



HELLENIC REPUBLIC  
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, RESEARCH AND RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS  
REGIONAL DEPARTMENT OF PRIMARY AND SECONDARY  
EDUCATION OF TRIKALA PREFECTURE

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INTENDANCY OF SECONDARY EDUCATION OF TRIKALA  
**2nd GYMNASIUM OF TRIKALA**

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To: Ministry of Education

**Subject: "Operation of the Reception Class of EPZ 1 (Educational Priority Zone 1) of the school year 2017-18"**

#### **A. Preparations to host refugee students in our school**

1. Enrollments in the Reception Class of EPZ 1 of the 2nd Gymnasium of Trikala of 7 students on 29<sup>th</sup> September 2017. Gradually and until February, the students became 20 and after the departures at the end of May 17 students attended classes in our school.
2. Unanimous proposal of the Teachers' Association of the School for the establishment of Reception Class of EPZ 1 on 3rd October 2017.
3. Announcement to the students of the school about the operation of the Reception Class of EPZ 1 on 27th October. The students responded enthusiastically.
4. Monday 30th October. Starting courses in the Reception Class of EPZ 1.

#### **B. Welcome of the students to the Reception Class of EPZ 1**

1. Setting up a team: getting to know teachers and pupils with each other, with treats, group games and active listening.
2. - Co-creation of class and teaching conditions.
  - Class organization: desks, student place, maps, calendar, (timetable, calendar of courses in Greek, Arabic, Sorani).
  - Appropriation of the classroom, creation of security and confidence environment: students freely decorate the class with their own works (paintings, collages, handicrafts, flags, albums) and have free access to the classrooms (books, notebooks and safekeeping).
  - Adoption of rules: progressive implementation, observance, reminding and enrichment.
  - Personalized interest for each student.
  - Flexibility in student participation in the educational process, verbal and non-verbal communication, expression of emotions and active listening (discussion, play, humour).
  - Creation of school routine: date, course start / finish, classroom arrangement, specific learning process with relaxation activities.

#### **C. Familiarization with the school community**

1. Guided tours throughout the school and providing a reason for the pupils' contact with them during the educational process.
2. Reception in the classroom of pupils from other parts of the school, familiarization, communication and interaction in the form of play.
3. Preparation at the end of the Reception Class of EPZ 1 courses for the integration of students into the classes of other subjects.

#### **D. Educational design and classroom implementation (holistic approach)**

1. Teaching the Greek language with pictographs, bilingual (paralinguistic and extralinguistic features) with references to the natural and social environment as well as the intrapersonal differences of students and providing stimuli from the intimate cultural capital (common Arab-Greek words, Arabic poems, customs and traditions, religion - philosophy).
2. Communication speech - varieties of texts: descriptive and literary texts, news, (invitations, announcements, statements about school events in Greek, Arabic, Sorani).
3. Creation of individual manual, individual student dictionary (notebook).
4. Browsing cities - countries on the map in the form of a game.
5. Approach of concepts (friendship, respect, justice, equality, etc.) in an experiential - representational way.

6. References to Greek culture with pictures and music on the occasion of school holidays, holidays, celebrations.
7. Acquaintance with the countries and institutions of the EU on the occasion of the departure of peers from our country and our city.
8. Defining rules of individual and social life with awareness of cultural identity.
9. Providing opportunities for play, emotional and artistic expression of pupils with painting, singing, dancing, play, photography, and cinema - video.
10. Preparation, reflection and feedback on the part of parallel educational activities.

#### **E. Parallel educational activities**

1. Workshop at the school with the participation of the students of the Reception Class of EPZ 1 and their parents, the school management, the teacher of the Reception Class of EPZ 1 and the teachers, on the smooth integration of pupils into the school community, with the presence of a translator.
2. Participation in the two-day seminar organized by the refugee education officer in the Tsitsani Museum, with exhibitions of pupils' works, with scientific approaches by specialists, an experiential workshop on the integration of refugee pupils into the Greek school.
3. Creation of a theatrical workshop with students of the Reception Class of EPZ 1 and the first grade of the Gymnasium (theatrical play, photography, painting) in the framework of the "Together" project of the Theater for Education programme. The works were presented at the students' artistic festival organized by the project managers at the Tsitsani Museum.
4. Etiquette visits of teachers' representatives to student families.
5. Collaboration with the team of the 1st Gymnasium of Trikala within the framework of the school week of theirs to address the prejudices and stereotypes. Exchange of visits, experiential - theatrical workshop, collective creation of the "Tree of Friendship".
6. All-day visit to the University of Thessaly, with a guided tour, presentation of the program "Sports and Refugees" and organization of a football match.
7. In the framework of the voluntary activities of the theatrical group "Three Laloun", theatrical play - dance - handicrafts were organized with the participation of parents, pupils and members of the volunteer group. At the same time, the parents had a discussion with teachers, with the presence of a translator, about their problems of adaptation and living.
8. Participation of the Reception Class of EPZ 1 in all the entertainment activities of the school as well as in educational, cultural, social, and cultural visits: school walks, excursions, daily excursions to Thessaloniki, visits to museums, libraries, bookstores and historic buildings of the city.
9. Organization of farewell or birthday parties and active participation of children in festive and school parties in the classroom of the Reception Class of EPZ 1.
10. Dance Day for students with the supervision of teachers and special volunteer physical education - dance teacher.

#### **F. Support networks**

1. School administration and institutional framework, flexibility, positive climate.
2. Participation of the school administration and the teacher of the Reception Class of EPZ 1 in educational experiential workshops.
3. Collaboration - partnership of different educational specialties.
4. Presentation and evaluation of the work of the Reception Class of EPZ 1 at the teaching staff meetings of the Teachers' Association.
5. Regular information of the parents' and guardians' association from the school management.
6. Creation of a voluntary group for the integration of adult refugees into the local community.

The Principal

Evangelos B. Kitos

