

ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΗ ΔΗΜΟΚΡΑΤΙΑ
ΥΠΟΥΡΓΕΙΟ ΠΑΙΔΕΙΑΣ & ΘΡΗΣΚΕΥΜΑΤΩΝ
ΠΕΡΙΦΕΡΕΙΑΚΗ Δ/ΝΣΗ Α' ΑΘΜΙΑΣ & Β' ΑΘΜΙΑΣ ΕΚΠ/ΣΗΣ
ΚΡΗΤΗΣ

ΣΧΟΛΕΙΟ ΕΥΡΩΠΑΪΚΗΣ ΠΑΙΔΕΙΑΣ

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PEER OBSERVATION REPORT

December 19, 2013

Dear Sir or Madam,

I had the pleasure of attending Maria Karmirli's class as a peer observer. Maria's task in teaching grade 3 at the School of European Education is a particularly complex one. The class is composed of students of various abilities, fluency in the English language, different socioeconomic backgrounds, as well as children that come from quite unstable backgrounds. Her approach in all this has been exemplary. Maria's strength lies not only in her inexhaustible patience and nurturing, but also in her ability to approach each child as a different type of learner.

To begin with, her classroom testifies to the amount of labor that goes on in there daily. There is a good balance of material presented on the walls and shelves for each learner – those with ease in languages, math, science, art, as well as elements of kinesthetic nature, artistic expression and a great focus on the environment. In particular, the day of my visit I got to witness some presentations on water. The children had taken great pride in their work and had presented excellent progress from what I had personally last seen of them. There was individual work that had been conducted, but also an array of group projects on this. The water theme carried through to all disciplines, utilizing the children's' passion for the theme to help them take in even things such as long division.

As far as collaborating with peers in the school Maria is always professional and has a pleasant disposition. Specialty teachers are always communicated with to draft syllabi that would best benefit the students' learning experience. In art, for example, a combination of science, language and art helped students explore hydrophilic and hydrophobic materials. In music, the rainmakers were explored. The children seemed to "flow" through a river of fun throughout this, not realizing themselves how much they were actually assimilating. Moreover, her communication with the parents is phenomenal. She can put anyone at ease and help the parents help the child through challenging circumstances.

What is more, it is incredible to watch the ease with which Maria takes a situation of what could be panic and utilizes it as a greater lesson for the whole class. A bad day a student is having is turned into a small lesson through dramatic play and observation.

Seeing her in action is truly eye opening. Each student is urged to speak, and even the shiest ones are happy to do so as she truly listens and values each student.

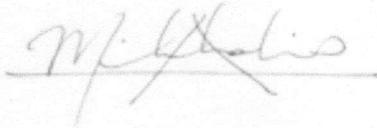
One case in particular that is worth noting is how one student skipped first grade and landed in Maria's varying ability class. In very little time, Serena has sprung to top of this class as well, greatly due to the ease Maria puts her in. Responsibility is gently instilled in each student.

Finally, it stands out how Maria's classroom operates like a unit even when they visit other classes. I am personally amazed at how well these clashing personalities have learned to get along and how supportive they are of one another.

If there is anything I would urge Maria to update on, is possibly her science teaching, mostly due to the fact that there is a lack of instrumentation at the school. That makes the comprehensibility of the subject less feasible for some of the students. However, Maria is once again doing her best with what she is given, having even embarked on the use of recycled material to that end.

Maria is a great asset to our school and her enthusiasm and constant search for growth testify that she will only continue to inspire us all, young and younger.

Faithfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Aglaia Michelaki', written in dark ink on a light-colored paper.

Aglaia Michelaki
Head of Art Department