

A TREASURE FROM ANCIENT TIMES



THE LANDS AND PEOPLE OF

Sicily

The **International Artist Teacher Exchange (IATE)** will provide an opportunity for educators to obtain George Mason University graduate credit while gaining professional development training in arts integration during a week-long Italian cultural exchange. Participants will identify and link teaching methods, discover strategies for motivating students, and then develop lesson plans based on their findings that they will then implement in the classroom. Up to 45 participants will join a cohort of teachers, administrators, and educators from Collegio San Carlo in Milan for this cross-cultural and cross-curricular experience. The trip's focus of study will be on the impressive legacy that Sicily has left on the Mediterranean and how its heritage and geography have influenced the development of the region's arts and culture.

Participants will travel from Catania to Palermo with stops in Mount Etna, Syracuse, and Ragusa. Along the way, participants will experience traditional art forms and local culture while working alongside Italian "maestro" artists. Participants will be immersed in the history of the Greek, Roman, and Baroque periods and practice the arts of Puppetry, Ceramics, Cheese and Soap Making, and Art History.

FOODS

Taste and enjoy the art of Sicilian food preparation, sun-dried and candied fruits, cheese making, and wine making.

TRADES & CRAFTS

Participate in hands-on workshops while learning about puppets, papyrus, mosaics, and ceramics.

SCENIC BEAUTY

Enjoy the breathtaking views of Mt. Etna, ancient ruins, the sandy beaches of the Mediterranean, and olive groves while riding through the Sicilian countryside.

Immerse yourself in the art and culture of Sicily while visiting internationally acclaimed centers of arts and culture in Catania and Palermo. Meet and work with maestro artists, learn new teaching techniques, and network with fellow educators while earning 3 graduate credits from George Mason University!



Arts Education in Maryland Schools Alliance

2012 SICILY - From Catania to Palermo

TENTATIVE ITINERARY

March 31: Transportation from Maryland to New York is provided. Depart from JFK in New York.

April 1: Arrive at Catania's **Vincenzo Bellini** airport and transfer to hotel. In the afternoon, visit **Riviera dei Ciclopi** to see the breathtaking stretch of coast with its magnificent cliffs and rugged shoreline. Stop at **Acireale** for a taste of typical Sicilian granite and visit the famous **Teatro dei Pupi** (Puppet Theater). Enjoy a sightseeing tour of the city of **Catania**, which sits at the foot of Mt. Etna. Dinner in hotel.

April 2: Breakfast in the hotel and departure to **Mount Etna**, the tallest active volcano in Europe. Travel up the side of the volcano to view the craters. Visit a **winery** on the slopes of Etna with wine-tasting and local foods. In the afternoon visit **Taormina**, a splendid Greek and Roman town perched on the side of Mt. Tauro. Return to hotel for dinner and overnight.

April 3: Breakfast in hotel. Depart for **Syracuse** to visit the archaeological sites before heading to the island of **Ortiga**. Tour the **Museo del Papiro** (Papyrus Museum). In the afternoon, continue inland to the town of **Noto**, famous for its Baroque architecture. Return to hotel for dinner and overnight.

April 4: Breakfast in hotel. Travel to **Ragusa** when the entire day is dedicated to the visit in a **Sicilian farmhouse**. Watch the preparation of Ragusano DOP and ricotta, taste various cheeses paired with fresh milk and foccacia. Take a guided tour of a winery with tasting of such fine wines as Cerasuolo di Vittoria DOCG and Nero d'Avola. Take part at the last stop, which is a soap-making factory, in the making of a traditional soap, "u sapuni ri casa" (house soap), using the local recipe. Enjoy the olive oil tasting and fruit picking according to the season to end the day. Return to hotel for dinner and overnight.

April 5: Breakfast in hotel. Depart early for **Caltagirone**, famous for its ancient production of ceramics. Participate in a hands-on workshop on ceramic making. Continue to **Piazza Armerina**, recognized as a UNESCO as a World Heritage site, to visit the famous **Villa Romana del Casale** where you can see the beautiful multicoloured mosaics depicting the life style and customs of ancient Rome. Depart for **Morgantina**, an archaeological site tracing back to Greek times, to see the two Acroliti. Stop at the **Museum of Aidone** to admire the statue of Venus of Morgantina, which has just returned to the museum from the United States. Return to **Catania** hotel for dinner.

April 6: Breakfast in hotel. Check-out and early departure for **Palermo** for morning visit of this Arabian-Norman city. Admire the many cathedrals followed by the **Palazzo Reale** and its precious **Cappella Palatina**, built by the Norman kings of Sicily. Continue in the city's historical center, and come to the famous corner called "**I Quattro Canti**," the **Teatro Massimo** - Palermo's opera house, and the **Piazza Pretoria** with its ornate fountain. Enjoy free time in Palermo during the afternoon. Dinner and overnight at hotel.

April 7: Breakfast in hotel and transfer to Palermo's **Falcone Borsellino Airport** for flight home.



IATE provides an opportunity for Maryland educators to obtain George Mason University graduate credit through professional development training in arts integration that focuses on the arts and culture of Italy. Participants join a cohort of teachers, administrators, and educators from Collegio San Carlo in Milan for this cross-cultural and cross-curricular experience. They tour the country, experience its art and culture, work with Italian artists, and then develop lesson plans based upon their experience that they then implement in their classroom.

IATE PROGRAM GOALS

- Increase participants' understanding and appreciation of the arts and culture of Italy/Sicily;
- Immerse participants experientially in the creative process with maestro artists using a variety of tools, materials, and processes;
- Link the expressive modes of the arts with student achievement in other core disciplines;
- Enhance competence in teaching "through the arts" and teaching "about the arts;" and
- Deepen participants' understanding of research-based best practices for integrating the arts across the curriculum.

A non-refundable deposit of \$1,000.00 MUST BE RECEIVED by DECEMBER 9, 2011.

The remaining balance of \$2850.00 MUST BE RECEIVED by FEBRUARY 1, 2012.

The total per-person cost of IATE is \$3850.00

Cost includes **ALL** transportation, lodging, meals, and activities* as well as university credits.

*subject to change due to fluctuation in airfare and the exchange rate.

- Deposit and Application Form (below) are required in order to reserve your space.
- Only the first 32 applications for George Mason graduate credit will be considered.
- You will be notified by December 16, 2011 of your registration status.
- If your application is received after all spaces have been filled, your check will be returned.
- If you do not have a current passport, apply for one immediately. The processing time for passports is approximately 60 days. Your passport number will be needed to complete the application process.

Make checks payable to: "AEMS Alliance" and send to:

John Ceschini, Executive Director
AEMS Alliance
175 W. Ostend Street, Suite A-3
Baltimore, MD 21230

E-mail: jceschini@aems-edu.org

Phone: 410-783-2367

Please **PRINT** the following information to be submitted with you deposit:

- I understand that IATE applicants will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis and that my deposit is non-refundable unless all spaces have been filled when my deposit is received.
- Yes, I would like to take this as George Mason (3) graduate credits.

NAME _____ E-mail _____

STREET ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____ PHONE _____

SCHOOL _____ SCHOOL SYSTEM _____