



A. Fantis Admissions Packet

2022-2023

Our Mission

"Promote academic excellence and strength of character in a nurturing environment grounded in Hellenic culture and Christian values that cultivates scholars who will mature into responsible citizens and real-world problem solvers."



A.FANTIS SCHOOL

SAINTS CONSTANTINE & HELEN CATHEDRAL

Dear Friends and Visitors,

Thank you for taking the time to explore our school. A. Fantis is a hidden gem tucked away in Brooklyn Heights that recently celebrated its 55th anniversary. We are exceptionally proud of the strong tradition of our academic program, which balances rigorous study with dynamic and engaging school life. Strong faith and character education create a familiar environment where students feel comfortable and safe, allowing them to take risks and overcome challenges. A student-centered, inquiry-based educational philosophy helps faculty create personalized learning environments where students are actively engaged and properly challenged. Faculty work together closely and often throughout the year to promote active learning through exploration, experimentation, and collaboration.

As I cross the Brooklyn Bridge each morning, I realize how blessed I am to be leading such a dynamic and innovative school. The Fantis students and faculty are unique, driven, focused and motivated, yet with a caring, lighthearted and joyful attitude. Students and faculty are serious about learning and pushing their potential, yet they understand how to enjoy the small moments. It is this passion, motivation and strong grounding in their faith and themselves that allows our students to matriculate from the premier high schools and universities.

Fantis students discover who they are through a program of established excellence, integrated curriculum, personalized attention, and a faith that guides us to serve others along the way. Our graduates benefit from years of intensive study of Greek language and classical Hellenic culture. Cultural exchange programs, daily language practice and in-depth study of ancient Greek history, philosophy and mythology are grounded in the principles of Classical Greek Paideia. After a decade of study, Fantis graduates move to high school with the ability to fluently communicate in another language, a deep understanding of the universal ideals of Hellenism and a true appreciation of another culture. These are extraordinary gifts that are bestowed upon our graduates, which will serve them well in secondary school, careers and life.

I consider it my duty to continue the A. Fantis founding mission, and indeed, it has been a privilege to serve our families and students. Our singular focus is to provide a unique educational experience that will form the bedrock upon which our boys and girls can build lives that bring them, and others, joy, purpose and fulfillment. Watching them mature and develop into fine young men and women is the reason why we do this work.

Warmly,

Theodore G. Tasoulas

Principal



A.FANTIS SCHOOL

SAINTS CONSTANTINE & HELEN CATHEDRAL

Why Choose Fantis?

The A. Fantis School of Sts. Constantine & Helen Cathedral has a rich history of developing boys and girls into upstanding young men and women ready to contribute to their community and the broader society. From the first tentative steps into preschool through the tears at eighth-grade graduation, each class becomes a close family that grows together and shares memories that span a decade. They grow to appreciate Fantis as “a second home”. In today’s increasingly hectic and global community, spending their formative years at Fantis and forming deep friendships is a treasure that they will carry with them for life.

❖ **Greek Language & Hellenic Culture**

- Students graduate fluent in modern Greek and well-versed in mythology and philosophy, as well as the values that helped found Western civilization.

❖ **Tradition Meets Innovation**

- Fantis combines modern technology and educational best practices with the universal ideals of [Classical Greek Paideia](#), which has thrived over millennia.

❖ **Strong Faith & Character Education**

- Faith, service, and love for one another are foundational principles that define our daily school life and the broader community.

❖ **Small Community**

- All students attend classes under one roof, so students literally grow up in the building. In bustling Brooklyn, families appreciate the “small town” feel.

❖ **Collaborative Teaching & Learning**

- Fantis leadership ensures strategic and purposeful collaboration amongst students and faculty, which are the hallmarks of the world's best educational systems.



A.FANTIS SCHOOL

SAINTS CONSTANTINE & HELEN CATHEDRAL

The Fantis Experience

Welcome

Each new student, faculty, and their parents with personal attention and care so that they feel a part of the A. Fantis family.

Understand

Each child as an individual and educate them to their fullest potential.

Educate

Provide an enriched, individualized educational experience integrating Greek instruction and the Arts.

Inspire

Support diversity and different skills, needs, and interests.

Graduate

Support students and families to enter their choice high schools.

