

For Immediate Release

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## **GOVERNOR RECOGNIZES LOCAL CHARTER SCHOOL'S PHYSICAL FITNESS PROGRAM**

**Pinellas County, FL --** The Athenian Academy of Pinellas was recently recognized by Governor Charlie Crist for its fitness program. The school, located at 2817 St. Marks Drive in Dunedin, was awarded \$5000 for winning 2<sup>nd</sup> place in The Governors Physical Fitness Challenge.

The school's 180 students participated in the eight-week program that provided guidance and incentives to schools in helping boost physical fitness for children. The program incorporated skill areas in which students could work to improve and chart their progress.

"We are a language-rich school that teaches both Greek and Spanish along with core academics. We also emphasize physical fitness because it's an essential component of a well rounded education," explains Kathy Manrique, Regional Director. "The Governors Physical Fitness Challenge provided an exciting way to motivate our students and expand our physical fitness program."

The Athenian Academy of Pinellas is the first Greek-immersion school in the United States. Opened in 2000, the school was recently awarded a *Certificate of Excellence* from the City Council of Dunedin for outstanding academic achievement.

For more than eleven years, public charter schools have been a vital component of Florida's K-12 public education system. There are currently more than 104,000 students enrolled in more than 360 charter schools throughout the state. In the past five years, the percentage of students proficient in reading at public charter schools has increased at a faster pace than at the traditional public schools.

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