## Welcome to the 1st Gymnasio<sup>1</sup> of Volos

The 1st Gymnasio of Volos was founded after the liberation of Thessaly, via a royal decree, on 25/03/1882 as the four-grade school of Magnesia, as it was the only one in the prefecture. In 1929 and in 1937 it operated as a six-grade and eight-grade gymnasio, respectively. After the earthquake of 1954 which hit the region of Volos, the 1st gymnasio of Volos was relocated to another area and the building where it was housed was built with money from a fundraiser in Cyprus, hence the name "Pankyprion Didaktirion". In 1979 it took on its current form as it operated as a gymnasio and lykio. Our school is one of the experimental schools included in "Schools for the Implementation of Experimental Education Programs". Therefore it has certain unique features which distinguish it from the rest of the schools in the prefecture. There are dedicated classrooms for each specific subject that is taught (named after historic ancient Greek figures i.e. Herodotus for History, Democritus for Physics, Euclid for Mathematics), incorporating any necessary laboratory facilities. It has also a lending library which is comparable, organizationally, to a university library. Lockers are located in the hallways allowing students to store the books they need for each subject. The aim of the school is to make parents feel welcome and wishes to have more visitors who also take on a more active and engaging role.

Now, as I listen daily to the students' voices which lead to the school and taking into account the problems the teachers and students face, I would like to wish good luck to the graduating students and a good school year to everyone!

The principal Karaferis Ioannis

"One of the purposes of school is to help the student develop the mental resilience necessary to overcome any obstacles encountered in their lifetime"

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Secondary Education of Greece is comprised of Gymnasio (Junior High School, grades 7-9, age 12-15) and Lykio (High School, grades 10-12, age 15-18).