Engage

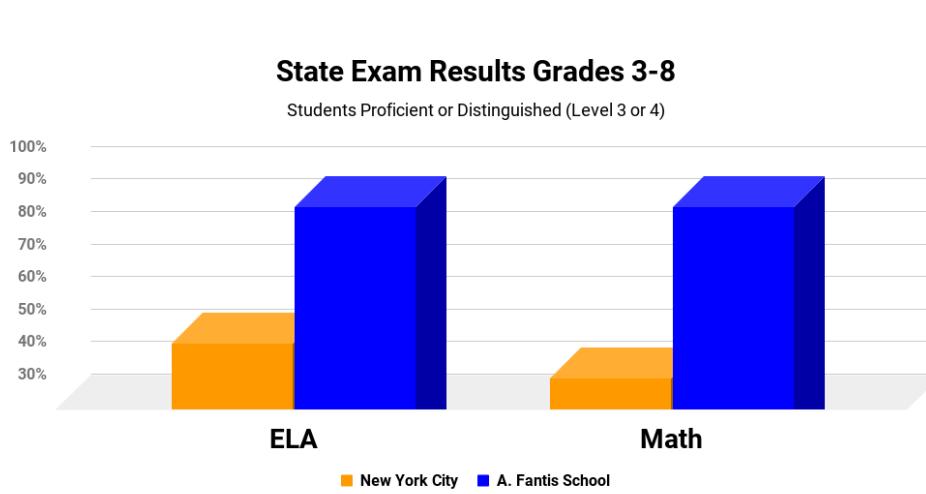
Provide meaningful opportunities for alumni.



Student Achievement

A. Fantis students attain exemplary results through personalized instruction, an engaging and well-rounded curriculum, and joyful learning culture. Classical Greek Paideia helps build active learners driven by curiosity. Attention to the whole child, including spiritual life, physical growth, and social-emotional learning, has a synergistic effect.

From preschool-grade 8, student progress is monitored closely, frequently and across several domains. Academic performance is measured both formally and informally, such as observation and interviews. Benchmark assessments administered at key points in the year provide a clear portrait of each student's growth within, and across, the school year. Student growth is analyzed collaboratively in teams including the classroom teacher, Department Chairs, and administration. All results are used to inform instruction for students, classrooms, and the overall school.



Students in grades 3 through 8 are also evaluated using the NYS ELA and Math Exams. These assessments provide useful data for classroom and school performance over time. Over 90% of our students are proficient or distinguished in English and Math on average, which is nearly double the NYC or NY State

average—placing Fantis students in the **top 3% of all NYC elementary and middle schools.**

Due to advanced coursework, **eighth-grade students take 5 high school level courses in English, Algebra, Living Environment, History, and Greek**, which gives them an advantage for obtaining a Regents Diploma with Advanced Distinction.



A.FANTIS SCHOOL

SAINTS CONSTANTINE & HELEN CATHEDRAL

Recent graduates have attended...

CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOLS

Dominican Academy
Fontbonne
Xavier

Regis
Notre Dame
St. Saviour

INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS

Poly Prep
Packer

Phillips Exeter
Berkeley-Carroll

SPECIALIZED HIGH SCHOOLS

Stuyvesant
Staten Island Tech
Bronx High School of Science

Fiorello H. LaGuardia
Brooklyn Tech

PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOLS

Bard
Millennium Brooklyn
Fort Hamilton Honors

Townsend Harris
iSchool
Museum School

UNIVERSITIES

Yale
Cambridge
Cornell
Vassar
Stanford
St. Andrews, Scotland
Boston University

University of Southern California
Lehigh
Penn State
Columbia
Macaulay's Honor College
NYU Tandon School of Engineering
Villanova



A.FANTIS SCHOOL

SAINTS CONSTANTINE & HELEN CATHEDRAL

School & Community Events

School Life

- ◊ National Spelling & Geography Bees
- ◊ Scholastic Book Fairs
- ◊ National School Choice Week Celebration
- ◊ International Day Festival
- ◊ Valentine's Day Bowling Party
- ◊ Brooklyn Bridge Park Field Day
- ◊ Greek Independence Day 5th Ave. Parade
- ◊ Arista Award Ceremony for Community Service
- ◊ Science Fair
- ◊ School Spirit Week
- ◊ 8th Grade Senior Trip
- ◊ MathCounts Competition

Performances

- ◊ Bowling Green Dance Performance
- ◊ Poetry Recital
- ◊ Christmas Pageant
- ◊ Greek OXI Day Program

PTO

- ◊ Family Movie Night & Dinner
- ◊ Spring Gala
- ◊ Thanksgiving Brunch
- ◊ Family Social
- ◊ Pastries with Parents
- ◊ Breakfast with Santa

Family

- ◊ Sts. Constantine & Helen Dinner Dance
- ◊ Roundtable Discussion: Understanding Toddler Emotions
- ◊ Potluck Dinner with School Board
- ◊ Founders Day Celebration

Classroom NYC

- ◊ Senior Trip to Greece
- ◊ Historical Trip to Philadelphia
- ◊ Greenkill Environmental Center Weekend Camping Trip
- ◊ Billion Oyster Project Symposium



Vanderbilt University Partnership

A. Fantis is proud to collaborate with Vanderbilt University, Peabody School of Education. The partnership enables students to experience cutting-edge, university-inspired approaches to science and learning. Students at Fantis will have:

- In-school STEM challenges and middle school coursework
- Resident Scientist Support for Science Fairs
- Specialized teaching and learning techniques

"Through the phenomenon-based learning approach, classroom learning is mimicking the actual "doing" of science."

