

AURORA PROGRAM

In many states, students must begin the study of a foreign language at the 7th or 8th grade level. Introducing an Italian language after school program for earlier grades, serves to create a population of students who are prepared for enrollment into 7th grade level Italian courses. This also provides a viable case for parents who would like to have the Italian Language taught in their local school district.

Aurora is a positive introduction to the study of Italian for young children. Learning the language must be pleasant and not excessively demanding to new students. Aurora uses strategies, methodologies and materials designed to maintain their interest and encourage their participation. It incorporates visual, auditory and kinesthetic learning modalities to ensure an effective learning environment for all students.

In addition to being a positive introduction to the Italian language, *Aurora* provides students with a taste of Italic civilization (Latin, history, music, science, etc.). Aurora students learn the origins of much English vocabulary as well as some important contributions to our society that are traceable to Italy.

The introductory levels I and II have limited language goals. Yet, the five principles that are taught, namely; pronunciation, masculine/feminine, singular/plural, agreement, and commands and questions are clearly the most fundamental elements of any language. In the short time that the children are in the program, these goals are the most readily obtainable. Moreover, they create an excellent foundation for future learning.

Level II uses an Italian video and provides more written exercises than Level I. And, although new vocabulary is introduced in Level II, it is meant to reinforce Level I by repetition.

Filial lodges interested in obtaining more information about the Aurora Italian language after-school program may contact the CSJ Italian Language Coordinating Committee at 631-724-3697.