



The New Jersey Italian and Italian American Heritage Commission

Mission, Legislation, Curriculum & Activities

Robert DiBiase, NJIAHC Chairman

**Cav. Gilda Rorro Baldassari, Ed.D.,
Chair of the Curriculum Development Committee,
Honorary Vice Consul of Italy in Trenton, Emerita
Consular Correspondent**

**Executive Director,
Frederick D. Proulx, III**

Curriculum Development Committee

Cav. Gilda Rorro Baldassari, Ed.D

Chair

Dr. Eileen Poiani, Ph.D.,

Professor of Mathematics and

Special Assistant to the President of Saint Peter's University

Cav. Frank Gargione

Retired Rocket Scientist

Catherine G. Vignale,

President, Italian Teachers Association of New Jersey

Overview

Mission of the Commission

- To preserve and promote Italian heritage through educational programs, and to combat the negative stereotypes of Italians and Italian Americans in the media

Legislative Mandate

- Signed into law in 5 January 2002 by Governor Donald T. DiFrancesco
- Title 18A of the State Statute
- Develop K-16 educational materials
- Housed in the NJ State Department of Education, DOE

Lesson Plan Development

Commission



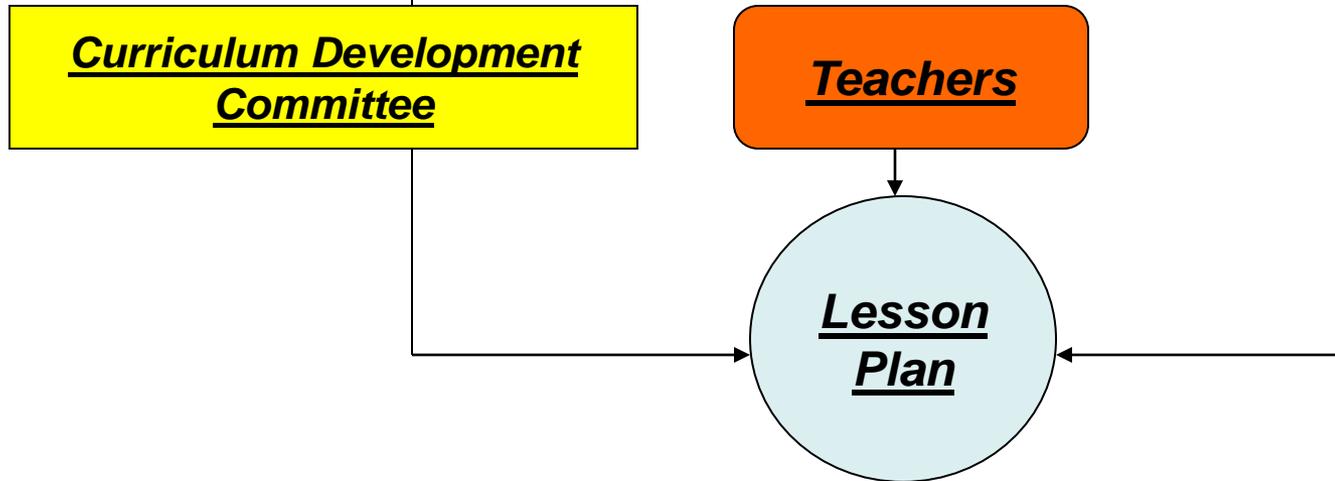
Department of Education



Curriculum Development
Committee

Teachers

Lesson
Plan



NJIAHC Curriculum

“The Universality of Italian Heritage”

Curriculum Infusion Model

- Develops Lesson Plans K-16
- Develops Supplementary Teaching materials
- Enhances existing lessons through the following themes:
 - History, Arts, Literature, Immigration, Discrimination, Mathematics, Science and Contemporary Italy
- Meets DOE Core Curriculum Content Standards
- Meets Common Core State Standards
- Effective for:
 - Differentiating instruction
 - Extending and supplementing instruction
 - Enhancing Gifted and Talented programs
 - Teaching Character Education, Heritage and Critical Thinking
- Ensures ongoing assessment and updating of program

K-5 Educational Materials

Arts and Literature

- Pinocchio I
- Pinocchio II
- La Befana
- Commedia dell'Arte
- Cunning Shoemaker
- Giotto
- Geromino Stilton
- Opera: Aida
- Sofonisba Anguissola

History

- Renaissance Masters
- Romulus & Remus
- Marco Polo
- Columbus-Verrazzano
- Immigration to Swedesboro, NJ