- Executive Director of the Center for Science Outreach, Dr. Ufnar

Phenomenon-based learning allows for **true critical thinking** for students—*observing, questioning, analyzing, and communicating*. Each year, Vanderbilt works with teachers to set real-world, open-ended tasks for students. These challenges require students to work in teams to solve issues using ideas that cross disciplines. Themes include Single Use Plastics and Global Pollution and Game Development.

Students throughout the entire school are involved in our *Vanderbilt—A. Fantis program*. The program encourages students to question how and why things work the way they do, as they search for true understanding. By searching for connections and relationships in the world, students apply knowledge, skills, and imagination to help them look beyond the ordinary to develop creative ways of thinking, expressing, and solving problems. These are skills that transcend science and will carry them well into their academic and professional careers.



A. FANTIS SCHOOL

SAINTS CONSTANTINE & HELEN CATHEDRAL

AFTER-SCHOOL LIFE

Fantis prides itself on a robust and engaging array of after-school programs, which help to enrich life for our students and allow us to offer programming not available during the school day. There are two options after-school: "Beyond the Bell" and Daily After-School Clubs for PreK-8th Grade. Beyond the Bell registration is daily or monthly, while after-school clubs last for one semester.



Beyond the Bell after-school program is a natural extension of the school day for A. Fantis students from dismissal until 6:00. It is an open environment where children of mixed ages share a snack and activities together. Our program works with students from PreK-8th grade with specific activities that are age appropriate, including: story time, outdoor play on rooftop playground, homework assistance, arts and crafts and snack.

AFTER-SCHOOL CLUBS

A. Fantis is proud to partner with local community organizations to further enhance our students' life after-school. This provides them the opportunity to explore the world and challenge themselves with a variety of programs for all ages. Daily programs begin in preschool and include **Karate, Chess, Swimming, Coding, Photography and Robotics**.

SPORTS

Falcons Basketball: Coached by former college and professional players, our Boys and Girls middle school basketball teams compete against others in the Greek-American league that culminate with playoffs. In addition, **Soccer, Basketball, Swimming, and Karate programs** are available for students starting in UPK.

MUSIC AND ARTS

The Greek Dance Troupe is divided into three grade-specific groups from UPK-8th Grade. Our students perform at several events and functions throughout the year. An arts program is available on Thursday afternoon for students from K-8. **Private lessons in piano, violin, voice and guitar** take place daily.

TUTORING & ENRICHMENT

After-school enrichment is offered to students in grades 3 – 8 starting in January, free of charge. Individual tutoring sessions are also available as needed. Enrichment sessions take place throughout the year, and help students participate in city-wide competitions, such as **Math Counts, Spelling Bee and Science Olympiad**.



Admissions FAQ

- **What is the student body size & student-teacher ratio?**

- The A. Fantis student body is under 200 total students, as K-8 classes are capped under 20 students per class. A 7:1 student to teacher ratio is maintained. All preschool classrooms have a lead teacher and assistants.

- **If we are not Greek or Greek Orthodox, can we apply?**

- **Yes!** Fantis is a welcoming community and we have families of many different Christian denominations and nationalities. A baptismal certificate is required for K-8 students. We are happy to assist with this process if needed. Please contact us with any questions.

- **How is religion incorporated throughout the day?**

- Faith and love of God are foundational components of our A. Fantis education. K-8 students begin each morning in the cafeteria with a prayer. Religion class is held weekly and teaches the basics of Christianity before the deeper study of iconography, service-learning and comparative religion analysis in middle school. Monthly liturgy is held in the Cathedral adjacent to the school, to celebrate holy days and help students practice their faith. Rooted in the Greek Orthodox tradition, the majority of the religion curriculum and liturgy overlap the core tenets of Christianity. Please note there is no religion or religious instruction in UPK4 classrooms.

- **What if my child does not speak Greek?**

- **That is fine!** Students do not need to know any Greek in order to enroll. The Hellenic Studies Department has developed a **Greek Language Transition Program**, which includes tutoring, online learning, and materials. Students entering after kindergarten with no background in Greek must complete the program. For details, click [here](#).
- In middle school, Greek language classes are separated into beginner and advanced levels. The primary school curriculum allows teachers to provide differentiated instruction within the classroom. The type of Greek language examinations administered at graduation—Level B1 and the Greek Regents High School Exam—will depend on each student's current progress.

