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*2<sup>nd</sup> Circolo Didattico “Ruggero Settimo” in Castelvetro*

## **SCHOOL PRESENTATION**

### **INTRODUCTION**

In the south-west of Sicily, at the centre of the Mediterranean Sea, between hills, plains and watercourses, the Castelvetro territory is one of the most pleasant and fertile in the whole of Sicily. From Belice river, to the Latomie, fascinating stone quarries, from the enchanting Trinity of Delia lake, to the vast patrimony of churches, Norman, baroque and neoclassical monuments, the town is famous for its folk festivals, tourist and cultural events, local fairs, not to mention the very tasty olive oil and wine and also the delicious brown bread. The footsteps of the past, rich in culture and traditions are visible in the artistic huge heritage, including the history of Selinunte, the largest archaeological site in Europe, only 13 km far from Castelvetro.

Visiting Selinunte a few years ago, Jean Paul Sartre and Simone de Beauvoir said: “We interrogated the Greek temples, their silence weighed more than so much chatter.”

In this scenery there is our school “2<sup>nd</sup> *Circolo Didattico Ruggero Settimo*”, whose mission and vision are summarized in the following simple words: “A SCHOOL TO LIVE, BETWEEN TRADITION AND INNOVATION” along with “CITIZENS OF A BETTER WORLD”, and should be accomplished through social and cultural competences development.

Our school focuses attention on centrality of the child as a student, person and future citizen of the world, enhancing active, critical and effective learning, in relation to changes in society. Everyone in our school shares the idea that only knowledge will lead to a meaningful change in terms of skills and values. From this perspective, the school is proposing to promote the students’ growth process, supplying them with the necessary instruments for the evolution of the divergent thinking and the logical abilities, with a view to lifelong learning and in full awareness of being part and parcel of a mixed and multi-ethnic reality.

Various educational agencies, such as voluntary organizations, parishes, care homes, sports associations work within the area and leave the door open for human and social growth; the school plays a mediating role and actively interacts with the outside educational establishments.

By going into the specifics of this report, our school includes nursery and pre-school sections, and primary school classes as well. There are five different scholastic buildings: “Benedetto Croce” complex, “Dante Alighieri”, “Luigi Cadorna”, “Domenico

Cirillo” and the biggest “Ruggero Settimo”, settled in the town centre, where you can find offices for the school management as well as administrative offices, a library, an ICT suite, a room for SEN and spaces for laboratories. There are about 200 pupils and 30 teachers from nursery, and around 600 students and 90 teachers from primary school.

Furthermore, there is a schoolyard and a large gym, that sometimes is used for shows and performances, if need be. All the classrooms are wide, multifunctional and equipped with an IWB, and in addition, the school furniture is new and ergonomically designed.

## **PROJECTS**

The main matrix of any project is promoting *ACTIVE CITIZENSHIP*, so each action is aimed at guiding the building and implementation of legality, besides being related to the following social issues:

- ❖ RECEPTION AND INTEGRATION
- ❖ EQUALITY AND RESPECT FOR DIVERSITY
- ❖ ACTIVE CITIZENSHIP EDUCATION
- ❖ TRAINING AND ACADEMIC SUCCESS
- ❖ INNOVATIVE TEACHING METHODS
- ❖ LOCAL KNOWLEDGE
- ❖ EDUCATIONAL CONTINUITY
- ❖ TRANSPARENCY AND SHARING

Here are our priority educational goals:

- Boosting and strengthening linguistic skills, with special reference to Italian and English language, as well as other EU languages, also using CLIL practices.
- Preventing and combating all forms of discrimination, bullying and cyberbullying.
- Upgrading laboratory methods, techniques and activities.

