

Date: _____

Your Excellency:

We, the parents, parishioners, and other Supporters of St. George are extremely distressed by the news of the imminent closing of St. George School and Academy, which have provided such a solid academic foundation for several generations of young people.

The post-war Ukrainian immigrants to New York scrimped and sacrificed their hard-earned dollars for years to fund the building of the school and beautiful new church so that they could pass the torch of Ukrainian religious and cultural heritage to their children. Today, the school still fills that important link between past and future: American children of Ukrainian descent learn their ancestral language and Customs; children from Ukraine learn the history and religion that were denied them for so many years, and they, along with other Slavic immigrants, begin their acculturation to their new lives in America among teachers and peers who understand their language and particular background as immigrants from Eastern Europe; while neighboring Americans who attend the school have a unique opportunity of exposure to a cultural and religious tradition which receive little attention in other schools.

We have finally been made aware of the school's dire financial situation by Reverend Paschak and are more than ready to form the PTA which has been discouraged and maligned by the administration for years, as well as an Alumni Association, which the school has also neglected in forming as other schools do. A steering committee has already been formed to research creative options for significant fundraising on the order of that carried on by neighboring parochial schools. A number of years ago, Immaculate Conception Ukrainian Catholic School in Hamtramck, Michigan was also on the verge of closing, but in a relatively short time, it rose from its ashes not only to survive, but to attain the prestigious recognition as a National School of Excellence. We feel that St. George School and Academy have no less a potential.

Please do not deny the "fourth wave" of immigrant children from Ukraine, as well as all the other students of St. George, the same opportunity that was created by our fathers and grandfathers, We are certain that, in a spirit of cooperation between parish and community, St. George School and Academy can be saved. Please lend your voice and authority to our cause!

Sincerely yours,

Name _____

Address _____
