

**WELCOME
TO OUR SECONDARY SCHOOL
AT UPPER HIGH SCHOOL LEVEL**

**Care of the S.A.M. school network:
Foreigners, reception and mediation
in Friuli Venezia -Giulia
Source: COME centre Milan**

First of all let us say "Welcome" to you and your children to Italy and the Italian school system.

We shall give you some information about compulsory education in Italy with regards to the Secondary Middle school.

**Enroll your child at once,
even if the school year has
already begun and remember that
all students have the right to
attend school even if their
residence permit is not in order
(*UNO, International convention on
the rights of Children , Art. 28*)**

HOW LONG DOES SCHOOL LAST IN ITALY ?

Compulsory schooling lasts for 8 years:

- 5 years of Primary school
- 3 years of secondary school
- School is concluded with a leaving examination

Creche	Until the age of three
Nursery School	From 3 to six years of age
Primary school	From 6 to 11 years of age
Secondary school, 1st level	From 11 to 14 years of age
Secondary School, 2nd level	Over 14 years of age

Enrollment is free. Some books are loaned to the students by the school, other books must be purchased by the family. The school secretary can provide a list of those books that must be bought.

The family must also purchase exercise books, pens, colours...

Students in financial difficulty have the possibility of loaning all the books from the school.

WHAT DOCUMENTS ARE NEEDED TO ENROLL YOUR CHILDREN IN THE SECONDARY SCHOOL?

- © To enroll a child at school a parent must complete a form provided by the school secretary. On this form the parent states the date of birth of the child and any other requested information

If you have the following documents:

- Birth certificate
- Vaccination Certificates
- School attendance certificate from the country of origin

You can bring them to the school office

When you enroll you fill in the following forms:

- Choice of additional activities beyond the compulsory school timetable
- The attendance or non attendance of lessons of the Catholic religion

HOW IS THE SCHOOL ORGANISED?

Secondary education consists of compulsory hours of lesson which vary according to the study path chosen, either Classical or Language studies. There are also some extra hours for selected activities.

The timetable for the start and finish of school is precise: Lessons start and finish punctually at the time stated.

Lateness is not permitted neither at the start of school nor at the termination of the lessons. Attendance is compulsory.

CATHOLIC RELIGIOUS INSTRUCTION OR ALTERNATIVE CHOICE

For one hour a week instruction is given concerning the Catholic religion. On enrolment parents must state whether they intend to

Take advantage or not take advantage

of this instruction.

If the parents decide that their children should not take Catholic religious instruction they must chose between two possible alternatives:

- Study activity and/or research with the assistance of the school teaching staff
- Exit from school

HOW IS THE SCHOOL CALENDER ORGANISED?

School lasts about nine months.

It begins about half-way through September and finishes in the middle of June. The exact dates are decided on a year by year basis.

The times of the start and finish of the lessons on a daily basis, which may vary from school to school, are given on enrolment.

There are two holiday periods:

- Two weeks at Christmas (usually from about the 23rd of December to the 6th of January)
- About one week at Easter (In March or April)

Other holidays are distributed throughout the year and can vary from year to year.

The school will inform parents concerning the other holidays.

School attendance is compulsory during the school year and school must be attended on a regular basis.

AND IN THE CASE OF ABSENCE?

A student who does not attend lessons is considered absent.

The school allows absence only for illness or for serious family problems.

Every absence must be justified by written authorisation by a parent. The students are given a personal and individual school communication booklet for communication between school and family.

Failure to provide a written motive for absence can lead to serious disciplinary action. Prolonged absence will seriously compromise the ability of the student to pass the school year.

WHAT DO STUDENTS LEARN AT SCHOOL?

In the Italian Secondary school at upper school level the students take the following subjects:

- Italian Language
- Mathematics
- Science
- Law
- Chemistry, Physics, Biology
- History
- Geography
- Foreign languages (English, German, Spanish and French)
- Technical education and computer studies
- Art
- Music
- Civics (instruction on citizenship, highway code, environmental studies, health education, dietary education, relationship studies)
- Physical Education

During this activity the student must wear a track suit and training shoes

WHAT IF THE STUDENT DOESN'T KNOW ITALIAN?

For foreign students the school can arrange Italian language courses to learn and improve the level of Italian. Students can also be given a personalised timetable and programme in order to help them catch up with their classmates.

The courses can take place either during or outside of school hours

Regular attendance is considered absolutely essential to order to obtain acceptable results

WHAT DO YOU DO IN CLASS?

- Every class has different teachers working at different times and rhythms.
- Every teacher is of equal importance.
- Every teacher chooses his own methodology to teach and get the students to work together .
- **Italian law does not permit any form of corporal punishment.**
- During the lessons the student can ask for explanations when they do not understand, they can express their own thoughts and they are also expected to work at home.
- No form of violence is allowed (kicking, punching, blows, swearing...) between classmates.
- No one is either superior or inferior to anyone
- Males and females have the same dignity, the same importance, and the same rights and duties.
- Males and females are expected to do the same activities at the same times

HOW ARE THE SCHOOL RESULTS EVALUATED?

Every school year is divided into two parts (terms): from September to the middle of January and from February to June.

At the end of January and June the teachers evaluate the students' school results and prepare a "school report". On the basis of this report it can be decided, in the student's interest, whether the student can progress or not to the following year.

Each subject is evaluated separately by the class teacher. Marks range from ten to one. Ten being the highest. A mark under six **in any subject** will require the student to undertake remedial work. At all times it will be the class council that determines if a student can progress to the following year. The decision of the class council is final.

WHAT DOES THE SCHOOL EXPECT FROM THE FAMILY?

Collaboration between the school and the family is essential in order to help the students' growth and learning and allow them to feel comfortable in the school environment.

Parents are expected to check every day that:

- Their child has done their homework for the following day
- Their child brings the material to school that has been requested by the teachers

It is necessary to always check to see if there are any messages or school communications to sign on the diary or in the individual school booklet

WHEN DO THE PARENTS AND TEACHERS MEET?

The teachers periodically meet with all the parents to talk about their class programme, about the students, their progress and their difficulties. There are also individual meetings between parents and teachers.

Parents can also ask for a meeting with the teachers using the student's diary or in the individual school booklet, or by asking in person at school

Parents are given ample warning by the teachers of any meeting. Parents are strongly advised to consult with the head of class teacher when they find their son or daughter in difficulty with their studies.

IF YOU WANT TO KNOW MORE?

DON'T WORRY!

There is always someone to talk to !

At school you can always talk to your assigned class teacher or student tutor. You can also talk to the Head Teacher in person by appointment.

You can also talk to the teacher who has been assigned to look after foreign students.

To make an appointment :

scrivici@liceopetrarcats.it