

LA SCUOLA

International School • Preschool - 8th Grade

Inspire Brave Learners to Shape the Future



Open to the World

Our Mission and Values

Inspire Brave Learners to Shape the Future.

We believe that children who imagine, create, innovate and explore in a beautiful environment develop life-long love of learning.

We are creating a vibrant, inclusive and diverse community and culture that nurtures global mindedness.



Our philosophy

At La Scuola, children are the protagonists of their own journey towards learning which encourages critical thinking, creativity, problem-solving, cooperation, autonomy and a lifelong passion for learning



Our Vision



- To build the first PreK8 Reggio Emilia/IB/Italian Immersion Program in the US
- To graduate multilingual global citizens that are prepared with the academic and socio-emotional skills that they need to pursue their chosen path in life.
- To inspire critical thinking, creative expression and to foster lifelong passion for learning.



Our Education

Reggio
Emilia

Creativity and Innovation
driven BY and
WITH student

International
Baccalaureate

An intentional combination of best-in-
class curricula across subjects

Language
Immersion

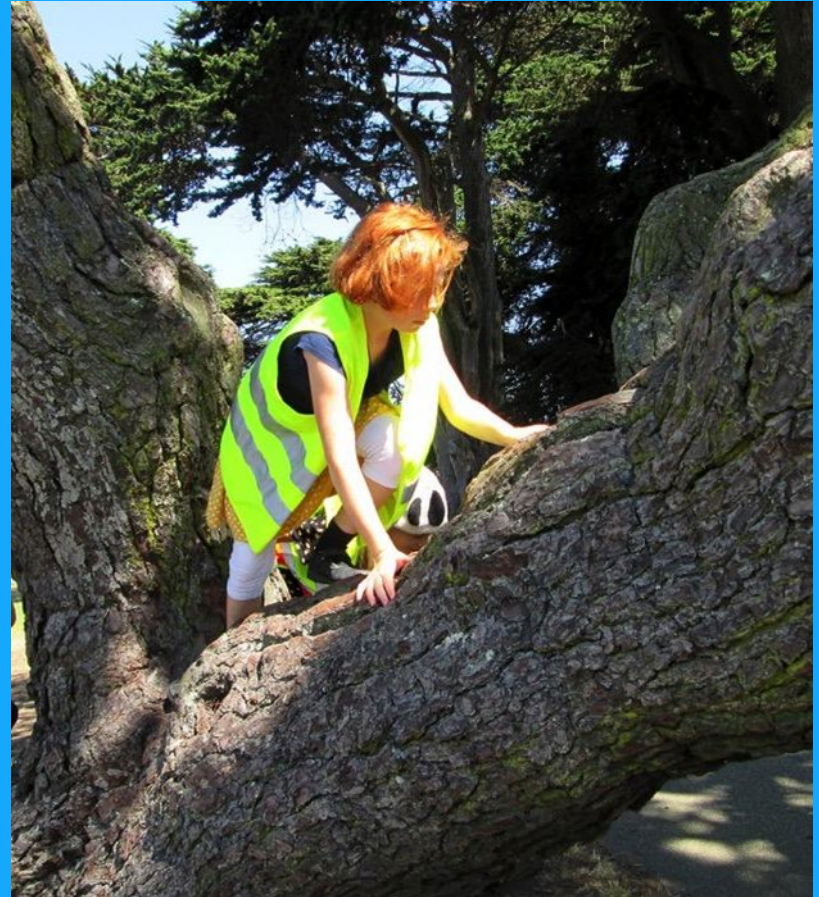
Language immersion benefits
children's executive function



The Image of the Child

"It's necessary that we believe that the child is very intelligent, that the child is strong and beautiful and has very ambitious desires and requests. This is the image of the child that we need to hold. "

Loris Malaguzzi



Our History

- Founded in 2002 as a playgroup of six children
- 2007 Moved from a Victorian home to St. Gregory of Nyssa's annex, Fully-licensed preschool with 60 students
- 2010: Raised \$500K over 3 years to fund current Dogpatch location designed by Michele Zini. Grew to 110 students
- Started elementary school in 2012 with 12 students then moved into two trailers with two classrooms in 2013: 140 students
- 2014: Raised 1M \$ built two additional classrooms in the Dogpatch and moved the elementary to our new Alamo square site: 170 students
- 2019: we moved to our third campus and now have over 300 students!
- Initially, Italian/Italian-American; now a very diverse and International community representing over 30 languages, and different family structures



