This is a Goggle Translation of the article which ran in the Italian news media…

GROSSETO - Vico middle school became the protagonist of an initiative that took it overseas. Following the transfer of a Vico student to the United States, the English language teacher Maria Carla Maestrini, with the support of the director Francesca Iovenitti, had the opportunity to get in touch with the school in Prattville - Alabama (USA) and start an intercultural exchange with the class of the former student from Grosseto.

The enthusiasm of the Prattville Junior High School and of the teacher Ms. Courtney Spencer was immediately very high and meant that the American students received lessons on Italian culture, habits and language with a particular attention to the stories about the city of Grosseto and the its history. The American students listened to lectures by Professor Maestrini assisted by colleagues Elena Tiribocchi and Monica Lazzerini on the geography and history of the Maremma city, the Etruscans and the remains of Roselle, malaria and banditry up to Italian habits, idioms and rules grammatical. There were meeting and exchange lessons between students who introduced themselves and talked about it, organizing a quiz on the information just studied.

All lessons were naturally held in English and gave the students from Grosseto the opportunity to improve their oral skills in English with a view to real cultural exchange. The goal was to develop a deeper knowledge of the most varied cultural and linguistic aspects of a foreign community and therefore to create a greater intercultural understanding.

Both Italian and American students have shown commitment and satisfaction in being able to participate in this project and have the opportunity to meet peers of another nationality, also thanks to the fact that each Italian student has been matched with an American student to be able to meet in autonomy through the exchange of emails.

The project was therefore born from the initial desire not to lose contact with a pupil of one's own community, becoming then an opportunity to intensify the relationship and exchange with a distant land which, thanks to the technological tools, now so widespread in teaching, has become a reality and a real experience and which in all probability will continue into the future.

The experience naturally received an enthusiastic welcome from students and parents, and demonstrates how even in this unfortunate pandemic period, thanks above all to the ability and motivation of the teachers, the planning of schools has far from stopped: "The school remains miraculously open and active - adds Professor Maestrini - indeed it never stopped. The enthusiasm of the boys from Grosseto and Americans shown towards this 'online twinning' initiative strengthens us in the conviction that we are moving in the right direction, and that even staying at home can open worlds and opportunities that we hope will be updated in the future as well. ".