



Order Sons and Daughters of Italy in America /
New York State Commission for Social Justice
Michele Cangiano Ment, State President
John A. Fratta, State CSJ Chairman

January 3, 2023

Dear Guidance Department:

To recognize students excelling in Italian language courses, the Order Sons and Daughters of Italy in America/New York State Commission for Social Justice established "La Bella Lingua Achievement Award" - one annual \$500 monetary award, per OSDIA/NYS district. This Award is funded by the OSDIA NYS Grand Lodge Foundation, Inc. All high schools with an Italian language program were contacted. **(If your school does not have an Italian language program, please contact the undersigned and we will remove your school from our mailing.**

OSDIA is one of the largest organizations of Italian men and women in the United States with Lodges located across the entire country. OSDIA/NYS is divided into eight districts. OSDIA works very closely with other agencies, united as one, continually striving to foster a positive image of Italian Americans.

We request that your Italian Language Teacher(s) select **one** award candidate from graduating students completing at least three years of Italian language courses (Italian heritage is not a requirement). Your school is required to submit **two copies** of the candidate's answers to application questions, **two copies** of an official student's transcript (containing Italian Language course grades), **two copies** of a letter of recommendation, and **two copies** of the student's essay to the address below. The Award Committee will make the final decision as to the District's Award recipient. Important: Submission of more than one candidate's application from your school will result in disqualification of all your candidates.

The Committee members are looking forward to receiving your school's response no later than March 20, 2023 (applications received after March 20 will not be considered).

Cordially yours,

Mary Ann Rispoli
"La Bella Lingua Award" Committee Chairperson
Telephone No. 516-623-5208

Candidate's required information must be mailed directly to:

Mary Ann Rispoli
2683 Park Avenue
Baldwin NY 11510

Note: Separate Letters were sent to Principal, Italian Language Teachers and Guidance Dept.



**Order Sons and Daughters of Italy in America/
New York State Commission for Social Justice**
Michele Cangiano Ment, State President
John A. Fratta, State CSJ Chairman

“La Bella Lingua Award” Application for 2023

Applicant: Please electronically record answers and print from computer.

and print Address:
Telephone No.: _____ e-mail address: _____
Name(s) of HS(s) and years attended:
Number of years of Italian Courses Taken:
Extracurricular Activities:
Honors/Achievements:
Employment: (If applicable)
Hobbies/Interests

Write an essay (in English) on one of the following six topics [please circle your selection] :

- a. What is the relevance of studying the Italian language in the 21st century?
- b. How do you plan to utilize your knowledge of the Italian Language in the future?
- c. How has your Italian heritage affected you?
- d. What would encourage students to study the Italian language?
- e. What is the importance of preserving Columbus Day and the recognition of the contributions of 25 million Americans of Italian descent?
- f. Tell us something about yourself that makes you the best choice for this award.

Two copies of the completed application, official transcript, and letter of recommendation (to be received no later than March 20, 2023) are to be mailed to:

Mary Ann Rispoli
2683 Park Avenue
Baldwin, NY 11510
516-623-5208