

SCHOOL PROFILE

FULL VERSION*

2024-2025



Arquivo CDA

Colégio Dante Alighieri



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**Access the
short version**

<https://dante.pro/schoolpro24short>

A LETTER FROM our Institucional Director

Valdenice M. M. de Cerqueira, PhD

Greetings one and all,

Colegio Dante Alighieri was founded in 1911 by Italian immigrants who worked in the industrialization process of Sao Paulo, Latin America's largest and most prominent economic location. Since then, there has been an extensive amount of memories, stories and challenges that shaped Colegio Dante Alighieri into an institution steady in its own history and in the history that it actively collaborated to build and that it continues to build up to this day. Such movement establishes an intricate fabric that respects the past, entwines the present time and broiders the future.

Our institution, since its inception, always based its pedagogical project in the holistic development of the individual, which was assured by teaching excellency. This axiom still guides our work because, for us, it means the solid and everlasting backbone in which education is based on.

I would like us to linger on this word: "excellency." Excellency is one of our main principles as much as it is one of our main purposes. We firmly believe that to stimulate the youth to yearn and build knowledge as well as to design solutions to complex situations ultimately promotes the development of critical thinking, autonomy and investigative skills, overlapping the old reproduction of information. Our students are prepared to face challenges as big as their dreams anywhere in the world. For us, this is one of the true meanings of excellence in education.

Furthermore, our school is a private yet non-profitable organization. This sets us apart from most Brazilian private schools. We do not have an owner nor profit is our main goal. Our school has an executive board composed of Dante's alumni who work out of pure passion for this centenary institution aiming for the best education for its pupils.

Lastly, to write about Dante is also to write about legacy. Dante is all of our students and all of their stories, taught with responsibility to act deeply and passionately upon the world. Our patronum, one of the most remarkable poets of all time, Dante Alighieri sculpted verses and carved words and allowed us to bring, metaphorically, the imagery of our school as it is his greatest work, The Divine Comedy: paramount, filled with knowledge in so many of its forms and engines that aspire change and innovation. An everlasting legacy. A legacy for its students, a legacy for the world, a legacy for education. The ceaseless candle flame illuminating students, teachers and all of our community.



Arquivo CDA

**L'amor che move il sole e l'altre stelle (Paradiso, XXXIII, v. 145)
è l'ultimo verso del Paradiso e della Divina Commedia di Dante Alighieri.**

OUR HISTORY

Founded in 1911 by Italian immigrants in Sao Paulo, with the purpose of instructing their children in the heart of this thriving city while celebrating their European roots, Colegio Dante Alighieri has been a school that honors traditions with its eyes set in the future ever since.

Since our foundation, more than a hundred years ago, our objectives have been built up within the values of our patronum. We carry the name of Dante Alighieri, an ahead-of-its-time humanistic author who dared to change mankind's views on language, society and post-medieval culture forever - without ever forgetting to celebrate the giants from days passed, on whose shoulders he stood on.

Far beyond a place where students could honor their heritage, our founders were deeply engaged in educating Dante's pupils as well-rounded and proactive citizens of the world, ready to pursue their dreams and to face our society's issues. For these reasons, our founders prioritized the employment of highly qualified and devoted teachers as well as setting up a practical and dynamic learning environment that, honoring our roots, always took beauty and human interactions into account.

WHAT DO WE REACH FOR AS AN INSTITUTION

Over 110 years later, our goal is yet to foster individuals with eagerness to meet humanity's challenges, in a setting that allows them to understand and constantly reflect on their role upon the world.

Students graduate as active global citizens, with a strong consciousness of the possibility and responsibility to positively transform society. Located in South America's largest megalopolis, Colegio Dante Alighieri was ranked 9th (out of schools with over 60 students in the graduating class) by Folha de Sao Paulo newspaper's latest rank, for its great academic rigor, celebrated alumni, excellent faculty and a fantastic campus filled with curricular and extracurricular activities.

It's extremely important for us to support our students in comprehending our world. But in our vision, acting to shape it is also fundamental. Therefore, our students are protagonists in improving their community and are engaged in many practical activities. Hence, Dante students won numerous prestigious awards and are recognized nationally and internationally for their work (over 300 times since 2006, in the scientific field only).

Moreover, beyond the national curriculum students can engage in an international curriculum as well, such as the standard American High School Curriculum, in partnership with the University of Missouri or completing the regular Italian curriculum ECCE (Educazione di Eccellenza Program) in addition to the Brazilian one.