- **What are breakfast and lunch options?**

- A Fantis School is proud to partner with [Sanpanino](#), a neighboring sandwich shop, to provide our K-8 students with fresh, made-to-order sandwiches, salads, fresh fruit, drinks, and more. Families can place their order online before 9:00 am on the day of delivery. Lunches will be delivered directly to the school in individually wrapped and labeled bags. We also offer Pizza Friday for students in Grades K-8, with net proceeds for the yearbook. Free breakfast and lunch options are also provided through the NYC DOE for all students.

- **What happens during a Family Visit and Buddy Day?**

- Check out our [FAQ](#).



Admissions FAQ

- **Do you offer transportation?**
 - A. Fantis offers free, privately chartered bus service to students in several locations of Brooklyn. Contact us for more information.
- **What is the age cut-off date?**
 - PreK3: 3 years old by December 31 of entry year. PreK4: 4 years old by December 31 of entry year. For K-8 students, the age cutoff is more flexible. Each candidate is considered on an individual basis.
- **What are the hours of the school day?**
 - Preschool begins at 8:10 and ends at 2:30. K-8 students arrive at 8:05 and dismiss at 3:00. Please note preschool siblings are able to stay in our Beyond the Bell program until 3:00 without a fee.
- **What are before and after-school options?**
 - At 7:45am, K-8 students can arrive for complimentary free play in the gymnasium or breakfast in the cafeteria. After-school options include Beyond the Bell, which operates from dismissal to 6:00pm, as well as a variety of daily after-school clubs, sports, private music lessons & more.
- **What extracurricular activities are offered?**
 - Fantis offers a wide variety of extracurricular activities, which are interest-based. During school hours, weekly Middle School Clubs are held and range from pottery to debate teams. Daily after-school clubs and activities are available for all grades. Explore them further on our website: after-school life and athletics.
- **What resources are available for special needs students?**
 - A. Fantis is proud to serve students with special needs and 504 plans. Our special education coordinator works with families and teachers on each student's goals and services. Incoming students are reviewed on an individual basis. We work with each K-8 family to ensure Fantis is able to provide the appropriate setting for the success of each student.
- **Do students take standardized tests?**
 - We believe that frequent, ongoing test prep is a misguided approach and not a good use of the school day. Rather, high-achieving students will naturally do well on exams. A. Fantis uses a variety of ongoing assessments—formal and informal—strategically and with purpose so teachers have a clear portrait of each student's growth and development across several domains. NY state exams in English and Math for students in grades 3-8 provide another piece of data, including a comparison of overall school achievement to other schools across the city and state. **Our advanced coursework allows 8th-grade students to take five high school Regents exams in English, Algebra I, Living Environment, Greek, and US History.**
- **Our child was placed on the waitlist. What are the next steps?**
 - If you are placed on the waitlist, kindly advise us if you would like to hold your place. School policy does not allow sharing specific information about waitlist placement. Should a seat becomes available, we will contact you.



Admissions Checklist

HOW TO APPLY

- Attend [Open House](#) or School Tour**
- Complete Online [Application](#) & Upload all Documents**
- Family Visit & Buddy Day Invitation**

After application review, families may be invited for a Family Visit & Buddy Day.

Refer to our [Family Visit & Buddy Day FAQ](#) for complete details.

- Application Materials**

- K-8 : Confidential Teacher Report and Child's Baptismal Certificate—see [Admissions FAQ](#) for more information
- Grades 1-8 : School Transcript Request, including latest report card and standardized test scores
- Middle School : Student Essay
- If applicable : Individualized Education Plan (IEP), 504, or PK3 Teacher Report

HOW TO ENROLL

Upon acceptance, please complete the following:

- Deposit & Enrollment Agreement by the deadline
- Birth Certificate
- Child & Adolescent Health Form CH205
- Enroll in Tuition Management

IMPORTANT DATES FOR REGULAR ADMISSIONS

EARLY ADMISSIONS DEADLINE

- Deadline to Complete Online Application & Upload all Documents
- Admissions Decisions Notifications
- Deposit & Enrollment Agreement Due

November 28, 2022

December 2, 2022

December 16, 2022

REGULAR ADMISSIONS DEADLINE

- Deadline to Complete Online Application & Upload all Documents
- Admissions Decisions Notifications
- Deposit & Enrollment Agreement

March 20, 2023

March 24, 2023

April 7, 2023

****Admissions priority is given to siblings and children of faculty, church members, and alumni. Pre-K, Kindergarten, 5th & 6th grade are major entry points. The Early Admissions Cycle is recommended.****