At a Glance

- **Founded:** 2002 (preschool); 2012 (K-2)
- **Organization type:** 501(c)3 not for profit independent school
- **3 Campuses, over 300 students**
- **Grades:** preschool (2 yrs) to 8th grade
- **Student/teacher ratio:** 7:1 in preschool, 12:1 in elementary
- **Class size:** 20-24
- **Curriculum:** Reggio Emilia philosophy and International Baccalaureate- Primary Years Programme framework
- **Accreditations:** IB, CAIS, WASC, CIS
- **Memberships:** NAIS, NAYEC, NAREA, AAIE, CIS, CATDC



Why La Scuola?

We do Inquiry

There is no such thing as asking too many questions!
Students forge their own points of view while considering many.

We make Connections

Students learn across disciplines, cultures, languages and people.

We are Globally minded

With inspired compassion, students think about the world both locally and globally.



Diversity and Inclusion

Diversity Statistics 2019-2020

Languages: **34** languages are spoken at home in La Scuola Families:

Arabic, Bengali, Bulgarian, Cambodian, Cantonese, Croatian, Danish, Dutch, English, Finnish, French, German, Greek, Gujarati, Hebrew, Hindi, Hungarian, Italian, Korean, Mandarin, Norwegian, Portuguese, Punjabi, Romanian, Russian, Serbian, Spanish, Swiss German, Tamil, Tagalog, Thai, Turkish, Urdu, Vietnamese

Geographic: **33** Zip codes for K-8 families:

94005, 94014, 94044, 94062, 94066, 94080, 94103, 94105, 94107, 94108, 94109, 94110, 94112, 94114, 94115, 94116, 94117, 94118, 94121, 94122, 94123, 94127, 94129, 94131, 94133, 94134, 94158, 94404, 94501, 94545, 94705, 94941, 95123

Tuition Assistance: **33%** of our K-8 families are receiving tuition assistance

Ethnicity: **36%** of our K-8 families are non-white/non-Caucasian

63% White, 14% Multi-racial, 8% Latino/Hispanic, 6% Asian/Asian-American, 2% Middle Eastern, 1% African-American, 1% Native American, 1% Pacific Islander, 4% Other

Sexual Orientation: **3%** of our K-8 children are from the LGBTQ communities



Advancement and Fundraising

Annual Fund / La Dolce Vita

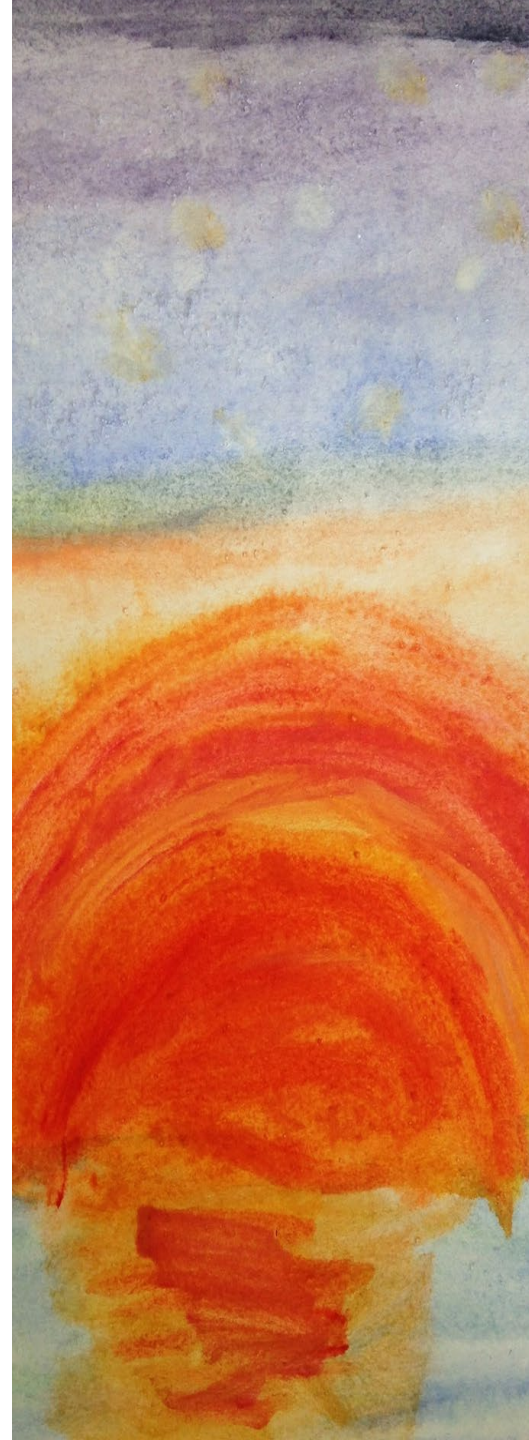
- Bridge the gap between the cost of a La Scuola education and tuition revenue
- Keep the tuition as accessible as possible, offer tuition assistance
- Provide exceptional education through our Reggio inspired and IB-PYP program
- Offer professional development for faculty and staff
- Support all the special programs such as garden, ateliers, music
- 100% participation of families, staff and Board



