

Exchange Student: Matteo Brega

By: Elizabeth Dreyer and Molly Florimonte



Matteo Brega is a Senior here at Oak Hills High School, who enjoys many interesting, unique activities. Matteo is an exchange student from Milano, Italy. Although Matteo is a first year student here at Oak Hills, he has immersed himself into the Oak Hills lifestyle. Matteo's main hobbies include photography, parkour, video-making, and tennis. He maintains a strong focus on his school work, but outside of school, Matteo enjoys hanging out with friends and going to the movies.

Matteo has brought a lot of culture from Italy to the community of Oak Hills. He has a love for cooking and has even shown his American family some of his favorite dishes. Italy differs greatly when it comes to school and overall social life. His school in Italy had only 400 students, compared to the 3,000 students here at Oak

Hills. Matteo stated that there were only about 12 different classes he could choose from at his school in Italy. This may seem like a shock to many, as Oak Hills offers a multitude of elective courses such as Food Science, Astronomy, Fashion Studio, AP Photo, and more. He also explained that there are no clubs, sports, or activities at his school in Italy. Therefore, he has taken full advantage of the opportunities and activities offered at Oak Hills.

The fact that Matteo was able to so easily adapt to life here in the Oak Hills community, considering his difficulty adapting to the American lifestyle makes it very impressive. When asked about the change Matteo had this to say, "I think that the most difficult aspect of moving to America is adapting to the people's way of interacting, expressing themselves or eating, and also to learn all the customs and the idioms. Those are things you can't learn through school study." It can be hard to imagine such an abrupt shift in one's lifestyle, so Matteo should be applauded for doing so well here.

When Matteo came to Oak Hills, he brought many interesting aspects to our school. Matteo knows five languages which include French, English, Italian, Latin, and Spanish. He has learned most of these through school, but has improved his fluency through traveling and movies. Most students our age don't even come close to knowing two languages, which makes Matteo's repertoire even more impressive. Overall, it was a pleasure working with Matteo, and we are glad that this experience of him coming to the U.S. has been his best memory yet.