

2020/2021

Trip Proposal: Taormina,  
Sicily

Feb 2021

Coordinator GINA GALLO

# STUDY BROAD CONTRACT

In order to participate in the Taormina, Sicily study abroad program, students must meet the following criteria:

- The student is in good academic standing according to the Bristol Board of Education student handbook rules.
- The student is currently enrolled in a World Language course
- The student currently has a passing grade in Italian
- The student is passing all other courses at Bristol Central
- The student agrees to maintain academic integrity while abroad and will make up all work needed.
- Prior to the trip all students will devise a plan with teachers to insure they do not miss assignments.

*N.B No student will be considered for this program if he or she does not meet the above criteria.*

Parents, please be aware of the following stipulations:

- Your student can be removed from the Italian exchange program if there are any academic, legal or school related problems. If this does occur all payments made are non-refundable.
- The students participating in this program will be chosen on the basis of academic, social and emotional stability.
- The teacher has the right to use personal discretion when choosing the participants in this study abroad opportunity.
- There will be a curfew in place in Italy. The host families will report to the teacher each day to ensure that the students are abiding by all rules.
- Due to the uncertain nature of world security and other unforeseeable events, field trip participants must understand that the Board of Education reserves the right to cancel field trips at any time prior to the time of departure of the trip. The Bristol Board of Education or its agents will not be responsible for any financial losses or penalties incurred as a result of the cancellation of any field trip.
- At the highest [red] alert, no field trips will be allowed out of the City of Bristol for any reason.
- If there are any medical needs of the student the coordinating teacher needs to be made aware immediately
- If a student misses a flight for any reason, parents may be asked to fly to the destination at their own expense
- If a student is sent home due to inappropriate conduct, an additional chaperone or parent will fly to the destination to accompany student home at their own expense
- If a student misses a flight for any reason an additional student may be asked to stay with them

Please sign and return by \_\_\_\_\_

My child and I have read and discussed the STUDENT RULES OF BEHAVIOR. We understand that NO PERSON UNDER THE AGE OF 21 Shall CONSUME ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES. No person shall use any drug or substance that was not prescribed by a doctor for him/her. We agree that all member of our household will abide by all rules set forth in the Bristol Board of Education and State of Connecticut. We understand that the safety of the host student or travler is the first priority and all consequences are at the discretion of the trip organizers and administrators.

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*Signature of Parent) (s)*

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*(Signature of Student)*

### Tentative Itinerary for Bristol, CT - Faculty: Gina Gallo February 2021 Program

<b>Fri Day one</b>	Depart U.S.	
<b>Sat Day two</b>	ARRIVE CATANIA  <b>4:00 PM</b>	Arrive Catania – students picked up and brought to host families. Settle in at host families Welcome Pizza and Orientation at Babilonia (with Alessandro) Placement Exam (written and oral)  Dinner times with families vary
<b>Sun Day three</b>	8:00 AM	Bristol High School Group <b>Excursion Hiking Mt Etna</b> – guided in English
<b>Mon Day four</b>	9:15 AM  9:30 AM to 11:00 AM  11:00 AM to 11:30 AM  11:30 AM to 1:00 PM  <b>2:00 PM to 4:00 PM</b>  <b>4:00 PM</b>	Arrive at Babilonia  Babilonia Language Classes (language analysis)  Break  Babilonia Language Classes (communicative activities)  <b>Walking Tour of Taormina</b> – Historical and Logistical tour (in English) includes entrance fees and tour of the Teatro Greco  <b>Babilonia Social activity – Pictionary</b>
<b>Tues Day five</b>	9:30 AM to 11:00 AM  11:00 AM to 11:30 AM  11:30 AM to 1:00 PM  <b>1:30 PM to 3:30 PM</b>  4:00 PM	Babilonia Language Classes (language analyses)  Break  Babilonia Language Classes (communicative activities)  Visit to Forz D'Agro visit Chocolate Museum, explore mountain top town where scenes from The Godfather were filmed, hike through town, visit Church where wedding in The Godfather was filmed  Babilonia Seminario
<b>Wed Day six</b>	9:30 AM to 11:00 AM  11:00 AM to 11:30 AM  11:30 AM to 1:00 PM  <b>2:00 PM to 5:00 PM</b>	Babilonia Language Classes (language analyses)  Break  Babilonia Language Classes (communicative activities)  Guided Exploration of local artisans – (possibilities - stone artist, marzipane, ceramics, granita, leather)
<b>Thurs Day seven</b>	9:30 AM to 11:00 AM  11:00 AM to 11:30 AM  11:30 AM to 1:00 PM	Babilonia Language Classes (language analyses)  Break  Babilonia Language Classes (communicative activities)

	<b>2:00 PM</b>	<b>Babilonia Activity - <i>Hike to Isola Bella</i> – take funivia back up the mountain to Taormina center</b>
<b>Fri Day eight</b>	9:30 AM to 11:00 AM	Babilonia Language Classes (language analyses)
	11:00 AM to 11:30 AM	Break
	11:30 AM to 1:00 PM	Babilonia Language Classes (communicative activities)
	<b>3:00 PM</b>	<b>Babilonia activity: Hands on Cooking Experience – <i>Caponata</i> - (with Babilonia Ristrot)</b>
<b>Sat Day nine</b>	DEPART CATANIA	Airport transfer to return to the U.S.

