

Press from:

The New Providence School District
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Subject: **New Providence High School Tours the Classics!**

New Providence High School students recently returned from the inaugural Tour of the Classics – Destination Italia! Nine students in grades 10-12 embarked June 19th on a ten-day tour of Italy. Destinations included Rome, Assisi, Florence, Padua and Venice. This trip was designed as an annual interdisciplinary travel experience to serve as a springboard or culminating activity for students enrolled in Advanced Italian, Latin and Studio Art courses. Students gained an in-depth understanding of art history, ancient Rome, and applied their Italian language skills.

This unique learning experience was planned and led by faculty members and department heads Michael Santoro and Jennifer Florencio. “It was absolutely transformative to see my students go from using Italian in the classroom to using it in Italy. They were both surprised and impressed by how much they knew and were able to produce independently. Everyone became more independent and confident as the trip progressed; they tried new experiences, foods, and engaged with the locals and other student groups from around the country. Most importantly, all students left with a more profound understanding of diversity and how we can learn from different cultures. We look forward to continuing this tradition in the future!” explained Michael Santoro, Department Head of World Languages K-12 and Teacher of Italian.

Students from both art and language classes also commented on their experiences.

“Over my past three years at New Providence High School, I have not had an experience as amazing or impactful as my time in Italy. Being in Italy not only allowed me to immerse myself in the Italian culture, but also forced me to use the knowledge I have from taking Italian. Being able to see and experience things in person that I have previously only seen online and in textbooks has been one of the biggest eye-opening experiences of my life.”

~Julia Peldunas, Class of 2024, taking AP Italian Language and Culture in September 2023

“Being in Italy allowed me to experience the lasting impacts of Ancient Rome. Many of the buildings and churches had Latin written on them, which gave me the opportunity to translate. The trip also sparked an appreciation for Italian culture and makes me excited to travel in the future.”

~Sofia Belisario, Class of 2023, completed the online Latin sequence

“The trip to Italy was just amazing - so many beautiful sights and amazing art everywhere you looked. It was mind boggling to see the art we studied for years in person.”

~Nic Velasquez, Class of 2023, completed AP Studio Art

“The Italy trip was amazing! Seeing the art all over Italy, like the Sistine Chapel, made me appreciate the effort that goes into true fine arts. I also feel that being in Italy surrounded by the language allowed me to connect to what I learned in class.”

~Isabella DeLuca, Class of 2025, taking AP Studio Art and Italian 3 in September 2023

In the spring of 2025, students enrolled in advanced level French and Spanish have the opportunity to learn and travel on a tour of France and Spain. Additional information about the World Language department, including available courses and co-curricular activities, can be found on the [New Providence School District website](#).