OUR MISSION, VIEWS AND PRINCIPLES

Our mission is to promote our pupil's development as global citizens, based on a scientific and humanistic foundation that predicates excellency. We aim to prepare our students to act with responsibility in an ever-changing world, pursuing a better and fairer world for all of us.

Our Vision is to be a reference in terms of high quality education, combining the best from both tradition and innovativeness.

All of the above is set up on our principles - Respect, altherity, responsibility, collaboration, pioneerism, innovation, ethics, excellency and international mindedness.

The School in Numbers

4.360	Total Number of Students
471	Preschool
1.632	Elementary School
1.386	Middle School
870	High School

4.360

Total Number of Students

870

High School Students

Guiding Principles

Excellent Academic Knowledge,
Protagonism, Autonomy,
Leadership, Initiative and Flexibility,
Creativity and Innovation,
Socioemotional Education,
Socialization in Diversity,
Cross-curricular Integration.

109 HS teachers across mandatory subject areas

21	PhDs
42	Master's Degrees
12	Specialized Courses
11	School Alumni

34

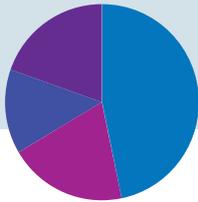
elective courses

264

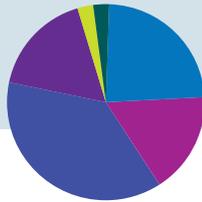
senior year students

Distribution of Curricular Components

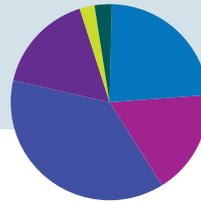
FRESHMAN YEAR
960 hours/year



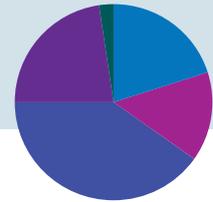
SOPHOMORE YEAR
1640 hours/year



JUNIOR YEAR
1640 hours/year



SENIOR YEAR
1880 hours/year



Dante`s Grading System

Dante uses a number of different evaluation tools for continual student assessment. The demands within the Dante curriculum are extremely high. Dante Brazilian curriculum from grades 10-12 usually involves 5,240 hours of school activities, compared to the Brazilian minimum for the same grades of only 2,200 hours. Thus the Dante education system is very different from both a basic Brazilian education and the reality of many foreign schools. The following table should be used as a rough equivalent in order to better assess student performance within the Dante reality.

Grade Distribution from 2024 of the 264 Dante's senior year students

Top 5%	Top 10%	Top 20%	Top 30%	Top 50%	Lower 50%
14	13	26	27	52	132
9.6 to 8.9	8.9 to 8.7	8.6 to 8.2	8.2 to 7.9	7.9 to 7.4	7.4 to 3.6

Date Grading System - 0.0 to 10.0
The minimum passing grade is 6.0

Equivalent GPA range	Dante System
4.0	8.9 to 10.0
3.95	8.7 to 8.9
3.75	8.2 to 8.6
3.5	7.5 to 8.1
3.0	7.4 to 7.0
2.75	6.9 to 6.5
2.5	6.4 to 6.1
2.0	6.0
Below 2.0	0 to 5.9

New Secondary Curriculum

Federal law 13.415 of 16th February 2017 establishes significant changes to the Brazilian secondary educational requirements. One such change is mandatory adherence, on the part of all public and private schools across Brazil, to the New Secondary Curriculum model, which all schools are to have adopted as of 2022. Within the bounds of this proposal, schools are to offer certain curricular options entitled "Formative Itineraries," which place emphasis on specific areas of knowledge, chosen in accordance with students' affinities.

As such, students across the country shall, as part of their 9th grade regular curriculum, select the academic path they will follow over the course of their high school years.

The New Secondary Curriculum at Colégio Dante Alighieri is organized into three large blocks:

- **Curricular Foundation:** (FGB in its Portuguese acronym), composed of mandatory BNCC (Base Nacional Comum Curricular or the Common National Curricular Base) content across the four areas of knowledge: Language, or communication, and Its Technologies (Portuguese, Art, English and Physical Education), Mathematics and Its Technologies (Mathematics), Natural Sciences and Their Technologies (Biology, Physics and Chemistry) and Humanities and Applied Social Sciences (History, Geography, Philosophy and Sociology).

