

Proposal: BRISTOL/GENOA ITALY SISTER SCHOOL
Bristol Central High School and Majorana-Giorgi Genova
<https://www.majorana-giorgi.edu.it/>

Bristol Central High School is seeking support to initiate a sister school exchange program with Majorana-Giorgi Genova High School in Genoa, Italy. This proposal is a two-step initiative beginning with a virtual exchange during the 2022/2023 school year and an in-person travel opportunity in the 2023/2024 school year. 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. This proposal precedes a 16 year partnership with the G. Nolfi school in Fano, Italy. Our partners in Fano have retired therefore this is the ideal opportunity to build relationships with another region in Italy.

This proposal requests that we host our sister school during the fall of 2023 and travel during the winter/spring of 2024. This period of time has been chosen so as to miss minimal instructional/learning time in the US and maximize learning while abroad. We are requesting permission to offer this exchange 1 year in advance to begin our virtual exchange and to ensure that students and parents have enough time to prepare for the trip. We would like to

¹ BPS vision of the Graduate
https://cdn5-ss19.sharpschool.com/UserFiles/Servers/Server_117038/File/Information/Vision%20of%20the%20Graduate/Vision_of_Graduate.pdf

give families sufficient time both to save for travel costs as well as to help plan this educational experience. BCHS offers scholarship opportunities and group fundraising that will support an equitable opportunity for all students.

In planning, both partners will take the proper travel precautions and we will follow all COVID recommendations while organizing trip details. We will purchase additional travel insurance to insure the maximum safety coverage and will follow all Bristol Board of Education travel protocols. This exchange is a once in a lifetime opportunity; with your support and approval we can foster a love for lifelong learning and cultural competence.

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 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 in all modes of communication (Interpersonal/Interpretive and Presentational). Our priority standards, based on the state frameworks, and the NEASC report both stress the importance of authentic interactions with other languages and cultures. This program will also help support our students' path to proficiency as they prepare for the Seal of Biliteracy.

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 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 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 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 priority standards.

Below you will find an overview of the tentative program both in Italy and in Bristol

Schedule for American students in Italy

Date	Event
weekend 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● meet hosts and spend quality time connecting to the families ● tour of: Porto Antico di Genova
Monday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Principal's WELCOME - Refreshments and meet and greet with officials ● attend class with host students ● Afternoon: all'Acquario di Genova (https://www.acquariodigenova.it/en/)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evening: spent with the host families
Tues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • attend lessons with host students • Afternoon: gita alla Lanterna di Genova (https://www.lanternadigenova.it/storia/) • Evening: spent with the host families
Wednesday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Morning and Afternoon: Gita al Parco Nazionale delle Cinque Terre (https://www.cinqueterre.it/) • Evening: spent with the host families
Thursday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Morning and afternoon day spend visiting Milan or Florence (TBD)
Friday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Morning WhaleWatching (https://www.whalewatchliguria.it/it/news-5/genova-porto-antico.html) • Afternoon: giro nel Centro Storico di Genova(https://www.visitgenoa.it/centro-storico) • Evening: typical Genovese Dinner together
Sat	Departure

Date	Event
weekend 1	<p><u>Arrival:</u> <u>Weekend spent with the host family</u> <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
Monday	<p>Arrive at BCHS for 7:15</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Welcome breakfast and principal meet and greet ● Italian students will attend period ½ with American Students ● AT 9:00am American students accompany Italian students to the gym entrance ● Italian students take bus to Police station, City Hall and Memorial Boulevard and local areas of interest ● Italian Students Return to BCHS for 2:00
Tues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Drop off Italians at 6:50: day trip to 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
Wed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Students will attend class with the American students ● Departure for New Haven, Yale campus, Art museum etc.
Thurs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Drop off at 6:50am at the gym entrance ● Day trip to Boston ● 1st stop Harvard university/ shopping ● 2nd stop lunch Quincy market ● 3rd stop freedom trail ● 6:30pm leave Boston
Fri	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Morning lessons ● Essex steam train and boat ride ● return to BCHS 4:00
Sat	Departure ☺

