

ITALIAN IMMERSION @ GLADSTONE PARK SC



The Age, 5th February 2012. Photo: Meredith O'Shea

LANGUAGE IMMERSION

Language Immersion, also known as CLIL (Content and Language Integrated Learning), is the most effective form of bilingual education designed for students with high communication skills. Gladstone Park is the first secondary school in Victoria to offer Italian utilising this methodology.

Immersion learning is significantly enriching and is a very common practice overseas, especially in Europe and in North America, while in Australia it is offered by only few prestigious private schools. Immersion is a revolutionary concept because, by enabling students to learn a language through content, as happens in real life, it leads to a more engaging and relevant process of language acquisition.

How it works...

Immersion students at Gladstone Park SC experience the full breadth of the curriculum offered at our college while studying Mathematics, History and Geography in Italian. During the Italian language classes students learn new vocabulary and grammar that will facilitate their understanding of the abovementioned subjects. The course will be highly ICT based.



We're learning a lot and we're having fun at the same time!

Benefits

Immersion has been widely implemented overseas and research has demonstrated that students exposed to this teaching approach:

- are more stimulated and subsequently motivated;
- improve their literacy skills and develop a range of learning/critical thinking skills;
- achieve higher results in a variety of subjects compared to those students who are exclusively taught in English only;
- acquire a great deal of the foreign language used, in our case Italian; and
- develop a deeper intercultural understanding that enables them to appreciate the values of the community and become better global citizens.

Identification of potential students:

Students best suited for the Immersion Program should display:

- excellent auditory/ communication skills;
- curiosity and a wide range of interests;
- good interpersonal skills;
- a high degree of creativity; and
- good problem-solving skills

Having an Italian background or being exposed to Italian at home might be an advantage, however it is not essential.

Selection Process

Students will be attending an Italian elementary-level lesson and subsequently sit a test examining their ability to retain the content previously taught in class, while we will also test their reading comprehension skills, mathematics and general scholastic aptitude. On the testing day, students will also complete a writing task.

Students shortlisted for the program will be asked to attend an interview. Primary teachers may also be contacted to complete a confidential assessment form.

Zone Boundaries

Under state-wide guidelines, students selected for the Immersion program bypass any residential restrictions and can gain entry to zoned schools.

In partnership with:



Department of Education



Italian Government



Our students experiencing Italy from the inside

Why at Gladstone Park SC?

We have the benefit of having several highly qualified Italian speakers among our teaching staff and offer Italian up to Year 12. We also have a well-



established exchange program 'Destinazione Italia' with an Italian secondary school. Therefore, every two years, we organize a school trip to Italy which entails daily excursions and academic activities at our sister school.

For important dates & application forms, please refer to the Gladstone Park website:

www.gladstoneparksc.vic.edu.au

FURTHER INFORMATION

If you would like to discuss this program further please contact either: Veronica Hoy - Junior School Principal or the Language Immersion coordinator Max Tosi on 9933 0500