

Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate

Sprouts Lesson

Protecting the Future of Faith®

Middle School

Halki Theological School: A Critical Issue for our Patriarch

Objectives

By the end of this session students will be able to:

- Define seminary
- Summarize timeline of events and fast facts about the Halki Theological School
- Identify ways to support efforts to reopen the Halki Theological School

Resources

- ☐ Access to a laptop and to Wi-Fi for documentary viewing and research
- ☐ Fast Facts Handout, scissors, and glue stick
- ☐ Sentence Strips and Timeline Activity
- ☐ Print out of the graphic organizer

Word Wall

Seminary Halki Theological School
Constantinople

Pacing Map

2 Minutes

Students arrive to class

Group prayer

5 Minutes

Define Seminary

Have students read Article taken from [Halki Theological School - Patriarchate of Constantinople](#)

Ask students to share **one** fact they learned

4 Minutes

Watch mini documentary

[MUST SEE VIDEO: The Facts About Halki Seminary in 2 Minutes](#)

5 Minutes

Debrief the mini documentary

Guiding Questions

1. What were you surprised to learn in this mini documentary?
2. Did you hear something that struck you as unfair? What was it? How is it unfair in your estimation?

10 Minutes

Have students work in teams to assemble their critical Halki Theological School Timelines

5–7 Minutes

Debrief timelines with students

2 Minutes

Exit Ticket:

Two things you learned about the Halki Theological School

Article taken from [Halki Theological School - Patriarchate of Constantinople](#)

The Holy Theological School of Halki

The seminary is located at the top of a hill called the Hill of Hope, on the site of the Monastery of the Holy Trinity, founded by Patriarch Photios I, almost a thousand years before the foundation of the theological school. During Ottoman rule the monastery fell into disrepair. The reestablishment and reconstitution of the monastery are associated with the Ecumenical Patriarchs Photius I the Great, Metrophanes III, and Germanos IV. Germanos IV (1872-1845) visited the monastery in 1842 and saw the School's reconstruction and reconstitution which was approved by the Turkish authorities. In 1844, Patriarch Germanos IV converted the monastery into a school of theology, which was inaugurated on 1 October 1844. All the buildings, except for the 17th-century chapel, were destroyed by the 1894 Istanbul earthquake, but were rebuilt by architect Periklis Fotiadis and inaugurated on 6 October 1896.

When established in 1844, the school had seven grades, four high school level and three higher level (theological grades). In 1899, the high school division was dissolved and the school functioned as an academy with five grades. In 1923, on the establishment of the Turkish Republic, the seven-grade system was restored (4 high school + 3 higher level). In 1951, it was changed to 3 high school + 4 higher level.

The facilities include the Chapel of the Holy Trinity, sports and recreational institutions, dormitories, an

infirmary, a hospice, offices, and the school's library with its historic collection of books, journals, and manuscripts. The library contains over 120,000 books, one of the largest in the region.

There have been 990 graduates of the theological school and many have become priests, bishops, archbishops, scholars, and patriarchs.[4][6] Many former students are buried in the grounds of the school. Orthodox Christians from around the world have attended and graduated from the theological school and the alumni are distributed around the world.

It's been 50 years since the Turkish government closed the Greek Orthodox Theological School of Halki, also known as the Halki Seminary. The school continues to be unable to educate or train clergy in a country with a historical but dwindling Greek Orthodox community. The Halki Seminary's continued closure poses an obstacle to the survival of that community within Turkey.

The international community—including U.S. presidents and other high-ranking officials from the United States and Europe—have joined the Ecumenical Patriarchate in calling upon the Turkish government to reopen the Halki Seminary to no avail. Although Turkish officials have at times appeared inclined to support the reopening of the seminary, none have taken any concrete steps to do so.

Halki Theological School: A Timeline



1884

1924

1939

1943

1955

1971

1974

1999

2009

Match the Year to the Events:

1. Patriarch Germanos IV converted monastery into a school of theology

2. Halki Theological School opens officially

3. Turkey invades Cyprus

4. Halki Theological School begins to receive attention US Congress votes to support reopening of Halki Theological School

5. President Barack Obama affirms his support for Halki Theological School religious freedoms around the world

6. World War II begins

7. Massacre at Kalavryta by Germans forces destroyed Agia Lavra

8. Istanbul destroyed 73 churches

9. Halki Seminary is closed by Turkish authorities

Halki Timeline

(Teacher's Answer Sheet)

Year	Event
1884	Patriarch Germanos IV converted monastery into a school of theology
1924	Seminary opens officially
1939	World War II begins
1943	Massacre at Kalavryta by Germans forces destroyed Agia Lavra
1955	73 churches are destroyed at the directive of Turkish government
1971	Halki Seminary is closed by Turkish authorities
1974	Turkey invades Cyprus
1999	Halki Seminary begins to receive attention US Congress votes to support reopening of Halki Seminary
2009	President Barack Obama affirms his support for Halki Seminary and religious freedoms around the world



Halki Timeline

Students will glue years and events in the graphic organizer below

Year	Event



Teacher Resources

- Provision materials to ensure you have all that you need ahead of time for class
- **Definition of Seminary:** A **seminary**, school of theology, theological college, or divinity school is an educational institution for educating students (sometimes called seminarians) in scripture and theology, generally to prepare them for ordination to serve as clergy, in academics, or mostly in Christian ministry.
- [50 Years and Counting: The Continued Closure of Halki Seminary in Turkey | USCIRF](#) (podcast and interview with Archbishop Elpidophoros).

