

Federica Cantisani

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

American children begin school at the age of five and they attend elementary school where they learn the basic subjects of reading, speaking, writing and math.

HIGH SCHOOL

COMPREHENSIVE AND VOCATIONAL SCHOOLS

There are two main types of high school: the Comprehensive where students study English, math, a science subject, history and a foreign language and some subjects of their choice like art, music, computer studies, etc.; this school prepares students for university. Then there are more specialized (vocational) schools like agricultural schools, business schools, etc., which prepare them for a particular job. Students have exams twice a year and are given credits at the end of each year according to work done, attendance and participation. If they fail in one or two subjects they can repeat the year in those subjects and continue to the next grade in all the others. At the end of the final year they must have a minimum number of credits to get their diploma. To get a good job or a place at a university, they must also have good grades in their subjects - grades are given according to course work and also a final written examination.



CURIOSITIES

- Great importance is given to extra activities, in particular sports competitions - the most common are basketball, American football, swimming and athletics. Teamwork and a competitive spirit are considered an essential part of an American's education and both universities and employers take into consideration this aspect of a student's scholastic career.
- On completion of the four years of high school students receive their diploma at a graduation ceremony. All the parents are invited and the students dress up for this very important occasion in gowns and caps.