Science

- Agenzie Spaziale Italiana
(Italian Space Agency)
- Catherine DeAngelis, MD

Secondary Educational Materials

Arts and Literature

- Understanding Stream of Consciousness through Leonardo da Vinci's Principle of Curiosità (Curiosity)
- Italian Renaissance Artists: Three Dimensional Art
- Italian Nobel Prize Winners in Literature
 - Giosuè Carducci
 - Grazia Deledda
 - Dario Fo
 - Luigi Pirandello

History

- Natural Law
- Pico della Mirandola
- Alternatives to the Venetian Spice Monopoly
- All Men Are Equal
- Thomas Jefferson's Use of Palladio to Express Republican Virtues in Architecture
- The Flavian Amphitheatre: Bread and Circus

Secondary Educational Materials

Holocaust

- Italians in the Holocaust
(Booklet developed in consultation with the NJ Commission on Holocaust/Genocide Education)
- Primo Levi
- Righteous Italian Heroes
- The *Foibe* Massacres
- Guilty of Righteousness

Immigration and Prejudice

- Darwinism and Anti-Italian Sentiment
- Stereotypes in Classrooms
- Immigration Overview
- Italian Immigration to New Jersey
- Lynching Italian Americans and Mob Violence
- Italians Americans and WWII Detention Camps
- Monongah Mine Disaster
- Overview of Italian Immigration to America

Secondary Educational Materials

Mathematics

- The Impact of Nature on Fibonacci
- Fibonacci and His Impact on Art and Architecture

Sciences

- Who Invented What?: Marconi and Meucci
- Galileo: It's the Question that You Ask
- Archaeology in Italy
- Enrico Fermi (Nobel Laureate)
- Maria Gaetana Agnesi
- Rita Levi-Montalcini (Nobel Laureate)

Supplemental Educational Materials

- Marcus Tullius Cicero
- The Flavian Amphitheater
- Roman Law and the Justinian Code
- St. Thomas Aquinas
- Giovanni Pico della Mirandola
- The Venetian Spice Monopoly
- Leonardo da Vinci
- Andrea Palladio
- Galileo Galilei
- Filippo Mazzei
- Antonio Meucci
- Guglielmo Marconi
- Italian Immigration to America
- The Lynching of Italian Immigrants
- The Internment of Italian Nationals During WWII

The Pilot Project

2004 – 2007: Phase I, II and III

2004	Piloting Phase I Initiating Curriculum Project Pilot
2004-2005	Developing Curriculum Project Lesson Plans Phase I: 6-12
2005	Developing Lessons for Phase II: K-5
2005-2006	Piloting Phase II
2006-2007	Ongoing Curriculum Development and Expansion of Project
Current and Future	Extending distribution of training materials and related educational products. Expansion of international AMICIZIA (Friendship) Program

Why Would Teachers Use These Lesson Plans?

- Teachers suggested the content;
- Lesson Plans provide an innovative approach for teaching a subject;
- Superior lesson plans making teaching and learning more exciting;
- Opportunity to foster understanding of diverse heritages ;
- Lesson plan structure consistent with NJ Core Curriculum and Common Core standards;
- Discovery of historical facts that have previously been unknown, and
- Professional Development opportunity for educators

Pilot Program School Districts

Grades 6-12

Verona

Old Bridge

Toms River

Princeton

S. Hackensack

Delsea

Hamilton Township

Blackwood

Hammonton

Trenton

Activities

Annual Statewide Congress

Each year, the NJIAHC hosts a statewide Congress for the public which highlights the significant achievements of Italians and Italian Americans.

Prominent past guest speakers include:



Honorable Samuel A. Alito,
Associate Justice of the Supreme
Court of the United States.



Justice Marie
L. Garibaldi



Jeffrey Laurenti,
Senior Fellow at the
Century Foundation

Activities



Honorable
Deputy Consul of
Italy in New York,
Dino Sorrentino



Keynote speaker Dr.
Fabrizio Michelassi,
M.D., F.A.C.S. with
Cav. Chair Gilda
Rorro Baldassari,
Ed.D.



Cav. Uff. Joseph Scelsa, President of The Conference of
Presidents of Major Italian American Organizations

Activities



Presenters and NJIAHC Commissioners at the residence of the Honorary Vice Consul for Italy in Trenton, Emerita, Cav. Gilda Rorro Baldassari, Ed.D.

Members

Commissioners

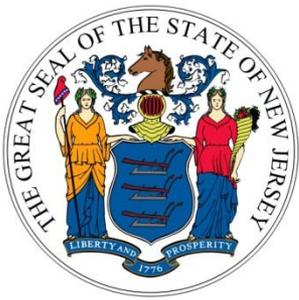
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Visit us at www.njitalia.nj.gov
and click on the Curriculum tab
under Resources

**New Jersey Italian and Italian American
Heritage Commission**

New Jersey Department of Education

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