

MS Trip Blurb

The international travel opportunity for middle school students is a pivotal learning experience for all Whitby students. This year's middle school students traveled to Italy in early February, and spent a week actively pursuing interests, making connections, and exploring new ideas. Whether visiting St. Mark's Square and the Basilica in Venice, the Romeo and Juliet balcony and Palazzo Vecchio in Florence, or exploring the Vatican, the Forum, and the Coliseum in Rome, our students had many opportunities to enrich their learning. This year's curricular objectives for 7th-8th grade students included a study of the Renaissance within Culture Studies, the performance of Shakespearean plays set in Italy (Merchant of Venice and Julius Caesar), and examining the contributions of great scientific thinkers from Italy and other cultures. Students then returned to school to complete in depth travel writing that allowed each individual to reflect and inquire further about new learning resulting from the trip.

Each year this trip provides such unique growth opportunities for our students as teachers and chaperones aim to:

- Provide enriching learning experiences that broaden each student's perspectives
- Engage students in cultural experiences that extend student learning beyond the classroom
- Provide real-life experiences to enhance cross-curricular connections that occur before, during, and after the trip experience
- Provide developmentally appropriate experiences that foster self-confidence, independence, and the ability to cooperate with peers and adults in a variety of settings

As we prepare Whitby students for future success, real-world experiences such as this international travel experience connect school-based learning to personal growth and development. It's a wonderful opportunity to foster 21st Century Skills for all Whitby students!