The Latin sentence *“Mens sana in corpore sano”* contains a deep truth that becomes even more realistic if associated with childhood. As we all know, sport plays an important role in a young person’s life, it is essential for students not only because helps them stay healthy, but also as it improves their emotional fitness. In this respect, we are used to planning and organizing well-structured physical activities in order to maximize their benefits:

- *“Class rackets”* project, promoted by *Federtennis Ministry of Education, University and Research (MIUR)*
- *“Class sport”* project, supported by *Italian National Olympic Committee (CONI) and Ministry of Education, University and Research (MIUR)*
- “Relaunched ball” tournament
- “Body percussion” project
- “Children-teachers-on-the-field...we become expert” for kindergarten

The projects listed below deal with legality:

- “Young sentries of legality”, in collaboration with the association “*Antonio Caponnetto*”
- “I would like a law that...” *Ministry of Education, University and Research (MIUR)* project
- “The rewriting of The Convention on the Rights of the Child” *Protection Authority for Children and Adolescents (AGIA)*
- Annual event about legality
- “Cyberbullying”
- “Memorial Day” project - Meeting with the author –
- Periodical meetings with law enforcement
- “Alive Italian tricolour” project in collaboration with *Sicilian Parents Association (A.GE.)*
- “Parlawiki” competition

In addition, our school has been promoting several initiatives supporting the environmental sustainability and landscaping:

- Days dedicated to environmental education, in cooperation with the Italian association for protection of the environment (*Legambiente*) and the municipality of Castelvetro
- “Tortoise/Turtlelife” project
- “Promoting Selinunte” *National Operational Program (NOP)* project, structured in two different modules: 1) Digital graphic 2) Video-making.

As regards cultural activities, we have been proposing initiatives promoted by *Ministry of Education, University and Research (MIUR)*, school network, cultural institutions and associations:

- “#IReadBecause...”
- “Libriamoci” project
- “Class writers”
- “Best reader” contest
- “Multiculturalism AMCM” (Malta) project
- “Adopting a Pigotta” project – UNICEF
- “Christmas Jumper Day – Save the Children –
- Concert-lessons given by musicians from “*Antonio Scontrino*” Conservatoire in Trapani

Among other things, our school can boast of a beautiful children’s choir, called *DoReMi*. Around 50 white voices gained recognition, received awards, won a prestigious prize at Euroschool festival in Perugia and even ranked on first place in San Remo GEF - The World Festival of Creativity in Schools -

The school has always been giving much attention to Maths and for three consecutive years, it was identified as polo school during the “*Mediterranean Mathematical Games*”.

Since thirteen years, “*2<sup>nd</sup> Circolo Ruggero Settimo*” is Trinity registered centre. Hundreds of students have been taking Trinity Examinations GESE (Grades 1, 2, 3) and the most talented won the Trinity Rewarding Excellence Competition and the Hippo Competition. We are used to handing over certifications and prizes during award ceremonies and within this contexts Trinity candidates were also actors and actresses, performing in plays like “Peter Pan” and “Alice in Wonderland”.

## **CONCLUSION**

Education is undoubtedly a complex endeavour, but we highly believe that the power of ideas, everyone's commitment, an open dialogue and cooperation among educators, parents and communities will lead children towards the objectives set. These views have made our school richer and richer in terms of development and formation, here and beyond. A shared planning of commitment in granting everyone a proper education, including students with special educational needs, has increased the cultural and educational prestige of our school, that is widely appreciated not only in Castelvetrano or Trapani county, but most of all nationwide, an inclusive and devoted-to-excellence reality, caring for the needs of the whole community.

That's what we are.



























28 Cronaca di Trapani

SCUOLA. XIX edizione del GEF (Global Education Festival), la manifestazione mondiale di finalista (dedicata alle migliori declinazioni dell'arte nel mondo della didattica)

# Castelvetrano, allievi del Ruggero Settimo sul tetto d'Europa Il coro primo a Sanremo

● La dirigente: «Mai avremmo pensato a questo risultato»

L'affermazione è arrivata con il brano «Se questo è un uomo», una traduzione originale in parole e musica della celebre poesia di Primo Levi sulle note di «The sound of silence».

