



Canadian School of Milan

CSM's History

The Canadian School of Milan was founded in 2004 by Antonella Salvadori del Prato, an Italian-Canadian educator who set out to create the kind of school she wished existed for her young son, one that reflected the values of her own childhood in Canada: emotional awareness, social connection, creativity and a deep respect for others and the natural environment.

Drawing on her background in music and sociology, she started a small nursery in Via Plinio, Milan, with a large private garden and a focus on the early years as a stage of life where learning, identity, and values begin to take shape. Her vision quickly resonated with other families, and the school community began to flourish.

In 2014, CSM moved to the Gioia Campus, expanding to include Primary and Middle School, and High School programmes. In 2023, the new Vivaio campus was inaugurated to welcome Senior School students and offer the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme.

Now, more than 20 years since its founding, and unlike schools managed by large groups or equity funds, CSM continues to be personally overseen by its founder. Antonella Salvadori del Prato remains closely involved in the daily life of the school and in all major decisions. Her presence ensures that CSM stays true to its founding vision: a warm, student-centred education guided by values, where every child is known, supported, and inspired to thrive.

Instilling Values

“Knowing our values makes it easy to be authentic and coherent in every decision we make.”

Everything we do at CSM is guided by our values. We work closely with our students to help them understand values that are important to them and enable understanding of themselves and their purpose. Once we know our values, making decisions becomes more simple.

Each student is proudly affiliated with one of our four Houses, fostering collaboration and interaction across all grade levels. From inter-house competitions, charity events, and a host of engaging activities.

Our school community mirrors the multicultural essence of our city, enriching our students’ cultural understanding. Whether through formal dialogues or casual interactions, this diversity fosters a unique and invaluable learning experience.

What makes us different?

- A strong, supportive and inspiring international community where every child can explore their individuality and build self-confidence;
- A curriculum that unlocks academic potential and instills a love of learning;
- An impressive central location to enable our community to enjoy Milan’s world-class cultural venues and sports facilities with ease;
- Outstanding university preparation.



Our Values



Responsibility

Respect



Perseverance

Integrity





The Early Years and Primary School is the start of an exciting journey that our children embark upon with curiosity, enthusiasm and wonder. We are privileged to guide the children through their early education, helping them develop not only the strong academic foundations but also build confidence, empathy and independence that will serve them throughout their next respective chapters, both in education and in adult life. The Canadian School of Milan is a vibrant, caring and forward-thinking community where every child is encouraged to flourish academically, socially, and emotionally.

At the heart of our school are the school values of respect, integrity, perseverance and responsibility. These core values guide everything that we do, shaping the way our students learn, interact, and grow as global citizens. We believe that children thrive when they feel safe, supported and inspired. It is our dedicated staff who work every day to create a nurturing environment and a genuine love of learning.

As students progress through their learning at the Gioia Campus, they are supported with a detailed transition programme to prepare them for Secondary School and learning at our Vivaio Campus. Through careful and considered collaboration between our teaching teams, we ensure continuity and readiness for these exciting steps. Families are involved and brought along on the journey and families are given the guidance aiming to support every step of the way.

Learning at CSM extends well beyond the classroom. Our club programme provides a wide range of co-curricular experiences that allow students to explore their passions, develop new skills, and build friendships across year levels. Learning across a range of sports, arts, languages or technology clubs, these experiences enrich our students' understanding of themselves and the world around them.

We are fortunate to have an active and engaged parent community. Our Class Representatives and Parent Teacher Association (PTA) play an essential role in strengthening the connection between home and school. Their collaboration helps to build the warm, inclusive atmosphere that defines CSM; a place where families, teachers, and students work together in partnership.

We look forward to welcoming families to visit, join and grow within our community. Together, we will continue to build a community where every child feels known, supported, and empowered to reach their full potential.

Ross Bell
Primary School Principal

Early Years

"The minute you step inside our school , you'll immediately notice the warmth and friendliness. Our children are happy to be here, and their joy is clear to see."

The Early Years Programme (ages 2-4) focuses on personal, social, emotional and physical development in a safe, happy, nurturing and stimulating learning environment.

Here, children experience the joy of learning and discovery. They are encouraged to build confidence, play actively, share and take turns. They will form friendships as well as independence and develop fundamental skills and values. Of particular importance, they will develop their own identity.

