

Greek Reading & Literature

Year Long Class
Target Grades 3-5

2023-2024

Welcome!

Class Dates and Breaks: See [Academic Calendar](#) for detailed holidays.

Class Times:

Tuesday & Thursday with Mrs. Ramona Bean
2 :15pm – 3 :15pm EST

Instructor:

Ramona Saridakis Bean, B.A. English, M.B.A

Email: greekramona@gmail.com

Cell Phone: 703-862-2452 (text available)

Office Hours: Upon Request

Eligible Students:

This course is intended to be the **continuation** for young learners in **Greek language fluency**. This course encourages hands-on inquiry, cooperative and independent learning.

Eligible Students must either,

- Have taken Greek Alphabet & Grammar Primer or,
- through a placement assessment given by Presbytera Maria Koulianos be placed in the course.
 - It is strongly recommended to successfully complete the

Greek Alphabet & Grammar Primer course before entering Greek Reading & Literature.

In addition,

- students should be developmentally prepared to be engaged and interactive.
- students should be comfortable reading and writing independently as well as writing legibly by hand.
- although it is not a requirement for students, they should have a preliminary understanding of the basics of English grammar. This entails knowing how to recognize parts of speech: noun, pronoun, verb, adjective, and preposition.
- Students should be able to decode and read for understanding in the English Language and be able to follow instructions well.

Course Description:

The purpose of the lessons in this course is to help each student grow in their listening, speaking, reading, and writing through topic-based instruction and discussions in Greek. In addition, to foster a love for God and the Church cultivating a deeper understanding of living as Orthodox Christians in the world, Studying Greek trains children in the art of grammar universal to all language, as well as giving them access to the New Testament and Septuagint, Byzantine hymnography, and Patristic writings in the original tongue.

The Greek Reading & Literature course aims to best develop skills in listening, speaking, reading, and writing through purposeful and age-appropriate lessons that acquaint young learners to the illustrious Greek language used as a tool to spread *The Word of God*.

Students will engage with the Greek alphabet in the following ways:

- Continue to grow in their learning to read, pronounce, and write many Greek words through copy work.
- Continue to build vocabulary and comprehension through the reading of literature.
- Learn to sing short Orthodox hymns and recite short prayers.
- Learn to read and speak words through Syllabication.
- Learn to formulate words that are used into sentences.
- Learn and memorize the Trisagion hymn which invokes God as the thrice holy and the Lord's Prayer both in Greek and English.

- Learn to read the Icons and Study the Lives of the Holy Persons and Historic Events depicted in Icons.

Classes will begin with prayer, usually the Lord's Prayer in Greek, and incorporate recitation or singing, pronunciation practice, and the story of the saint.

Parents should expect to work with their students during the week, unless the student is very mature and self-motivated for this age group. The purpose of the class meeting is to provide responsive instruction from an instructor experienced in Greek, to model and coach students in correct pronunciation, and to provide a fun, communal Orthodox learning environment. It is recommended that parents look over each week's material and decide how to incorporate songs, copy work, and stories into their own family's learning rhythms.

Assignments and Evaluation:

Through Schoology, our student learning management system, students will submit their assignments and will be evaluated. All assignments must be submitted by the given due date; if an extension is needed, each student is responsible for contacting the instructor.

While pursuing the *Greek Reading & Literature*, although "restful" learning, we also recognize the need to provide grades for students. It's a delicate balance to achieve both restful learning and excellent academic performance. Earning a specific grade should not overshadow achievement goals for mastery. The following grades will be assigned to your student's level of achievement: *magna cum laude* (with great praise); *cum laude* (with praise); *satis* (sufficient, satisfactory) and *non satis* (not sufficient).

Traditional percentage grades will also be provided and will be readily accessible on the *Greek Reading & Literature* page. Additionally, a transcript of that grade or an evaluation narrative can be provided to the requesting parent at the end of the year. Ultimately, parents are the final authority in awarding credit and are responsible to determine a letter grade. Teachers are available for consulting in these decisions and will offer their input upon request.

- **Teacher Feedback**

All work will be graded and returned via Schoology in a timely manner. Students will have an opportunity to review their graded work, and sometimes be asked to reflect or resubmit their work. These are opportunities for students to grow academically, and in the end, create a portfolio for the year.

