

Italian Exchange 2027-2028

**Bristol Central
High School
Coordinator: Gina Gallo**

Proposal: Bristol Central and G. Nolfi Exchange Program

This proposal requests permission and approval for Bristol Central High School to plan, organize, and host an Italian exchange program for the 2027-2028 school year. We are seeking support to both host our sister school in the Fall and travel in the Spring. To ensure proper planning and successful implementation of these programs we are seeking approval in 2026.

Proposal: G. Nolfi/BCHS Exchange Program

BCHS seeks approval to continue our 17 year exchange program with the G. Nolfi classical language school in Fano, Italy. We are requesting permission to travel to Italy and host Italian exchange students during the 2027-2028 school year. This proposal requests that we host our sister school during the fall of 2027 and travel to Italy in the spring of 2028. This period of time has been chosen to meet the needs of our scholar athletes who have shown interest in the program and will have a break during the winter/spring seasons.

A sister school partnership is a long-term agreement that will support curriculum and pedagogy enhancements for both schools. An international partnership consisting of reciprocal student exchanges have been shown to encourage personal development and teach valuable life skills such as leadership, perseverance and independence. The goal of this exchange is to create opportunities for our students to use language in a full-immersion setting while acting as cultured global citizens and ambassadors of Bristol. A program such as this aligns with our vision of the graduate a supports our global mindset reinforcing our initiative to “ work collaboratively with individuals

representing diverse cultures, religions and lifestyles in a spirit of mutual respect and open dialogue in personal, work and community contexts as well as understanding other nations and cultures including the use of non-English language”¹.

Organizational Rationale:

To ensure an equitable opportunity for all students, travel will be scheduled during the off-season for fall and winter sports. Surveys conducted among students indicate a strong preference for travel in November or March, allowing our student-athletes to participate fully without conflicting with their sports commitments. The lead chaperone for this trip (Gallo), has extensive experience with Fano and has established strong relationships with the staff and local host families, which will help maintain the program's integrity and ensure high-quality instruction.

This collaboration between Bristol Public Schools and Fano highlights an almost 20 year commitment to global citizenship and cultural studies. We believe that this program will provide invaluable educational and cultural experiences for our students and we look forward to the continued support of BPS in making these trips a reality.

We are requesting permission to offer this exchange in advance to ensure that students and parents have enough time to prepare for the trip. We would like to give families sufficient time both to save for travel costs as well as to help plan this educational experience. We will take the proper travel precautions when planning this trip

¹ BPS vision of the Graduate

https://cdn5-ss19.sharpschool.com/UserFiles/Servers/Server_117038/File/Information/Vision_of_the_Graduate/Vision_of_Graduate.pdf

and will follow all Board of Education policies. We will purchase additional travel insurance to insure the maximum safety coverage as well. This exchange is a once in a lifetime opportunity; with your support and approval we can facilitate an interest in and an understanding of this great culture among our students.

The Benefits of This Experience

The world language curriculum is based on the five C's, the Standards for Foreign Language Learning and the ACTFL World Readiness standards of proficiency. Those standards incorporate communication, cultures, connections, comparisons and communities. Communication in languages other than English, gain knowledge and understanding of other cultures, connect with other disciplines and acquire information, develop insight into the nature and language of culture and participate in multilingual communities at home and around the world; the exchange program that we have organized offers our students an unparalleled opportunity to practice and refine all areas of proficiency (reading, writing, speaking and listening). Our priority standards, based on the state frameworks, past NEASC reports and the ACTFL standard all stress the importance of authentic interactions with other languages and cultures.

It is not realistic to expect that all BCHS students will be able to have the opportunity to study abroad for a semester or an extended period of time. These programs will allow total immersion in the Italian language and culture at a reasonable price. The importance of a study abroad or exchange program is a topic discussed in classrooms across the nation. The following list was compiled by Diversity Abroad, a website that highlights the importance of a study abroad experience. This list highlights the effectiveness of a study abroad experience and its impact on the face of education across

the nation.

