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ANNOUNCEMENT

JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL NEW CURRICULUM MUST BE IMMEDIATELY WITHDRAWN

“Nea Paideia” association and the Editor of the review *Nea Paideia* strongly oppose to the recently launched new curriculum for the Junior High School (Gymnasium) in Greece.

At the beginning of August 2013 a non-paper was emailed to the Directors of Secondary Education with no previous institutional coverage, the new curriculum that aimed at dramatically decreasing teaching hours in several courses, therefore at restricting teaching positions, even banishing specialized teachers from school.

This inconceivable curriculum is not underpinned by any theory. Moreover it lacks official signature. It is probable that it comes as the quaint result of committees’ meetings which are inwardly formed at the Ministry of Education. Those committees substitute, after its termination, the Pedagogical Institute while marginalizing once and for all the practically nonexistent Institute of Educational Policy.

According to it, Music and Art are no longer available as compulsory courses in B and C grades of Junior High School (1h per week in all three grades so far). Technology/Craft course is no longer a compulsory course in A and B grades (It was offered 1h per week). It has to be mentioned that Theatre/Drama course is nonexistent. Apart from the severe decrease of teaching hours and the inhuman suspension, namely the discharge, of millions of teachers the curriculum signifies a major shift to a conservative ideology by implementing the courses of Technology/Craft, Music and Art in B and C grades to the Project Course (2h per week) along with **five** other subjects. This is definitely not a random choice and it is not only connected to the teaching hours and teachers’ discharge. It is a common

practice in educational policy to diminish the significance of a course by turning it into an optional subject.

The new curriculum's aim is to form a type of student, and therefore a type of citizen-to-be, whose critical thinking, creativity and the skill to constructively challenge any certainty will gradually be erased even before he/she enters High School (Lyceum), where the above skills will have already been devitalized. In a nutshell, the new curriculum for Junior High School "nurtures" junior hampered-skilled citizens and provides them with inadequate aesthetic stimuli.

This is a call to the educational community, the scientific associations, university departments and all citizens to react and ask the immediate withdrawal of the newly designed curriculum for Junior High School.

It is a matter of dignity for teachers as scientists and pedagogues.

Athens, 7/8/2013

Nea Paideia Association