Our kind, qualified teachers and specialists structure each day to teach the seven key elements of the Early Years foundations.

They learn through interactive activities like art, music, and begin to learn to read, write and use numbers with confidence, ensuring a smooth transition to the next level. Children also enjoy trips to local parks and a broad range of extra-curricular activities.

Key areas of development

- Personal, Social and Emotional
- Language and Communication
- Physical Development
- Mathematics
- Expressive Arts
- Understanding the World

Curriculum at a glance

- Phonics & Counting
- Art & Music (Specialist lessons)
- Physical Education (Specialist lessons)
- Library & Story time
- Outdoor Learning
- Role Play



Primary School

“In Primary School, children build strong foundations as they grow in confidence, independence, and self-esteem, learning new skills, acquiring knowledge, and developing a spirit of inquiry.”

Ross Bell, Primary School Principal

The Primary School programme provides a well-rounded education through a distinct curriculum that integrates the best elements from renowned educational systems worldwide, including the Ontario curriculum, the British National curriculum, and highlights from the Italian curriculum. Set within a ‘home away from home’ environment that emphasizes pastoral care and character development, the program prepares children for future academic success and personal growth.

With a main focus on English and Mathematics, core subjects also include Science & Technology, History, Geography, Art, Music, Italian, French, Physical Education, Health, Coding, and Computing.

Our engaging lessons encourage active participation, celebrating students and their successes to foster confidence and a lifelong love of learning.

In addition, experiential learning, including field trips and hands-on projects, complement classroom teaching through a dedicated team of teachers, specialists and assistants to support students in their academic journey. A multitude of co-curricular activities and leadership opportunities are also offered to instill lifelong values of self-discipline, team spirit, and care for the community and environment, so that our students may embrace life with confidence.





Middle & Senior School

Grade 6 to Grade 8

Middle School at the Canadian School of Milan is where students learn to meet challenges with confidence and kindness. These are years of growing independence, when curiosity deepens and learning becomes more personal. Through the Cambridge Lower Secondary curriculum, students build strong academic foundations while developing the resilience to think critically, take risks, and learn from mistakes. Supported by teachers who know them well and encourage them to go further, students begin to take ownership of their learning and discover the satisfaction that comes from effort and understanding.

Thank you for your interest in the Canadian School of Milan.

The school, established in 2004, has built a reputation for academic excellence and top university admissions in an inclusive, family-feel environment where every child feels valued, supported, and empowered to reach his or her highest potential.

Our beautiful, modern Vivaio Campus (which houses the Senior and Middle Schools) is perfectly located near the Quadrilateral, a 5 minute walk to the Natural History Museum, a 15 minute walk to the Duomo, and easily accessed by two Metro lines, trams, and buses.

Our rigorous curriculum, whether the International Baccalaureate (IB), Cambridge IGCSE, or Ontario OSSD, coupled with a wide range of co-curricular activities, allows students to explore their skills and interests and cultivate a passion for lifelong learning that will serve them well beyond their time with us.

We look forward to partnering with you in your child's educational journey and creating unforgettable memories together.

Gary O'Meara
Middle & Senior School Principal



Grades 9 and 10

Cambridge IGCSE

In 2025, the Canadian School of Milan proudly became an official Cambridge International School, offering the prestigious Cambridge IGCSE. The IGCSE is mandatory for all CSM students, providing a solid academic foundation across sciences, mathematics, languages, humanities, and the arts. This two-year programme develops independence, analytical thinking, and global perspectives, ensuring every student is well-prepared to enter their final two years of study. Our broad and ambitious subject offering includes both core and elective courses. Among these, the Double Award for Science stands out, as a programme offered by only a few schools in Italy, underscoring our commitment to academic excellence and innovation.

Grades 11 and 12

After completing the IGCSE, students at CSM choose between two internationally recognised qualifications, each leading to outstanding global opportunities:

International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme (IBDP)

- Combines breadth and depth of knowledge across six subjects.
- Includes the core elements: Theory of Knowledge (TOK), Extended Essay (EE), and Creativity, Activity, Service (CAS).
- Highly regarded by top universities worldwide, including Oxford, Cambridge, Ivy League schools, Russell Group, and leading European institutions.
- Best for students who perform strongly in final exams and inquiry-based learning, and who seek a rigorous academic challenge.

Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD)

Delivered in a hybrid system in partnership with Holy Trinity School (Ontario, Canada).

