

5,424 Miles from Home

Chiara is a long way from her home, 5,424 miles to be exact. Chiara, pronounced like Kara, grew up in the very north part of Italy in the bottom of The Alps, and is here for school in Portland, Oregon with an exchange program. Her choice to get an education in America was an easy one and she has found a new love for something unexpected here.

In Italy, Chiara says sports are not too common. The boys play soccer, American football, and other than that no sports are recognized at school and only a small amount of kids play a sport outside of school. So when Chiara got to Sunset and saw everything from football to basketball to tennis to water polo she was surprised. But more important, she was intrigued. Chiara's host family is famous in the Sunset community for its constant involvement in school sports. Chiarra got lucky with this. She got set up with the prototype all-American family, and this chance of fate has forever blessed her.

Chiarra thought cross country looked interesting and decided to give it a try. Chiarra is now a Sunset student athlete who establishes a new personal record for herself each time she runs. She says without this opportunity and without her host family she would have never had the opportunity to find a love for cross country.