



La Scuola d'Italia
New York

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New York, March 3, 2023

Dear Parents, Faculty and Staff,

On behalf of the Board of Trustees of La Scuola d'Italia, it is with great pleasure that I announce our appointment of Dr. Michael Cascianelli as our next Head of School beginning in June 2023.

Following an extensive global search led by our internal search committee and the Search Associates firm, which generated an impressive pool of candidates, it became clearly evident that Dr. Cascianelli was our ideal candidate. The combined strengths of his international experience, entrepreneurial vision and charismatic leadership make him uniquely qualified to lead La Scuola into the future.

Dr. Cascianelli is an accomplished educator, researcher, leader and lifelong learner. He has a Master's degree in Education from the University of Cambridge in the UK and an MBA from the Quantic School of Business and Technology in Washington, DC. He obtained his PhD from the University of Cambridge and began his career as a music teacher in Edinburgh, Scotland. He served as the Primary Principal at Marymount in Rome and fully understands the value of a multi-cultural, bilingual school. He says, "holistic growth and individualized learning should be constantly developed within schools to allow students to adapt and succeed in a continually shifting society."

In his last position, Dr. Cascianelli was tasked with leading a newly founded K-12 school in Beijing, China. Despite the challenges of the Covid-19 pandemic, he managed to achieve IB World School authorization in a record time of 15 months while growing the student body from 37 to 230 within two years. He currently serves on the Advisory Board for a group of 30 schools in Beijing where he is responsible for innovative practices promoting talent development, global mindedness and social-emotional learning. Dr. Cascianelli, who is fluent in Italian and English, is also a noted scholar with several published works including guides for educators. He and his wife, Elisabetta, have two children, Victoria and Christopher, who will enroll at La Scuola.

The Board would like to express its profound gratitude to the search committee, led by Dr. Lucia Carbone, Joe Morandi, Diego Rodinó di Miglione, Carmen Stefano, and myself, along with Barbara Powers and Thomas Shaedler from Search Associates, for their hard work and dedication. We would also like to graciously thank the Consul General of Italy, all of the Trustees of the Board, the Parents Association, and the school's faculty and staff, who provided feedback throughout the search process.

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank Michael Prater, who has faithfully served La Scuola these last two years as Head of School *ad interim*. We are deeply grateful for his stewardship during a pandemic and for his full support during this transition phase. Our gratitude also extends to Stefania Stipo, COO and Deputy Head of School *ad interim* who worked tirelessly alongside Michael to guide us through these challenging times.

Building on La Scuola's unique strengths, we believe Dr. Cascianelli has the knowledge, drive and passion to guide us to stability and growth. He states, "I would aim to continue developing a school environment grounded on the school's traditions and values and yet look into the future that awaits students outside the classroom."

We are confident you will share our excitement and enthusiasm in welcoming Dr. Cascianelli to the La Scuola family. We look forward to introducing him to you in person in the coming months.

Massimo F. D'Angelo
Chairman, Board of Trustees

*La Scuola d'Italia
Guglielmo Marconi
is the only school in
North America
legally recognized
by the Italian
Ministry of Public
Education and
chartered by the
Regents of the
University of the
State of New York,
that integrates the
best features of the
Italian and American
educational systems.
La Scuola d'Italia
is accredited
by the New York
State Association
of Independent Schools
(NYSAIS)*



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Dear School Community,

It is with honor and a tangible sense of excitement that I look forward to joining you at La Scuola d'Italia as Head of School from June 2023. It has been a pleasure getting to know many of you already, and I am inspired by the warmth and welcome I received during my visit.

Each student's success is at the heart of our mission. In partnership and collaboration with you, I look forward to leading the school community as it continues to develop, grow, and flourish.

As we build on the strong heritage of our distinctive school, I am committed to ensuring its continued success and the brightest possible future.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Michael Cascianelli
Incoming Head of School



Dear La Scuola Community,

It is my distinct honor to welcome Dr. Cascianelli into our La Scuola family. His breadth of knowledge, combined with his entrepreneurial enthusiasm and dedication to our mission, makes him an ideal leader for our school. He is perfectly poised to secure the roots of our traditions while seeking thoughtful opportunities for innovation. As we look forward to a new chapter in the story of La Scuola, let us open our arms to welcome him and his family into our community of scholars.

Yours sincerely,

Michael Prater
Head of School *ad interim*



Benvenuto Dr. Cascianelli to La Scuola d'Italia!

On behalf of La Scuola Faculty, Staff and Administration we welcome you as you join our team. We all look forward to collaborating with you and collectively contribute towards the future of the school. With newer perspectives and ideas, together we will bring a new dimension to our workplace. Once again, we warmly welcome you and wish for a successful journey together.

A presto!

Stefania Stipo
COO, Deputy Head of School *ad interim*