- Based on continuous assessment rather than high-stakes final exams.
- Supports students who perform best through ongoing evaluation, projects, and coursework.
- Recognised by universities in Canada, the UK, the US (including Ivy League), and Europe.
- Admission depends on the student's grades, profile, and achievements — just as with the IB Diploma.
- Ideal for students who excel through steady progress and consistent achievement rather than exam pressure.

Student Well-being

Our student well-being program offers comprehensive support, encouraging students to feel safe and take the risks beyond their comfort zones. With the support of parents, all staff members play crucial roles in mentoring, guiding, and supporting students daily. Additionally, one-to-one counseling and motivational group workshops are available to all students.

Excellent grades are no longer enough. CSM empowers students to leave school with the tools and self-knowledge needed to seize every opportunity that comes their way.

“The class size of the school means that, as a teacher, you really do get to know each and every student. This allows you to tailor your approach entirely to the class in front of you. It is a wonderful place to spend each day and I feel lucky to be a part of it!”



Co-Curricular

Drama

Our drama department is a vibrant and integral part of our co-curricular provision. We are known for our annual drama or musical production performed in a major theatre, which involves both middle and senior school students.

Music

Students regularly perform at concerts, recitals, and school events. One of the highlights of the school year is our annual School Musical production, which brings together students to stage a professional quality performance. Students also participate in school plays and drama competitions, honing their acting, production, and scriptwriting skills.

Sport

Physical activity is an integral part of student life, supporting our mission to provide a well-rounded education. Students benefit from access to outstanding local sports centres, where they engage in a variety of sports, including football, basketball, volleyball, rugby, badminton, canoeing and fencing. Additionally, we offer a Gifted Athletes Programme (GAP) dedicated to nurturing talented athletes, helping them excel both on and off the field.

Competitions

We also offer a wide range of academic competitions across subjects such as mathematics, science, and languages. Students meet regularly throughout the year to prepare, collaborate, and challenge themselves, developing confidence, teamwork, and problem-solving skills along the way.

Model United Nations

The school actively participates in Model United Nations (MUN) Conferences, attending one each year, usually in Rome or New York. These conferences simulate authentic UN assemblies, allowing students to explore global issues, understand international cooperation, and connect with peers worldwide. MUN helps develop leadership, public speaking, and negotiation skills. Preparation includes focused club sessions for researching assigned countries and topics.

Societies

Every year, students also found and lead their own societies, based on their interests and passions. These student-led initiatives range from debate, sustainability, and coding clubs to music ensembles, art collectives, and cultural groups. Through these societies, students develop leadership, collaboration, and organizational skills, while contributing to a vibrant and inclusive school community.

Clubs

Our extensive range of over 50 clubs offers something for every student, enabling them to explore their passions and develop new skills. From Art, Chess, and Computer Science to Creative Writing, Drama, Film, Model United Nations, Chinese, and Photography, there is a club for every interest, with opportunities to engage during lunchtime or after school.

Duke of Edinburgh International Award

The school is officially accredited to offer DoE. This prestigious programme empowers students to build essential life skills such as leadership, creativity, and teamwork. Recent expeditions have taken our students on memorable hikes through the beautiful landscapes of Lombardy, Trentino, and Liguria, giving them the chance to challenge themselves and connect with nature while developing valuable practical and social ability.





University and Career Counselling

The aim of University and Career Counselling at CSM is to provide a comprehensive preparation and knowledge base for students and families, enabling them to make informed decisions about post-secondary education.

Our career programme begins in Grade 8 and continues up to Grade 12. Students are guided by our University Counsellor to explore their interests, strengths, and goals to find the best “fit” university or post-secondary pathway. Students have access to Unifrog, an online platform for exploring subjects of study, potential careers, and worldwide university destinations.

Student preparation includes:

- Reflecting on extracurricular activities and experiences
- Considering summer opportunities to strengthen CVs and student profiles
- Support in preparing:
 - o Personal statements & motivation letters
 - o CVs & college essays
 - o Personal interviews (where required)
- University & college visits from institutions around the world throughout the school year
- An Annual Global University Fair bringing together a wide range of universities and colleges to meet directly with students and parents

Results and University Acceptances

“Our students are encouraged to embrace their individuality and pursue their talents and passions, rather than just striving for the highest marks. Despite this focus, our graduates have gained admissions to some of the world’s top universities.”

