



ITALIAN IMMERSION

“If you are committed to raising your children bilingual, or you simply believe that multiculturalism is the future, join us now.”

Ready for school? A proposal for a
K-5 ITALIAN IMMERSION PROGRAM
within the SFUSD (San Francisco Unified School District)



Who we are

We are a group of parents strongly committed to the advantages of bilingual education and the diversity and multiculturalism of San Francisco public schools. With the support of the Consulate General of Italy and of La Piccola Scuola Italiana (a full immersion Italian pre-school), we have been working with the San Francisco Unified School District to start a K-5 Italian immersion program.

Why are we doing it?

Research indicates that exposure to bilingualism at an early age can make a dramatic difference in later academic performance and decision-making. As this awareness has become more widespread, existing language immersion programs have become increasingly popular and new ones have opened. Yet demand continues to outstrip supply.

We want to help the SFUSD to continue to create such programs and believe that the introduction of Italian language and culture in our school system would add greatly to its already remarkable multiculturalism. We are committed to public education and intend to contribute to its continued improvement.

Our goal is to allow families who are fluent in Italian or committed to their children’s multilingualism to continue their children’s education within the San Francisco public school system.

Whom are we looking for?

- Members of the community who support the creation of greater language immersion opportunities in San Francisco public schools.
- Families who are committed to sending their children to a language immersion program and would find Italian an interesting and appealing choice that is appropriate for San Francisco, given the city’s historical ties and special relationship to Italy.
- Families with children who are fluent in Italian and will be eligible for kindergarten or 1st grade in September 2010.

Please contact italian-immersion@ipsisf.org for more information.