**Program Outline:**

The incredible city of Taormina is located in southern Italy, an area known for its beautiful beaches, fantastic food and enchanting ambiance. In February 2021, Bristol students and staff would like travel to Italy, where they will be housed by local families and attend an accredited language school to study art, history, language and communication. From there, students and staff will have the opportunity to learn about and visit some of the most stunning and historically rich cities in the world. Aside from language immersion the secondary goal of this opportunity is to continue to maintain a cross-discipline collaboration with the art program to help infuse art history into the language study program.

Travel will take place during the February break; therefore, students and teachers will miss minimal school hours in CT while maximize learning abroad. The lead chaperone of this trip has previously attended classes at this academy and has a working relationship with the staff and the host families to insure the integrity and quality of instruction. We are requesting permission to offer this exchange almost one year in advance to ensure that students and parents have enough time to prepare for the trip. We would like to give families sufficient time to both save for travel costs as well as help plan this educational experience. We will take the proper travel precautions when planning this trip and have inquired about travel insurance as well as travel rules and regulations. 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:**

In an ever-changing global society, our school system must remain on the cutting edge of education. This program provides the opportunity for our classroom curriculum to merge with 21<sup>st</sup> century global education. This opportunity will allow learners of all levels and styles to see, read and experience the Italian language and culture. Students who participate in this study will be tested into a level of study that is appropriate for each

individual.

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. This program will allow total immersion in the Italian language and culture for a shorter period, at a reasonable price. The importance of a study abroad program is a topic discussed in classrooms across the nation. The following list was compiled by Diversity Abroad, a website that discussed 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 communicate among diverse groups
- The willingness to challenge oneself and comfort zones
- 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 study 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 study 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 this 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 Power Standards. The following list of Power Standards has been taken from the level 2 set of standards.

- **Power Standard 1** states: Students will understand and interpret spoken and written language on a variety of topics. This is an interpretive skill that will allow students to understand the topics discussed during the class. A learning opportunity such as this will allow students to use authentic materials to aid their interpretive skills.
- **Performance Standard 2** states: Students will engage in conversation, provide and obtain information, express feelings and exchange opinions. Students will be able to listen to actual conversations and be a part of the culture and traditions. The students will be asked to give their opinions and express ideas and feelings about the information they are seeing. In order to insure that all students are benefiting from this teaching technique these activities will be differentiated to make the language accessible to all language learners.
- **Performance Standard 3** states: Students will present information, concepts and ideas to listeners or readers on a variety of topics. The students will be asked to speak to the teacher and native Italian speakers. The opportunity to interact on a daily basis with Italian people in their own environment is not available in the course of the normal school day. Having students respond to the different situations presented offers them the opportunity to experience real-life communication.
- **Performance Standard 4** states: Students will demonstrate an understanding of the traditions, products, practices and perspectives of the cultures studied. There is no better way for students to experience the culture and traditions of a place than to experience them first hand. The students will be walking the streets of Italy and attending courses taught by native speakers of



Italian.

- **Performance Standard 5** states: Students will reinforce and expand their knowledge of other areas of study through the World Language. The students left in the US will be able to view an entire culture via the experience of their teacher and their classmates. The study of a culture will show the students a broader world view from their seats in Bristol, Connecticut. Besides the obvious links to Italian history, art and culture, there will be seminars on Italian music, cinema and archaeology that will engage but the student and teacher. This experience will make them better citizens of our country as well as better citizens of the world.
- **Performance Standard 6** states: Students will acquire and use information from a variety of sources only available in the world language, using technology, print audiovisual, media, data and human resources. This experience will allow the students to tap into the newest facets of technology and media studies.

One can continue drawing parallels between the benefits of this program and the Bristol education standards. The curriculum is based on these as well as other standards to support the highest quality of learners. The Italian curriculum for all levels discusses topics such as the geography of central southern Italy, the study of ancient history and culture and the study of tradition and daily life.

Additionally, this exchange program can help the school achieve its maximum potential. The goals set by NEASC state that the curriculum must emphasize depth of understanding and application of knowledge through:

- Inquiry and problem-solving
- Higher order thinking
- Cross-disciplinary learning
- Authentic learning opportunities both in and out of school
- Informed and ethical use of technology<sup>1</sup>

This program focuses on higher order thinking and cross disciplinary learning. It is an opportunity that will set us apart from area high schools; we will focus on **authentic** learning opportunities in the target language, at the epicenter of culture and traditions. Students will be pushed beyond their comfort zones, will be encouraged to inquire about new topics, and will be forced to problem solve to communicate effectively in a foreign country.

NEASC also states that the district must provide the school's professional staff with sufficient personnel, time, and financial resources for

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<sup>1</sup> NEASC standard 2

ongoing and collaborative development, evaluation, and revision of the curriculum using assessment results and current research<sup>2</sup>. This opportunity will allow teachers themselves to delve deeper into the study of language and culture. Along with students, staff will be able to attend lessons every day; thus, this will become a learning experience that will affect all students of Italian at BCHS for years to come

In conclusion, this experience will bring a new vision to the Italian and art classrooms at Bristol Central High School. The historical stories, grammar concepts and geographical studies one reads about in the textbook will be brought to life. This groundbreaking educational program will prove more valuable than simply telling students about a specific city, concept or tradition; instead, students will be able to live it. This proposal is a step toward bringing BCHS to the forefront of global education, allowing teachers and students the unique opportunity to enhance their knowledge, become better global citizens, and continue on their path to becoming lifelong learners.

## Payment breakdown

Flights and insurance: \$1,000 per person

Transportation: \$1,500 total

Babilonia language study program: Euro 1,155 per person

Estimates cost \$2,500

\$1,010 US DOLLARS

Euro 1,155

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<sup>2</sup> NEASC standard 3