- **Formative Itineraries:** starting in Year 1 of secondary education: HuLi, which includes Language (communication) and its technologies, Humanities and Applied Social Sciences; CiTe, which encompasses Natural Sciences and Mathematics and their respective technologies; and the Science Liceum, which integrates the Brazilian and Italian curricula.

- **The Life Project:** composed of both regular and specialized components that aim to assist in the formation of students' future life goals; these include Personal and Interpersonal Management, STEAM-S and electives.



Distribution of classes within the FGB and itineraries of the New Secondary Curriculum at Dante:



Dante **Diversified Curriculum** and **Academic Extracurriculars**

Colégio Dante Alighieri 's Scientific Apprenticeship Program for 8th to 12th grade students

Objective: The development of research projects by the students using the scientific methodology.

More specifically, we aim to:

- Help students to develop autonomy by choosing their own field of study and their problem-question, proposing a hypothesis and designing their experiments;
- Improve students scientific skills;
- Encourage students to partake in real problem-solving scenarios with creativity and positivity;
- Offer students a real-life experience on the scientific research field;
- Motivate students' interest in the scientific field in all of its forms.

How does it work?

- Pupils create their own research project and actively work on it according to their own interests and schedules;
- Each student has 90 minutes weekly meetings with an adviser, which is a teacher with experience in the field of study. During the meetings, they talk about new ideas, discuss project strategies and the students receive honest feedback on their journey;
- Very often, the methodology chosen by the student requires a more sophisticated environment or specific equipment, so students must go after partnerships with Universities and Research Institutes to complete their projects. Notable examples are many laboratories from the University of São Paulo (USP), State University of São Paulo (UNESP) and Federal University of São Paulo (UNIFESP), all top five universities on the national ranking *

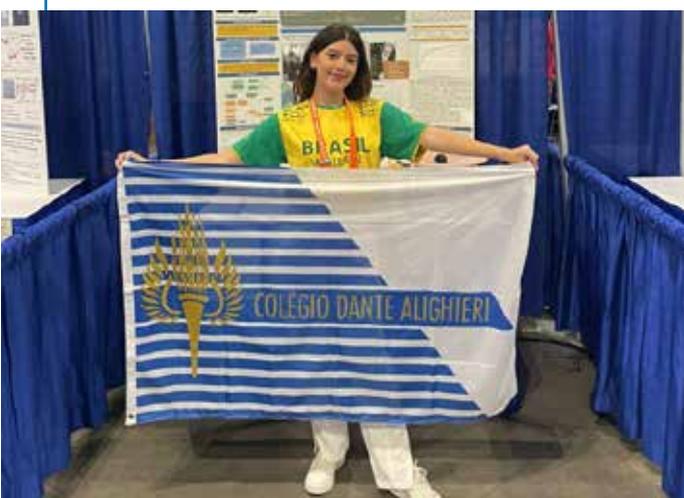
Which students can participate?

To participate, a student must be nominated by a Science teacher and later be approved by our school pedagogical board. **The criteria for participation are the following:**

- Academic achievement (grades);
- Active contributions during Science classes;
- Passion and involvement with the scientific field.

How it started?

The program started in 2006 due to the substantial interest from our students in many different areas of scientific research. One of the main reasons for this passion comes from how the school designs our Science curriculum, bringing the scientific culture closer to the students' perceptions of the world they live in.



Our student, Paola Volpi, representing Brazil at Regeneron International Science and Engineering Fair (ISEF) in 2024.



Scientific Apprenticeship Program



Dante Diversified Curriculum and Academic Extracurriculars

STEAM-S: HIGH SCHOOL INTERDISCIPLINARY PROJECT

STEAM-S (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, Mathematics and Social Studies), is a mandatory curricular component. Students are stimulated to apply the knowledge and skills obtained in the various curriculum components to solve real problems in our modern society.

Objective: to raise awareness of the Sustainable Development Goals and the 2030 Agenda through interdisciplinary projects developed by students during the 10th and 11th grades.

10th grade theme - Urban problems of the city of São Paulo

Guiding question: "How can we improve the management of an urban problem in the city of São Paulo?"

11th grade theme - Brazilian heritage

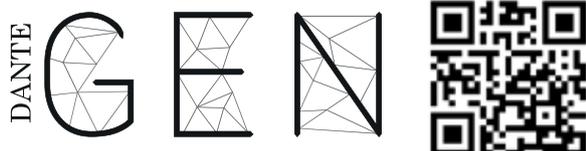
Guiding question: "How to preserve and conserve the material and immaterial heritage of our country and promote access to it through the development of technologies and social entrepreneurship?"



