



Education has long been an important aspect of the Armenian Missionary Association of America (AMAA). In Armenia, the Khoren & Shoushanik Avedisian School is a jewel of our education program.

It all started with the AMAA taking over and reopening a closed Kindergarten with the encouragement of the Ministry of Education. This took place on May 24, 1999 with 75 students registering in three classes. The Avedisian family have generously donated funds for this school in memory of their parents, Khoren & Shooshanik Avedisian, after whom the School was named.

Each year, another grade was added. The school has now grown to approximately 300 students in grades KG through 7. The school is generally open from 8 am to 5 pm weekdays with classes from 9 am to 3 pm. Besides the standard subjects approved by the Ministry of Education, the curriculum is enriched with Bible study, Armenian and foreign language lessons, and arts and crafts. The children in Kindergarten and First grade are also provided with meals. The children often have so much fun that they make their parents wait until they are finished playing until the day's end.

There are also many extra-curricular activities and special events, which are well-varied and keep the children interested. This includes Choral, Drama, Dance, Chess, and Karate groups as well as field trips to culturally and spiritually significant venues and special holiday programs. The Dance, Chess, and Karate groups compete in interschool competitions.

The school is blessed with well-qualified, dedicated teachers. Many times, teachers visit sick children in their homes to provide instruction.

The parents are also very involved with the school. They volunteer much time in clean-up, repairs, etc., and help with fundraising including acquiring Christmas gifts for needy children in Goris and Armavir (clothing, etc.). As a group, the parents also contribute about \$2,000 every year for AMAA Month. The parents have also hosted Armenian children visiting from other countries. In addition, the parents receive training on hygiene and disease.

Because of the school's good reputation of tuition-free quality education, there is a very long waiting list of applicants desiring to be registered at the school. In 2004, the Principal of the school received the "Best Principal" award by the Ministry of Education.

Grades 4 through 7 twice received first prize in the Russian Literature interschool competitions.

The many toys and comfortable furniture allow the children to forget about their family difficulties for a while, and encourage them to have rich imaginations. They are provided with an unmatched quality of education, as well as material and spiritual provisions. As you can see, the school benefits the children, their families, and the faculty and staff. The school is much more than just a school. It has revitalized a community, providing an inspired hope where before there was none. This school provides a shining example of what is possible with the Lord's guidance.

AMAA is launching a new Child Education Sponsorship program to help with the expenses of the school and continue providing a tuition-free education. Similar to the Child Education sponsorship Program in the Middle East and the AMAA Armenia Sponsorship Program, donors now have the opportunity to sponsor students at Avedisian School, thus helping AMAA to continue provide this unique educational service. We are sure most of our donors will take this challenge and help. to do so, please contact our at 201.265.2607.