The Board of Directors

La Scuola is a non profit 501 (c)3 independent school and is governed by a Board of Directors. The Head of School reports to the Board of Directors. Staff/Faculty report to their direct supervisor who report to the Head of School. The board has a fiduciary duty and obligation to lead the organization toward the fulfillment of its mission and purpose by:

- Stewarding La Scuola to achieve its mission and vision
- Overseeing short and long term strategic goals and strategic planning
- Ensuring that risk is managed, the business model and financial processes are sound and supporting the overall health of the institution
- Setting goals with, supporting and evaluating the performance of the Head
- Demonstrating leadership in support of fundraising efforts



La Scuola Strategic Goals



1 PERMANENCE

To build a place that furthers the magic of our community, spaces and programs



4 COMMUNITY

To preserve our unique multiculturalism and further diversity, inclusivity and equity within our community



2 NURTURE + GROW

To nurture the professional growth of our team and continue to attract and retain the best educators



5 THRIVEABILITY

To transition from sustainability to thriveability



3 HEART + MIND

To integrate the richness and strength of the IB framework with the intentionality and creativity of the Reggio Emilia Pedagogy to ensure that our students understand the world and create their place in it

Reggio Emilia approach

- Children and teachers co-construct theories and test hypotheses through shared experiences and social interactions
- **Inquiry based learning provokes creative thinking, problem solving and teamwork**
- Projects/Inquiries are documented at the school through photos, art projects, weekly newsletter
- **Children are protagonists of the learning process, not vessels that are to be filled with information**
- Focus on the whole student: physical, intellectual, emotional, and social growth
- Parents, teachers, and children are mutual contributors in the acquisition of knowledge (co-constructivist approach)
- Environment is the “third teacher”



Language Immersion

Immersion Model: Montreal Model

- La Scuola is a “Scuola Parificata” (recognised by Italian Ministry of Education)
- We follow the Montreal Model of Language Immersion. Below are the language percentages through the grades. (Language percentages do not include specialist subjects.)

Preschool: approximately 95% Italian

Grades K-1: approximately 20% English – 80% Italian

Grade 2: approximately 30% English – 70% Italian

Grades 3-5: approximately 50% English – 50% Italian

Grades 6-8: approximately 70% English – 30% Italian

Advantages

- Cognitive Advantages: divergent thinking, promotes executive function (academic success)
- International Mindedness and Multicultural awareness
- Linguistic advantages: foundation for other language and academic English



International Baccalaureate

Why IB?

- A worldwide network of Schools, working together to share best practice and high quality programmes of education from early childhood through to school graduation.
- Framing 'progressive' education
- Students develop knowledge, skills and dispositions that are relevant to the real world
- Learn how to learn
- Develop critical and creative thinking skills, and apply them independently in unfamiliar situations
- Become principled individuals who act with integrity and honesty



LA SCUOLA

INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL



Niente Senza Gioia! Nothing Without Joy!