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***Dear Students and Parents of Plato Academy Clearwater,***

*Welcome to school year 2023-2024! I am very happy to be your child’s Greek teacher at Plato Academy Clearwater. I believe that if we all work together, we can conduct a very successful academic year, full of fun learning moments. I consider it of prime importance that you be an active part of your child's education.*

*My name is Maria-Ioanna Verras. This school year of 2023-2024 I will be teaching Greek language at Plato Academy Clearwater campus. This will be my 7th year of teaching Greek language at Plato Academy Schools, and I am more than excited to be in the position of guiding my students in exploring a very rich language deriving from a country that has an astounding historical, philosophical and cultural background which has influenced and still influences the global way of thinking.*

*As regards to myself, after my birth in Tampa, Florida, U.S.A, I had the chance to follow my family to Athens, Greece where I resided for 24 years. During my long-term residence in Greece, I learned 3 languages (Greek, English and French) and graduated with honors from Moraitis School. One year later, I continued with my studies at the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens where I studied psychology and graduated with honors as well. In addition, I completed my internship as a psychologist at an educational school of special needs. After my graduation from the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens and my completion of internship, I came back to Florida, U.S.A and joined the Plato Academy family that has given me a great opportunity to share all this knowledge of Greek language and culture I acquired during my studies directly with my students.*

*You are invited to check your child’s progress in the parent portal on FOCUS and email me at* *verrasm@platoacademy.net* *any time you have a question. My school webpage is updated weekly with all the upcoming information and will be covered in class with your child every Monday. Every Friday, FOCUS is updated with weekly grades.*

*It is important that you and your child be informed of classroom learning and behavioral standards. Parents have always been significantly supportive of teachers’ expectations from students, in order to achieve the maximum learning benefit from classroom interactions.*

*Grading policy:*

*Class Participation & Behavior: 45%*

*Test and Quizzes (weekly reading and spelling tests): 20%*

*Projects: 20%*

*Homework: 15%*

*If your child encounters any difficulty conforming to the rules, I will notify you either by email or phone call, requesting a parent-teacher meeting.*

*I am looking forward to another creative school year at Plato Academy Clearwater!*

*Thank you – Ευχαριστώ, Maria-Ioanna Verras*