

## In the Footsteps of Marco Polo

Denis is equal parts historian, sage traveler, story teller, and global citizen. Through his travels, the audience learns about contemporary cultures in places like Afghanistan, Uzbekistan, Mongolia, Tajikistan, and Malaysia. In all of these locations, he tells stories about cultural practices that are nothing short of fascinating. He provides a lens for the audience to see the world in real, different, and meaningful ways. Denis also weaves in the historical events of Marco Polo in a way that makes it feel like Marco Polo is telling you about his journey. He references primary documents, provides reasoning for decisions, and serves up geography lessons. Near the end of his presentation, he said “there are many more good people in the world than bad. Don’t believe the hype or the media. Open your minds to different cultures and different people.” In the end, the audience believes him and more importantly the audience wants the opportunity to take some sort of action to support his ideas.

At our school, Denis was exceptionally well received. He spoke to a group of middle school students for over an hour and a half. The entire time, students, teachers, and administrators in the room were fully engaged and eager to hear his next response. He is a fantastic supplement to any school’s curriculum and he is a role-model. I strongly recommend Denis as a speaker.

Jim Conti

Director of International Programs

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