Our High School students presenting their entrepreneurship project.

PROJECT PHASES

- 1- Awareness-raising process conducted by teachers from different curricular components;
- 2 - Each group of students choose a specific problem from among those seen on the previous fase;
- 3 - Students go through the solution's ideation, prototyping and testing of the solutions in a real application environment;
- 4 - Students present their solutions at the annual **Dante GEN Challenge of Social Entrepreneurship Panel** to university scholars, NGO representatives, entrepreneurs and representatives from Sao Paulo's Public Ministry. This panel evaluates projects according to objective criteria and selects the best projects, which are awarded special prizes.



Dante **Diversified Curriculum** *and* **Academic Extracurriculars**

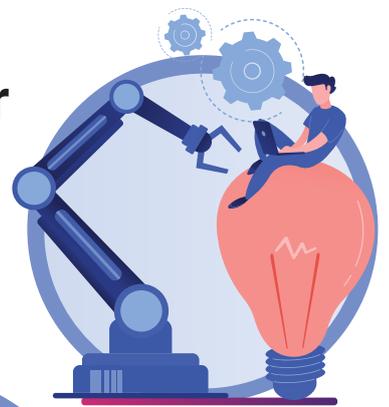
Extracurricular Activities

National Honor Society, 15 sport modalities, Scientific Apprenticeship Program, Debate Team, School Newspaper (Dante em Foco), Model UN, Volunteer Programs and many more!

**+ over 30
elective courses**

Students can choose from:

Model UN
Entrepreneurship
Introduction to Programming and Games
Journalism and Media Production
Dante in Focus: Media Literacy
Cinema and Audiovisual
Environmental Conservation
Scientific Apprentice Program
Anatomy, Physiology and Human Health
Forensic Sciences
Fashion Design
Financial Education
3-D Expression: Ceramic Modeling
Quantum Physics: Reality is not what it seems
Illustration: Humor and Narrative Drawing
Introduction to Psychology
Architectural Language
Nanotechnology: Science's Last Frontier
Artificial Intelligence





Arquivo CDA

Awards and Recognition

Our former student Hugo Fares Menhem posing with his bronze medal at the 53rd International Physics Olympiad (IPhO) in Tokyo (Japan), in July 2023. He is accompanied by teacher Manoel Resende, Dantes's high school coordinator and head of our Physics Department

2023 National and International Medals

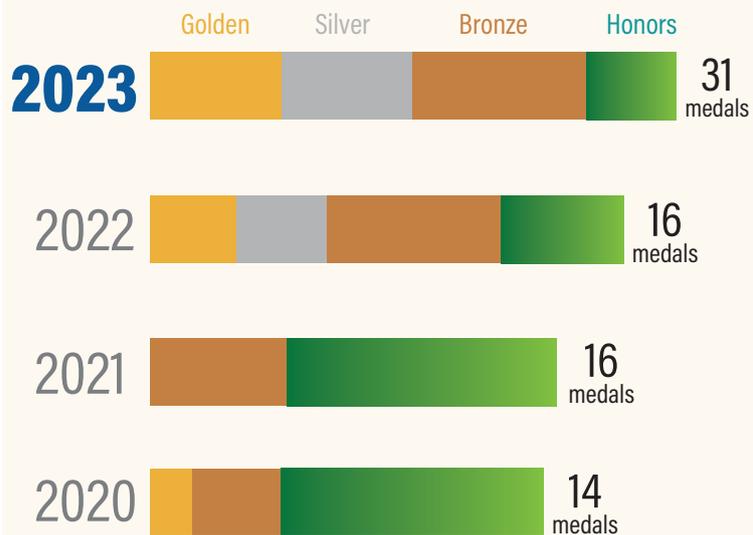
559 medals



31 international medals



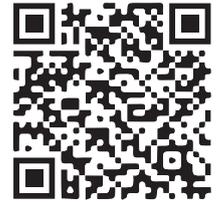
2020-23 International Medals



*The 2024 medals are still being processed.



International Curriculum



Since 2009, Dante students have the option to complete an international curriculum in conjunction with their regular Brazilian curriculum. In partnership with the **University of Missouri (Mizzou Academy)**, students study different content areas in English. Rather than simply having foreign or second-language classes, students are challenged to use their language skills in different contexts and through a variety of subjects, while also exploring and developing soft skills that are fundamental for success in the 21st century.



