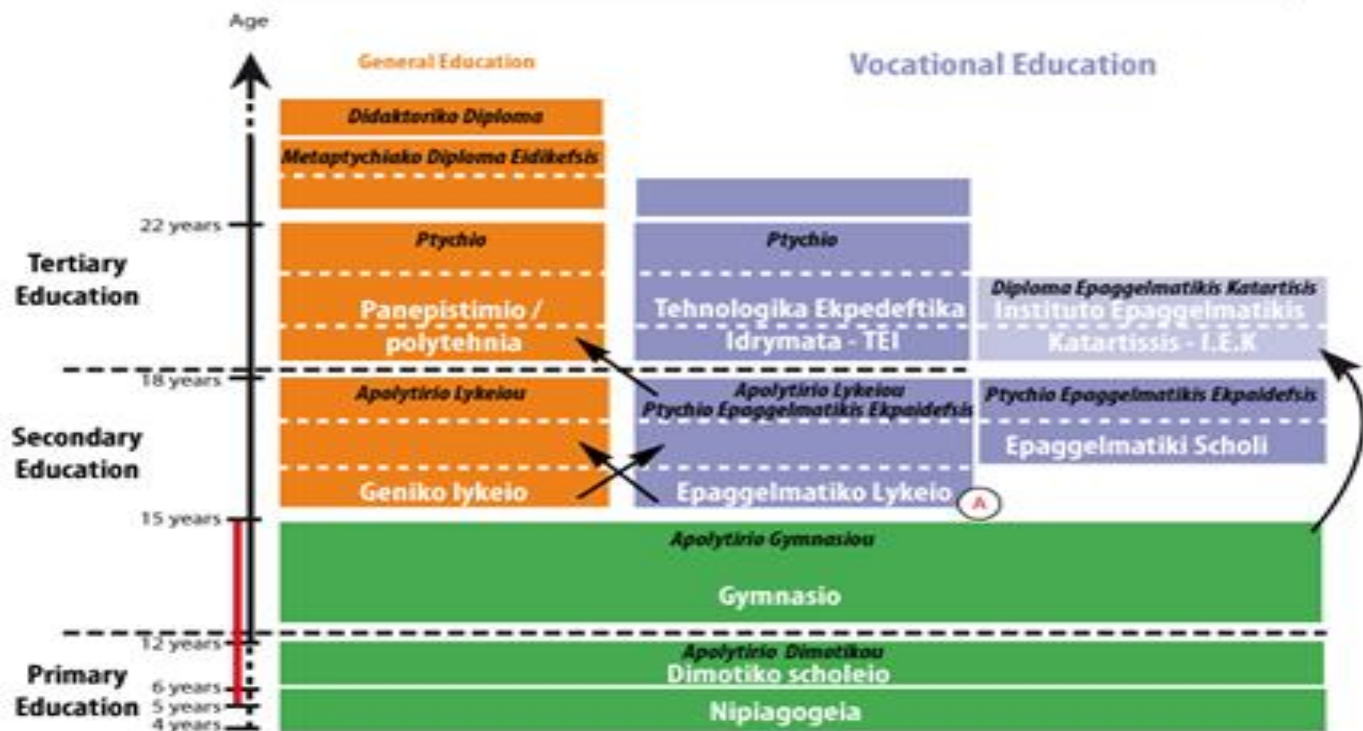




THE GREEK EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM AND ITS' DIFFICULTIES

Greek Education System



The greek educational system is separated in three ranks; primary, secondary and higher education with an additional post-secondary step which includes professional education. Primary education is divided in kindergarten, which lasts from one to two years and elementary school where students study at for six years. Secondary education consists of junior high school and senior high school. First, there is junior high school, where attendance is mandatory. After that, students can freely choose if they are going to attend either a vocational high school or a senior high school. Higher education is provided by Universities, Institutes of technology and academies. The duration of the university studies depends on what profession students choose (it can last up to four years).

Primary School

The primary school year starts in mid-September and ends in mid-June. Classes are held five days a week, for five to six hours daily, depending on the grade. The duration of the school programme lasts from 25 to 30 hours, depending on the grade and whether a foreign language or music class is taught. The school day hours lasts approximately from 08:15 to 13:30. In the rare case of different schools in large urban centres sharing the same premises, there is also an afternoon shift from 14:00 to 19:00



Subjects taught in primary school include Greek language, mathematics, environmental studies, history, physical education and art. In fourth grade, foreign language courses and music are included. In fifth and sixth grade, social studies and physics are added.

At the end of the school year, pupils move on to the next grade if their teachers believe they have acquired the necessary knowledge. At the end of the school year, pupils who graduate from first to fifth grade are given a certificate confirming their promotion to the next grade. For pupils in sixth grade, a primary school certificate is issued, which can be used to register for secondary school.





Senior High School

Senior high school in Greece includes many different lessons such as mathematics, physics, chemistry, religious education, literature, ancient Greek etc. This means that children in senior high school have to study a lot and take an excessive amount of tests, which are sometimes unnecessary.

- Another problem with tests is that they make students feel anxious because most of the time they constantly write tests. So children face stressful situations at an early age and also feel pressure about their final exams.

- Another problem in senior high school is that subjects like music, physical education and art are almost extinct from greek schools and this means that the student's mental health does not develop and students do not have any spare time to relax while being in school.

High School

Non-compulsory secondary education

There are two types of schooling available following completion of compulsory education in Greece: Unified upper secondary schools Technical-vocational Educational Institutes (TEE)

Unified Upper Secondary Schools: The duration of schooling at high school is three years. High school is equivalent to senior high school and, though not compulsory, the majority of students graduate from it. High school's school year generally runs from mid-September to mid-May and the academic week is five days long, with 30-35 hours of instruction.

