

Italian — Goals and Rationale

Rationale

Acquiring a new language opens the door to a world of new experiences. As students study a new language, they develop an understanding and appreciation of other cultures, beliefs, and ways of life, while also developing a deeper understanding of their own culture and personal identity. They learn new ways to think, learn, and communicate with others, and gain a new perspective on their experiences and the world around them. The study of Italian rewards learners with these and other benefits.

Being able to communicate in more than one language opens the door to unique educational, interpersonal, and career opportunities throughout Canada and the world. Learners who are proficient in Italian are able to explore and deepen their understanding of the richness and diversity of Italian culture, language, and people. Acquiring Italian deepens learners' understanding of the important relationship between language and culture, and allows students to transcend cultural boundaries and biases. As globalization increases, it is important that learners become aware that they are part of a rich cultural and linguistic diversity that includes indigenous populations. Developing linguistic and intercultural competencies increases students' ability to understand and communicate effectively with people from around the world.

For many people, Italian is the language of music, visual arts, opera, design, fashion, and food. Learning about the Italian way of life can increase students' well-being and their aesthetic appreciation of art and culture. Rooted in Latin, Italian is one of the world's oldest and richest modern languages of Indo-European origin. Latin has influenced many languages, including English, and can help students understand the origins of many Romance languages.

As a modern language, Italian remains an integral part of Canadian cultural identity. Understanding the experience of Italian immigrants allows students to understand current immigration issues and appreciate the richness of the multicultural history and fibre that creates the country they live in today. Ensuring that all learners have opportunities to understand and respect their own cultural heritage helps them to better and more willingly appreciate that of others, including the First Peoples perspectives and principles that are a part of the historical and contemporary foundation of Canada.

Goals

The BC Italian curriculum aims to support students' development as educated citizens through the achievement of the following goals. Students are expected to:

- use Italian as a form of self-expression
- communicate with purpose and confidence in Italian
- explore a variety of Italian-language texts
- appreciate the interconnectedness of language and culture

- expand their understanding and appreciation of other cultures
- deepen their understanding of their first language and of their own cultural identity
- understand the educational, travel, and career opportunities that learning an additional language offers
- develop a lifelong appreciation of learning languages

DRAFT