

TEACH

The ability to travel throughout Italy while also having a teaching experience made this program very desirable to me. We were placed in multiple classrooms and assessed a lesson with bilingual English-Italian books that we had created in Buffalo. Teaching to students in a language different from their own is hard, but with patience and hard work it is possible! I worked to understand them on a personal level and they began to appreciate and respect me as a teacher.

CONNECT

We did a lot of traveling; my favorite places were Rome and Florence. I really enjoyed living in the small town of Torremaggiore. We visited a high school and engaged in a Q&A with the students. We ended up building relationships with the students and continued talking after school ended. Many students wanted to hang out with us so we figured we'd go to a café for a bit. Instead they took us on a tour of the city! They told us the history of their town, described details of everyday life, and shared stories of the residents. I was surprised by how proud they were of their hometown and how willing they were to spend so much time with our group.



"The school gave us a goodbye parade."

Everyone lined up outside their classrooms and asked for our signatures as if we were celebrities. The kids gave tons of hugs and we took lots of selfies. It was such a touching moment; I did not want to leave.

FAVORITE ASPECTS OF THE PROGRAM

- Eating at Giovanni's house. I was inspired to make yummy Italian meals when we came home, especially jumbo stuffed shells!
- Climbing the Duoma. My greatest achievement so far!
- Learning more Italian than I thought possible.
- Gathering at night to plan what to do in Florence.