University of Missouri

“Develop leadership, collaboration and team building skills”



Arquivo CDA

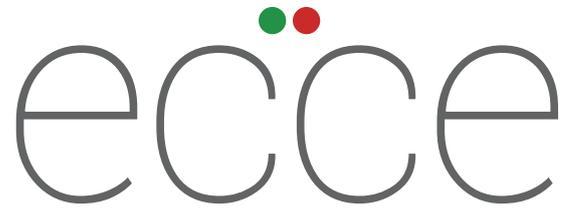
High School:

From 9th grade through their last year at Dante, students study 17 different US subjects with a total of more than 600 hours of class. Successful completion grants students a US diploma from the University of Missouri. Dante Mizzou High School students also participate in entrepreneurship classes, workshops, lectures and extracurricular activities - all in English - that help them to develop leadership, collaboration and team building skills.

600 hours of class
extracurricular activities
US diploma



International Curriculum



Percorso formativo italo-brasiliano

Italian Curriculum

In order to strengthening the cultural roots that exist at Dante, students in elementary school have the option of completing an Italian curriculum in addition to their regular Brazilian studies.

Intensive Extracurricular and **Italian Bicurricular Course** (Parity recognized by the Italian government).

The ECCE course is structured in three modules. Starting with the Scuola Media module, the ECCE is considered an **Italian bicurricular course**.

EXTRACURRICULAR

CLeCI
(Corso di Lingua e Cultura Italiana)

From 1st grade to 5th grade

BICURRICULAR

Scuola Media

From 6th grade to 8th grade

Liceo Scientifico

From 9th grade to 12th grade



College Acceptances 2017-2024

International Universities*

*among others

AMERICAN UNIVERSITY
ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY
BOSTON UNIVERSITY
BROWN UNIVERSITY
CASE WESTERN RESERVE UNIVERSITY
COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY
DUKE UNIVERSITY
DUQUESNE UNIVERSITY
EMBRY-RIDDLE AERONAUTICAL UNIVERSITY
EMORY UNIVERSITY
ERASMUS UNIVERSITY ROTTERDAM
FORDHAM UNIVERSITY
GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY
GEORGIA TECH
IE UNIVERSITY
JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY
KING'S COLLEGE LONDON
MCGILL UNIVERSITY
NEW YORK UNIVERSITY
NEWCASTLE UNIVERSITY
NORTH CAROLINA STATE UNIVERSITY
OXFORD COLLEGE
POLITECNICO DI TORINO
PURDUE UNIVERSITY
RICE UNIVERSITY
ROYAL HOLLOWAY - UNIVERSITY OF LONDON
RUTGERS UNIVERSITY
STANFORD UNIVERSITY
SUNY OSWEGO - STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK
SWARTHMORE COLLEGE
TEMPLE UNIVERSITY
THE HAGUE UNIVERSITY

TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY
TILBURG UNIVERSITY
TUFTS UNIVERSITY
UNIVERSIDADE DE COIMBRA
UNIVERSIDADE DE LISBOA
UNIVERSITÀ COMMERCIALE LUIGI BOCCONI
UNIVERSITÀ DI BOLOGNA
UNIVERSITÀ DI TRENTO
UNIVERSITY OF AMSTERDAM
UNIVERSITY OF BRISTOL
UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA BERKELEY
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA IRVINE
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA LOS ANGELES
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA SAN DIEGO
UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO
UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS URBANA CHAMPAIGN
UNIVERSITY OF MANCHESTER
UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN ANN ARBOR
UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA TWIN CITIES
UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA
UNIVERSITY OF SUSSEX
UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AUSTIN
UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO
UNIVERSITY OF TWENTE
UNIVERSITY OF UTAH
UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN MADISON
UNIVERSITY WILLIAM & MARY
VRIJE UNIVERSITEIT AMSTERDAM
WELLESLEY COLLEGE
WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY

National Universities*

*among others

UNIVERSIDADE DE SÃO PAULO - USP
UNIVERSIDADE DE CAMPINAS - UNICAMP
FUNDAÇÃO GETÚLIO VARGAS - FGV
UNIVERSIDADE ESTADUAL PAULISTA - UNESP
INSTITUTO DE ENSINO E PESQUISA - INSPER

Dante students have been accepted to over 90 national universities.

These are just a few of them.



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2024-2025



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