dedicated group that works to strengthen the connection between families, teachers, and the school community. Its primary mission has been to cultivate a warm, supportive environment that encourages active parent involvement in enriching the educational experience of students. The PTA has played a vital role in supporting both students and staff by helping provide resources that enhance learning and make school life more engaging and enjoyable. They help organize and bring to life many community-building events throughout the year, including charitable drives, cultural celebrations, and social gatherings. The PTA ensures a vibrant, collaborative environment among students, educators, and parents, so all can thrive together.












SCHOOL OF THE TRANSFIGURATION



