



**DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
DEPENDENTS SCHOOLS
OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT
MEDITERRANEAN DISTRICT
UNIT 31401, BOX 11
APO AE 09630-3141**

September 5, 2006

TO: Livorno Unit School Parents and Students

FROM: Archie W. Bates, Ed.D.,
Superintendent, Mediterranean District

RE: School Year 2006 – 2007

Livorno Unit School is off to a wonderful beginning this school year! It is gratifying to note that students, parents, teachers, and administrators are enthusiastic and are continuing to strive for excellence, while, at the same time, they are preparing for the sad moments of closing Livorno's high school doors at the end of this school year.

We were very pleased last spring to be able to keep open the 9-12 portion of Livorno Unit School one more year. But we know that the weeks and months will speed by very fast, and June 2007 will come more quickly than anticipated. So, in order to help you plan appropriately and to make you feel more comfortable with next year's changes for your high school students, the Livorno Unit School Principal, Ms. Cathy Magni, has arranged for a [special Parent Forum on Thursday, 14 September, at 1600](#). She personally has telephoned all parents of high school students, asking them to submit their questions and issues so that they are completely informed and will receive the support they need.

To further assist you, we have asked the DoDDS-Europe Coordinator of the *Non-DoD Schools Program* (NDSP), Ms. Pam DeFeis, to be on hand to discuss options with you. Ms. DeFeis also will be present on Friday, 15 September, to meet with individual parents to work on more definitive plans for SY 07-08.

Essentially, there are two options available to parents of next year's high school students:

Option 1 – Students may choose to apply for, and if approved, attend The International School of Florence.

Option 2 – Parents may choose to home school their students or find other suitable schooling in the area.

DoDDS does offer assistance for students when a DoD school is not available to them in the area where they live. The NDSP has a mission to provide educational guidance,

support, and financial assistance to help your children access available educational programs comparable to those offered by the Department of Defense Education Activity (DoDEA).

The following links are designed to assist you in your planning for the 2007 – 2008 school year.

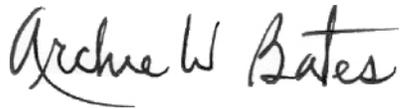
International School of Florence - <http://www.state.gov/m/a/os/15727.htm>

Non DoD School Program - <http://www.eu.dodea.edu/nondod.htm>

We know that these will be emotional and tense times for you and your children as you try to find the best programs for their continuing education. We also know that Ms. Magni and her competent and caring staff will do whatever it takes to ensure that you and your high school students are given all appropriate information to guide them in the right directions. As well, we know that everyone in the school will want to celebrate the years that Livorno has offered so much to so many.

We are committed to helping you as best we can. Therefore, if ever you have any need to get in touch with us at the District Superintendent's Office in Vicenza, please feel free to communicate with Mr. Sam Menniti, Sam.Menniti@eu.dodea.edu, or me, Archie.Bates@eu.dodea.edu. We would be very pleased to do what we can to make these changes easier for you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Archie W. Bates". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "A".

Archie W. Bates, Ed.D.
Superintendent, Mediterranean District