The first year involves a curriculum of general knowledge, at the end of which students may choose to enter a vocational training programme at the TEE. Conversely, students that opted for a year of TEE instead of high school may opt for attending high school for one year. After a course of study at the TEE, high school, or a combination of both, students will take examinations and, if successfully completed, receive a leaving certificate. The leaving certificate can be used to go on to higher education or vocational training, such as that provided through the Greek Manpower Employment Organization. At the end of high school studies, pupils receive their leaving certificate, and have the following options:

- to seek admission to higher education
- to study at a Vocational Training Institute
- to seek employment in the public or private sector

The current educational system continuously examines students aiming to their insertion to a higher educational rank. It only focuses on a preparational analytic schedule divided in sectors, without helping them broaden their horizons. Education also lacks critical thinking, as students are obliged to memorize information that is only required for their final exams. Furthermore, creative subjects such as music, art and sports are mostly undermined. This happens because schools don't have the required facilities (e.g. gyms, teaching classrooms, labs etc.). As it is known, the logistical equipment of our country's schools is inadequate. The lack of technology tools such as computers is typical. The existence of those tools could facilitate the children's learning process, making it more constructive and interesting. With the "assistance" of the Internet they will be able to seek information about any task at hand.

Furthermore, the creation of new classrooms is of great importance. For instance, adequate infrastructure such as gyms, theatres, music/dance halls, science labs etc. should be ensured. In this way students could choose between various activities according to their personal preference. The purpose of this is to entertain students and teach them how to deal with a variety of activities, depending on their personal taste. Finally, it would be very important for pupils to suggest their proposals for a more aesthetic appearance of the school site and ensure their personal involvement in the formation of it. Creating a school environment based on the students' desires will grab their attention and inspire creativity on both students and teachers, but also make sure that everyone will respect the property public schools.

In general there are no appropriate foundations to house a spiritual education space. Students who are interested in technical subjects can study at Technical/Vocational schools. Most parents do not allow their kids to attend those kind of schools because they lack resources as well; that's why those schools are mostly undermined in Greece. Many students thus feel that they are the "last", or the "worst" since the first grade and they graduate with disappointment. In technical schools, students don't just get a simple diploma degree but a professional one which allows them to find a job immediately after graduation.

Children repressed from early age tend to ignore their role and their responsibilities and dislike school

It is very important for children to be comprehended by their teachers. The child's negative behavior refers to words or actions that broach their human rights. The pupil's role has been affiliated with some specific responsibilities, which they will not prefer to take over alone. Many kids dislike school from a young age and find multiple ways to show it. For example, they sometimes act like they are sick because they want to avoid going to school. They opted in favor of freedom and that is why this aversion about school.

It is hard and most of the time boring for pupils to not do anything but studying endlessly for seven hours every day with just small breaks of free time. The responsibilities and stress that teens have don't allow them to love books. Some people believe that parents are responsible for this issue, because they don't have the time to read books along with their children; by doing so, kids never learn about the value of books. Video games and electronic gadgets distract children because they spend a lot of hours on them. This could affect their vision and mostly their mental health in general.

Greek school education hasn't enough recreational programmes that could gather students' attention. We can easily understand this as they constantly refuse to go to school. This refusal may be caused from more than one reasons. Here are some of those reasons: First of all, schools don't have the facilities to keep students busy with doing something they like, thus meaning that all subjects are mandatory . In our opinion classes should be properly equipped so that teaching will not be boring. In this way students could study specific material and conduct interesting experiments during classes which could grab their attention and make them more eagern about studying in general.

Lack Of Cultural Activities At School

The greek educational system doesn't focus on cultural activities but it forces pupils to concentrate more on theoretical subjects instead. It is believed that arts are of secondary importance, so they are mostly undermined in Greece. Furthermore, due to the stressful school programme students have very limited free time so such subjects are often omitted. On the other hand, entertaining activities such as school festivals, traditional dance demonstrations and theatology are mostly being pretermitted because they are considered to be unimportant for pupils' spiritual cultivation.

As a result students don't have the opportunity to express their interests and talents in such categories. They might also not understand that there are many ways to interpret the world and that there is not only one solution to certain problems. Moreover, arts unlike the rest of the school curriculum teaches students how to properly handle different kinds of people. Students could benefit from such activities as they help in teaching them that there is more about life than getting good grades and learning unnecessary information. The absence of those activities such as music and gymnastics can have its toll on both the mental and physical health of the students. As exercise is known to improve well-being and reduce stress, physical inactivity is correlated with poor psychological health such as an increase of major depression. Lastly, the lack of physical activity at schools is also associated with poorer concentration and academic performance, particularly in mathematics and reading.



ΤΗΝ ΕΡΓΑΣΙΑ ΕΠΙΜΕΛΗΘΗΚΑΝ ΟΙ ΜΑΘΗΤΕΣ ΤΟΥ Β'4.

Α ομάδα: Πασχαλίδου Ελένη
Παπαδοπούλου Ταμάρα
Παπαδοπούλου Μαρία
Πολυχρονίδου Γαλήνη
Πιπελέ Βασιλική

Β ομάδα: Προβατίδου Χαρά
Πετσάνι Μαρβίνα
Παρισίδου Μαρία
Πότσι Χριστίνα

Γ ομάδα: Πολίτου Αναστασία
Πολυχρονίδου Ελισάβετ
Ποζίδου Χρύσα

Δ ομάδα: Ραβνιωτόπουλος Γιώργος
Παναγιωτίδης Κωνσταντίνος
Παχατουρίδης Γιώργος
Παπαγρηγορίου Γιάννης

ΕΥΧΑΡΙΣΤΟΥΜΕ ΓΙΑ ΤΗΝ ΠΡΟΣΟΧΗ ΣΑΣ.