**Chi indicò**

«Per i giovani allievi del Coro «Dolce» del 2° Circolo didattico di Castelvetrano (Ruggero Settimo), calcare il palcoscenico dell'Armonia di Sanremo era già un bene, sinora il 1° premio assoluto alla presenza di scolaresche di tutta Europa: un sogno. Questo il verdetto della giuria conclusiva della XIX edizione del GEF (Global Education Festival), il festival mondiale di creatività nella scuola, manifestazione dedicata alle molteplici de-

clinatorie dell'arte nel mondo della scuola. L'esito è stato presieduto dal Presidente della Repubblica italiana, dalla Camera dei deputati, dal Senato della Repubblica, dalla Regione Liguria e dal Comune di Sanremo, dal Duca e dall'Unesco. Il premio del coro Dolce del 2° Circolo «R. Settimo» di Castelvetrano composto da alunni dai sette ai dieci anni, già nella serata del venerdì 5 maggio si erano esibiti sul celebre palco dell'Armonia riscuotendo ampi consensi di pubblico: «Ma i dirigenti scolastici Maria Luisa Simatella soddisfatta: «In vincere questa manifestazione esposto un pezzo indimenticabile: «Se questo è un uomo», una traduzione originale in parole e musica della celebre poesia di Primo Levi sulle note di The

sound of silence». Il coro, curato dal insegnante Carmela Valenti e assistito dalla collega Angela Russo, che è anche la direttrice del coro, risultata da posizioni lusinghiera, non da un percorso di studio e di ricerca sulla Shoah che ha coinvolto, durante l'anno scolastico, tutti gli studenti ed i docenti della classe-quarta del Circolo. L'idea è stata quella di far conoscere anche a bambini così piccoli i tragici eventi legati a quel periodo storico e di avvicinarli al mondo della letteratura italiana e ad una poesia non semplice come quella di Primo Levi. Ne è nata una brillante creazione, ed intitolata, in onore alla immagine d'epoca, che i bambini hanno eseguiti in modo impeccabile con la delicatezza che li caratterizza e che ha impressionato, favorevolmente, la



I ragazzi che compiono il coro e che hanno vinto la manifestazione

giuria di esperti musicisti, presieduta dal Direttore d'orchestra Umberto Terzolino, giura che ha poi assegnato al coro Dolce il primo premio per la sezione Musica nella categoria Scuola Primaria. La dirigente aggiunge: «Il nostro sogno avverato in questi mesi di preparazione e dibattito nella nostra scuola. Il contributo dell'Amministrazione Comunale e di alcune ditte private del territorio che hanno sponsorizzato l'iniziativa, dimostrando una responsabilità verso il mondo della

scuola e della città». E' questo il nuovo spazio della Castelvetrano che si può mettere a che si può mettere, un pubblico così vasto ed entusiasta come quella presente a Sanremo in questi giorni (più di 3500 presenze provenienti da ogni parte del mondo). I ragazzi del coro giurati a Castelvetrano sono stati accolti come piccoli eroi: ecco i loro nomi: Noemi Larana, Mariel Ventura, Sofia Li Crisi, Chiara Crisi, Georgia Sciuto, Chiara Palmieri, Erika

De Tomasi, Michèle Di Biase, Gaia Tiana, Sofia Siani, Yorgia Giannantonio, Giorgia Cirio, Cristiana Paolo, Arianna Anzalone, Valeria, Giorgia, Sofia, Emma, Eva, Luisa, Sofia, Sara, Vittoria, Martina, Martina, Chiara, Pagine, Vincenza, Annalisa, Kevin, Solenne, Maria, Salvo, Georgia, Gianna, Michèle, Chiara, Gianna, Giada, Tessa, Martina, Viola, Sofia, Noemi, Annalisa, Sofia, Lorenza, Antonella, Paolo e Chiara, Caterina.