*Gary O'Meara
Middle & Senior School Principal*

University destinations

Despite being a recent addition to the educational landscape, CSM has already seen its students accepted into top universities around the world.

Recent graduates have gained admission to prestigious institutions including:

- University of Toronto
- McGill University
- University of Chicago
- Stanford University
- NYU - New York University
- Imperial College London
- King's College London
- University of St Andrews
- The University of Edinburgh
- IE University
- Politecnico di Milano
- Università Bocconi
- University of Amsterdam

IB results

CSM has achieved impressive IB results in the first five years of offering the IB Diploma Programme, well above the global average. Given the school's non-selective admissions policy and course choice, this is an exceptional outcome.



Admissions

“The school has a warm atmosphere and everyone knows and cares about each other. Perfect for expat families thanks to its diversity.”

Ayano, Primary School Parent

CSM is non-selective and open to families whose children can benefit from and contribute to our international education irrespective of culture, nationality, gender or religion. We welcome applications all year-round. If you would like your child to join our international learning community, schedule a campus tour or complete the application form by visiting our Admissions page on our website.

If you have any questions about the admissions process, please contact our Head of Admissions at thalia.agostino@canadianschool.it

Admissions Process

1. Book tour

We offer campus tours and Open Days where you can ask questions, learn about our curriculum, and see learning in action.

2. Complete the online application

Please note you will need to upload the following documents: past 2 years of school reports, copy of passport or ID, any document disclosing your child's Special Educational Needs diagnosis (if applicable), any relevant document regarding guardianship or custody when a parent has full custody following a separation or divorce. Reference Form required for senior school applicants.

3. Assessment stage

Our Admissions Team will contact you to schedule a student interview and any necessary assessments. In some cases, entry assessments may be requested prior to the interview, depending on the student's previous schooling and report cards. Please note: all applicants for grades 9-12 are required to complete an entry assessment, regardless of educational background.

4. Offer of place

Within 5 working days of the interview or entry assessment, our Admissions Team will communicate our decision regarding the offer of a place. Families are asked to confirm their decision within 10 days of the Offer of Place by paying the Admission Fee. If this payment is not received, the place will be offered to the next applicant on our waiting list.

Connecting People

CSM is a close-knit international and diverse community, often described as having a warm, family-like atmosphere.

Quality teaching and learning are at the heart of everything we do. Our educational approach is progressive, with small class sizes that allow for personalized attention to each student. We are committed to fostering a culture of excellence, where students are inspired by outstanding teachers who incorporate modern digital tools alongside a strong emphasis on traditional reading and literacy. We prioritize creating a supportive and happy environment for all our students. Most of our teachers are native English speakers with significant professional qualifications and experience. Language instruction in subjects like Italian, French, and Spanish is delivered by native speakers.

We value the importance of maintaining stability among our staff, while also welcoming new educators who bring fresh ideas, creativity, and diverse experiences to our teaching and learning environment.

We are committed to ensuring the wellbeing of our staff through a comprehensive wellness plan, competitive salaries and benefits, and ongoing professional development. These measures help us retain the dedicated teachers who are essential to the school's success while fostering innovation and growth within our teaching community. Alongside students and staff, parents play a vital role in nurturing this sense of community. The school benefits from strong parental involvement through the Parents Association and Class Representatives, who meet regularly with senior management and contribute to the organization of community events, charity fundraisers, and initiatives that support school development.

Our Central Locations

Museums, Exhibitions, Galleries, Palaces and Gardens

Our central campus locations enables all students to enjoy the world-class cultural venues of Milan with ease, maximizing their time without the need for extensive travel. Our teachers also take full advantage of outdoor learning opportunities, incorporating activities such as team building exercises, leadership and house spirit events, mindfulness walks, physical education sessions, and our annual Terry Fox Marathon.



The settings of our campuses are truly unparalleled

Our campuses are fully equipped with modern classrooms, science labs, well-resourced libraries, art, drama, music studio, school Cafés and assembly halls. There are also contemporary spaces for collaborative working, silent study and socialising - each one specifically suited to the needs of our students.

For those who enjoy being active, both campuses are right in the midst of many of Milan's green spaces, gyms, and leisure centres.

Kindly understand that the information present in this publication is accurate at the time of production and publication (Oct. 2025). The Canadian School of Milan reserves the right to make amendments at any time without prior notice.



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