When studying abroad students will have the opportunity to gain skills such as:

- The ability to adapt to unfamiliar environments
- The ability to learn from different teaching styles
- The opportunity to learn to effectively communication among diverse groups
- The willingness to extend beyond one's own comfort zone
- The knowledge of a foreign language

By studying abroad students will benefit from many unique experiences unavailable at the high school level. Such experiences include:

- Learning from students from different cultural, ethnic and national backgrounds
- Honing cross-cultural communication skills
- Mastering a foreign language
- Exposure to new ideas and philosophies

For many students, studying abroad is a life-changing experience. Students come back from study abroad more independent, confident and eager to take on any challenge, academic, professional or personal. There are many personal benefits to studying abroad. Some of these benefits include:

- Increased self-confidence

- independence and maturity
- Global networking of friends
- Appreciation of other cultures as well as appreciation for the American culture
- Ability to face challenges in the future
- Learn to creatively solve problems
- Better understanding of personal strengths and weaknesses

The knowledge gained during both the study abroad program and the exchange program will continue far beyond the week-long time frame for Bristol Central students and teachers. The understandings that the students will develop from this experience are directly linked to the world language curriculum and district priority standards. The following list of priorities connects the vision of the graduate with the importance of study abroad experiences.

Global Awareness

The BPS Vision of the Graduate emphasizes preparing students for a rapidly changing global society. This study abroad program immerses students in Italian culture, helping our students to understand diverse perspectives and global issues, which is crucial in today's interconnected world.

Critical Thinking and Problem-Solving

The Bristol/Fano partnership engages students with new environments and challenges students to think critically and adapt to different situations. This aligns with the goal of equipping graduates with essential skills to navigate complex problems.

Communication Skills

This study abroad program requires students to communicate in Italian and engage with families from various backgrounds. This enhances students ability to connect and collaborate with others, an essential disposition for success in a globalized workforce

Tentative Program:

Hosting example:

Date	Event
day 1 in the US	<u>Arrival: Air Italy 901</u> Arrival to JFK 4:40
day 2 in the US	<p><u>Weekend spent with the host family (contact each other so you can plan events as a team!)</u></p> <p><i>Ideas:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. All types of shopping (this includes clothes shopping, grocery shopping, etc.) 2. Movies 3. Fall events- fairs, pumpkin picking etc. 4. Bowling 5. School Events (games, etc.) 6. laser tag 7. Local places of interest 8. Lyman Orchards (or any local farms) 9. The outlets 10. Hartford or any local towns or cities
day 3 in the US	Arrive at BCHS for 7:30

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <u>Italian</u> students attend period ½ with American Students ● AT 9:00 American students accompany Italian students to the gym entrance ● Italian students take bus to Police station, City Hall and Memorial Boulevard ● Italian Students Return to BCHS for 12:00- there will be an announcement to pick up your exchange student when they arrive- students should attend classes with their partners for the rest of the day.
day 4 in the US	<p>Drop off Italians at 6:50 at the gym entrance New York Rockefeller center and Rockefeller tower St. Patrick’s Cathedral 9/11 memorial time square, Broadway, time for shopping, and sightseeing Load Bus at 6:30</p>
day 5 in the US	<p><u>Yale</u> Students will attend class with the American students until 12:00 then they will depart for New Haven</p>
day 6 in the US	<p>Drop off Italians at 6:50 at the gym entrance Boston 1st stop Harvard university/ shopping 2nd stop lunch Quincy market 3rd stop freedom trail 6:30pm leave Boston</p>
day 7 in the US	<p>Students will school all day with BCHS students</p>
return	<p>Departure ☺ flight 940 Air Italy</p>

Example itinerary for the week in Italy

Day one in Italy	<p>The american students and teachers arrive in Fano, at Piazzale della Giustizia</p> <p>Afternoon: Visit to Fano, the roman town, the theater, the cathedral, municipal buildings and library: guided tour</p>
Day two in Italy	<p>American and Italian students attend classes at Liceo Nolfi(Olivetti building):</p> <p>BREAK: The Principal's welcome, refreshments</p> <p>Afternoon: spent with the Italian partners</p>
Day three in Italy	<p>full day with the host families</p> <p>(Carnival parade, parties, visit to places of interest near Fano)</p>
Day four in Italy	<p>Morning activity: first period of school, meet the mayor, press conference, 10:00 cooking class in Pesaro</p> <p>Afternoon: both Italian and American students go to San Marino</p>
Day five in Italy	<p>Florence(full day): only the American students and teachers</p> <p>Florence: visit the city, The Uffizi gallery (entrance at 1.30 pm); immersion in Florentine life- market, Piazza della Signoria , ponte Vecchio, Il Duomo</p>
Day six in Italy	<p>American students meet and head to the local market of Fano and attend full day of lessons</p>
Day seven in Italy	<p>American students and teachers go to Frasassi to visit the caves, have a family</p>

	<p>style lunch and then head to Loreto to see the cathedral</p> <p>Return to Fano at 5,00 pm to spend one last evening with the families</p>
Return	<p>The American students leave at around 8.30 am for Bologna airport.</p>