

# *ARMENIAN SCHOOL*

The St. Leon Armenian School 2021-2022 term has started off with a flurry of excitement and dedication. At the church's Open House in September, many new families registered students from age four and up. Yes, we have started a Pre-Kindergarten class! Also, we welcomed back former students and the virtual students from last term.

September 17 was our opening day but new students can register any Friday. We offer a three-session trial period to make a final decision. Interested? Come and check out our magnificent, wonderful, caring school Friday from 6 pm to 8:30 pm. You will find us starting each session with prayer by Der Diran and announcements by our principal, Nora Balekji. Then the students go off to classes in the education rooms both under the church and in the Youth Center. Classes are augmented with dance lessons, singing Armenian songs, and culture lessons. Students learn about the history, geography, famous Armenians in the culture lessons. At the end of the session, students and teachers gather again in the Jessourian Hall assembly area under the church to sing our school song, our Armenian National Anthem, and say our ending prayer along with Der Diran. We also welcome parishioners who would like to see our school in action to visit. **REMEMBER, ALL – STUDENTS, STAFF, PARENTS, VISITORS – MUST WEAR MASKS AND HAND SANITIZE.** We follow all the Covid 19 precautions the church recommends. All areas of use are sanitized before and after use.

Our school strives to teach the basics of speaking, reading, and writing through units of learning covering a wide range of themes. The themed approach takes two terms to complete and gives our students a wide range of vocabulary and reinforces speaking and reading skills. We keep the atmosphere engaging and fun while using a variety of learning materials from many sources. Our staff is truly dedicated to helping students know and be proud of their heritage.

During the term we have our traditional Halloween parade, our Christmas Hantes, and our end of the term Hantes. We hope to have our Lenten Luncheon again. Our school is supported by our lahmajun, sujuk, and baghaj sales for which your patronage is highly appreciated. These sales are done by pre-order and the ordering deadline and pick up dates will be posted in the church's Sunday Bulletin.

Our school can offer Intermediate Class for students who have a working knowledge of the Armenian language and wish to improve their vocabulary, speaking, and reading skills. If your teenage is interested, contact our school by calling 201-791-2862 extension 7 and leaving a message which will be answered on Friday evening or emailing [armenianschool@stleon.org](mailto:armenianschool@stleon.org). The Intermediate Class is held in the Youth Center on Wednesday evenings from 6 pm to 8:30 pm.

An Adult Class can be formed if there is interest. Follow the procedure for inquiring as above.

One last thing, if your child's public school had an International Day and your child would like to represent Armenia, we have materials we can lend for the presentation. We like it when Armenia is represented in various school districts to bring awareness to our heritage.