***Ms. Maria-Ioanna Verras’ Greek class ***

*Dear families,*

 *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.*

 *The Greek language course has clear expectations for the students. In 7th Grade Greek, the students can earn 1 high school credit which is earned when the student scores at the end of the year an average grade higher than 80% (B) in Greek. In 8th Grade Greek, the students can earn 1 high school credit (another credit) which is earned when the student scores at the end of the year an average grade higher than 80% (B) in Greek. Eventually, the student can graduate from 8th Grade having earned 2 high school credits which can exempt the student from having to take another foreign language in high school. In IB, these two credits don’t count as foreign language credits but as electives credits.*

 *Grading percentages in 7th and 8th Grade are distributed as follows: Participation/behavior grade counts 45% (percent) of the total grading (100%), assessments or quizzes (weekly reading and spelling tests) count 20% of the total grading, homework counts 15% of the total grading and research projects count 20% of the total grading. Midterm and final tests count 45% of the student’s semester course grade.*

 *Families can check their child’s progress at the parental portal on FOCUS. Every Friday, FOCUS is updated with the weekly grades. To earn the total grading percentage, students must follow the Greek teacher’s instructions accordingly and be consistent in completing and returning their Greek work. My school webpage is updated weekly with all the upcoming information and will be covered in class with the students every Monday.*

 *This school year, as I have strived to do during my past years of teaching, I am tremendously determined to assist my students in earning the high school credits they need for their next educational step, reaching their full potential and achieving their academic goals in terms of consistent collaboration, aspiring challenge, and respect. By studying Greek language and culture, students will have a unique chance to discover truths of significant importance that are written in Greek language and are highly empowered to contribute to their willingness to conduct a successful life afterwards. Thus, I am looking forward to a joyful and productive school year full of knowledge acquisition that can build great academic achievements and successes.*

*Sincerely,*

*Ms. Maria-Ioanna Verras*

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*My website: verrasm.weebly.com*

 