- **Projects**

Projects will be assigned at various times throughout the year. An evaluation rubric will be given for each of these projects. Each one will require planning and/or research. Other requirements may be given when the project is assigned.

- **Academic Dishonesty:**

Students are on their honor to abide by [Scholé Academy's Learning Philosophy](#) which assumes the personal cultivation of *Student-Virtues* described in the *Student-Parent Handbook*.

Additionally, please be mindful regarding plagiarism. Any copying of someone's work, online sources, or traditional sources without citing where said information came from is plagiarism. Students should consult their chosen manual of style to cite sources. If found, students who have plagiarized will be asked to resubmit their work and consequently will be given a lower point value for that particular assignment.

Required Materials:

Bilingual Greek English Books TBD

Hymns, Prayers, and Other Supplementals will be given by the instructor.

Optional Materials:

1000 Full Sight Words Picture Dictionary Book English Greek Educational Games for Kids <https://www.amazon.com/Sight-Picture-Dictionary-English-Educational/dp/B08HTG6KBJ>

Student Conduct and Expectations:

All students are to strive for the *Two Greatest Commandments*; to love God and to love their neighbor as themselves.

Students should endeavor for, develop, and hone five *Executive Function Skills* during this course:

1. Being an Engaged Student: Stepping into the arena of class discussion, asking questions, supplying answers, generating the internal dialogue necessary to determine if what's being discussed is important and necessary.

2. Note Taking: Using journals and workbooks during and after class engaging content material important and relevant in an organized fashion. These notes would then be consulted, independently, for application in assignments and assessments.

3. Attention to Detail & Preparedness: Consistently adhering to deadlines, submission requirements, adhering to style guides and codes, confirming technology is working prior to the start of class, being responsible to determine how to proceed after an absence, being responsible for consulting the course syllabus and adjusting as the class proceeds, etc.

4. Employing Critiques: After receiving feedback to their submissions, this feedback is applied to future assignments rather than repeating mistakes. Information is gleaned from the live class critiques of fellow students and after taking note, through learning from others, these mistakes are avoided as well.

5. Initiative/Maturity: Throughout the course, when necessary, questions, comments, and concerns will be addressed by taking initiative and meeting with the instructor during office hours or contacting the instructor via email.

The Virtual Classroom:

We will be using the free online “virtual classroom” software provided by Zoom, one of the leading companies that provides such software. The virtual classroom will provide students with interactive audio, text chat and an interactive whiteboard in which texts, diagrams, video and other media can be displayed and analyzed. We will provide students with a link (via email) that will enable students to join the virtual classroom.

Specific information regarding the technology used by Scholé Academy (including required technology) can be found by visiting the [Technology in the Classroom](#) section of the Student Parent Handbook. Please note, students should have their cameras on during class.

Students will submit documents by scanning and uploading them to their personal computer, then attaching those files as .pdfs to an email. They will submit their work

to the *Greek Reading & Literature* Schoology assignment page (access granted after enrollment is secured).

Meet Your Instructor:



Ramona Saridakis Bean is a first generation Greek-American, born in Vero Beach and raised in Palm Beach County, Florida. After finishing at Cardinal Newman High School in 1996, graduated from University of Florida in 2001 after completing a student-athlete career as a Lady Gator Cross-Country and Track runner with a B.A. in English.

Served as a congressional aide for former U.S. Rep. Mark A. Foley, serving a legislative portfolio that included Ways and Means appropriations and issues regarding education and the environment. Followed with an appointee position for President George W. Bush's administration in the office of Secretary Henry Paulson Jr. at the U.S. Department of the Treasury.

Currently serving as “CEO of the Home” administering home and online education for three children for over a decade, managing care of a widowed grandfather 97 years young, and recently acquired her MBA degree from University of Florida in December 2020. She is currently pursuing a Masters of Arts in the Great Books through Memoria College.

Her other teaching pursuits include helping Saint Mark Greek Orthodox Church in Boca Raton with their Sunday School program and her children’s Greek School.

In addition to serving as a parish council member at Saint Mark, she’s a volunteer for Junior League of the Palm Beaches and a member of the Citizens Advisory Committee for the Palm Beach Transportation Planning Authority.

Ramona loves running, singing, painting, gardening and helping others. +