

2012

AMERICAN HERITAGE  
EDUCATING HEARTS & MINDS FOR LATTER-DAY FAMILIES



A REPORT TO  
Parents, Patrons & Friends





***ALWAYS: At all times, in all places, private and public; perpetually, as God is constant and unchanging (Matt. 28:20, Mosiah 18:3).***

## EDUCATING HEARTS & MINDS

American Heritage School has outstanding academics and extracurricular programs. We also believe that strengthening faith in Christ is indispensable to properly educating the hearts and minds of the rising generation. In addition to regular morning devotionals, prayer, and use of scripture as a foundational reference text in every subject, the AHS Honor Code focuses on the two great commandments to love God and neighbors “with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind” (Matt. 22:36-39). Every student and faculty member at the school commits to uphold the highest standards of moral conduct whether they are on or off campus. This year, students not only committed to memory the school’s Honor Code through the “Trustee Award” program, but applied the two great commandments in classroom activities, athletic competitions, community service, homes, and personal relationships as well.

## SACRIFICE & RESPONSIBILITY

Sacrifice is a foundational principle at American Heritage School. AHS does not accept federal, state, or local government funding, and welcomes assistance from all those willing and able to support our mission of Christ-centered and character-focused education. In 2011-2012, generous donors, parents, students, and community supporters gave approximately \$450,000 to improve programs, increase teacher salaries, and help expand the Home and Distance Education Program. Tuition revenue covers the vast majority of the School’s ongoing expenses, and thanks to donations, the educational experience received by families at AHS is far more significant than what tuition alone would afford. This financial model of providing the highest quality programs while keeping tuition as low as possible is only accomplished through a spirit of sacrifice and personal responsibility. Just ask teachers and students who help regularly by cleaning their own classrooms and caring for the building together. Sacrifice brings forth the blessings of heaven!

## INSPIRING & RIGOROUS COURSES

Since the high school expansion in 2008, American Heritage School has added many inspiring and highly qualified teachers in a slate of new and rigorous courses, including physics, chemistry, calculus, foreign languages, U.S. constitution, family science, and journalism. In addition, AP courses and AP tracks have been made available in English, literature, U.S. history, calculus, biology, music, and human geography. Add

to these courses the flexibility of live and mentored Distance Education courses, and American Heritage School offers not only a unique faith-based atmosphere, but one of the most exceptional academic programs available anywhere in the nation.

## PREPARED GRADUATES

In the last three years, well over 50 American Heritage high school graduates have received admission, many on scholarship, to outstanding post-secondary institutions, including BYU (all campuses), Purdue, University of Michigan, UCLA, University of Washington, University of Utah, Utah State, Edmonds College, University of California at Santa Barbara, Southern Virginia University, Weber State, UVU, LDS Business College, Florida Institute of Technology, and more. Three AHS high school students achieved National Merit Scholar honors for their stellar performance on the PSAT/NMSQT, placing them in the top 3% of nearly 2 million eligible high school candidates. But the most extraordinary aspect of AHS graduates has as much to do with their hearts as their minds. Take a moment to read a few of their very heartfelt graduate essays at [american-heritage.org/document/graduation](http://american-heritage.org/document/graduation).

## NATIONAL ACCREDITATION

In October 2009, American Heritage School hosted a successful site visit with representatives of the Utah State Office of Education (USOE) and the Northwest Accreditation Commission (NWAC, recently merged with AdvancED). The visiting team, which included the USOE Director of Accreditation and the NWAC Utah Chair, recommended AHS for immediate provisional accreditation, effective retroactively to the 2009-2010 academic year and forward. This provisional accredi-

ALWAYS HONOR & SERVE



tation affords AHS all the benefits of regional and national accreditation. AHS is also a candidate member of the Pacific Northwest Association of Independent Schools and expects to receive full and dual accreditation by both NWAC/AdvancED and PNAIS in the 2012-2013 school year.

## SCIENCE, SPEECH, & ESSAY CONTEST WINNERS

Our science students represented American Heritage School in its third appearance at the Central Utah Science and Engineering Fair at BYU in March 2012. AHS students came home with numerous scholarships and awards, including a third place project in high school, a second place project in elementary school, and a special award for use of the scientific method. AHS students also received invitation-only entrances to other regional science and invention fairs, including the Utah Energy and Renewable Energy Fair and the Westminster Energy Fair.

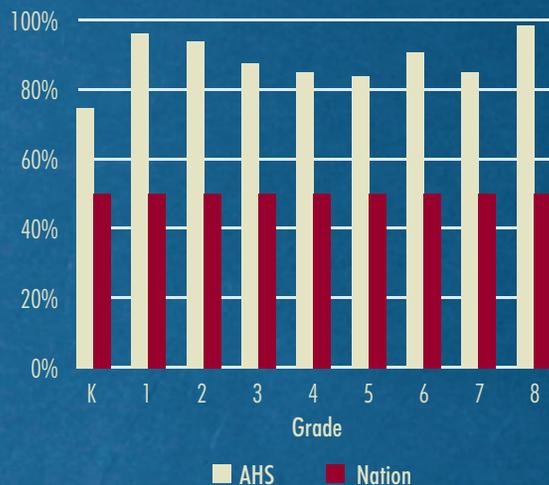
All AHS students engage in significant writing and public speaking for authentic audiences. In the regional 2012 Freedom Festival Speech, Essay, and Video Production contests, focused on American values of "Family, Freedom, God, and Country," American Heritage School students took home more top honors than any other school in the state, demonstrating not only extraordinary commitment to these values, but extraordinary writing and communication skills as well.

## ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

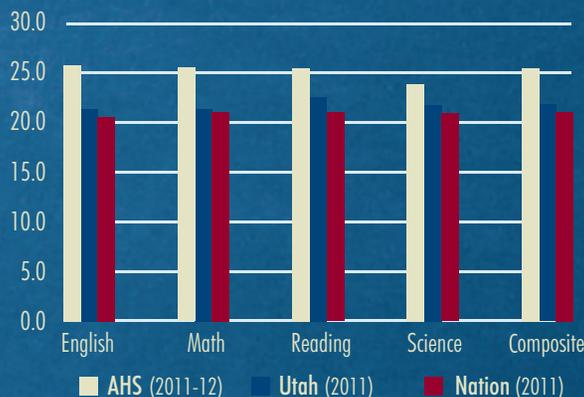
American Heritage School classes continue to score well above national and state averages on standardized exams, making AHS one of the most academically

competitive schools in the state—public and private schools included.

### ITBS, K-8, School Norms 2012



### ACT, High School, Average Student Score, 2011-2012

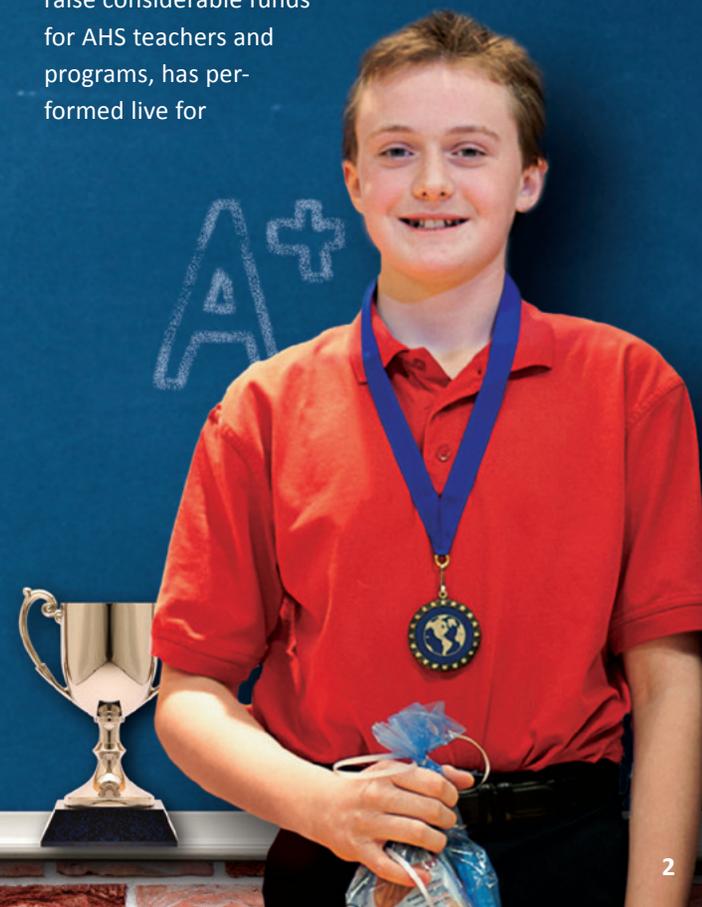


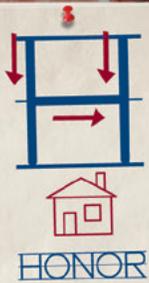
## AWARD-WINNING MUSIC PROGRAMS



**AMERICAN HERITAGE LYCEUM PHILHARMONIC.** In 2012, for the fourth year in a row, the American Heritage Lyceum Philharmonic received a distinguished award from Best of State

Utah, this year in the category of "Performing Arts – Orchestra." Comprised of exceptionally talented high-school aged musicians from across Utah, the 2011-2012 season featured the American Heritage Lyceum Philharmonic with acclaimed recording artists Steven Sharp Nelson, David Archuleta, Igor Gruppman, Alex Boye, Peter Breinholt, and Paul Cardall, among others. The Philharmonic helped to raise considerable funds for AHS teachers and programs, has performed live for





**HONOR: To reverence; to dignify, in words and actions; as to honor God by honoring his children (Exodus 20, John 5:23).**

well over 20,000 audience members, and recorded their first CD entitled *Hearts & Minds*, featuring Jenny Oaks Baker, Dallyn Vail Bayles, and Jordan Bluth. The Lyceum Philharmonic reached literally millions of homes across the world with a YouTube video called “Beethoven’s Five Secrets” produced by the Piano-Guys and cellist Steven Sharp Nelson. The single was the #1 download on the iTunes classical charts in the U.S. and Canada for 48 days. It also topped the charts around the world, hitting the top 10 in 8 other countries worldwide. The mission of the American Heritage Lyceum Philharmonic includes performing sacred music that educates hearts and minds. The 2012-2013 season will include the premier of a new work by Rob Gardner and Rob Moffatt celebrating the sesquicentennial of the Civil War. The Lyceum Philharmonic was recently honored with a formal invitation to perform this work at the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C.

**LYCEUM MUSIC FESTIVAL.** Each summer, American Heritage School and the American Heritage Lyceum Philharmonic sponsor a music festival and camp that draws talented young musicians from across the Wasatch Front and the country to be tutored by professional musicians, including members of the Utah Symphony and specially invited guest artists. In 2011, renowned cellist Steven Sharp Nelson joined the festival and spent multiple days with the students leading up to a grand finale performance at the Zermatt Resort in Midway, Utah. In July 2012, AHS will hold its fifth annual Lyceum Music Festival at the Zermatt Resort, featuring GRAMMY-AWARD winning

## SCHOOL QUICK FACTS

Grades offered: **K - 12**  
On-campus enrollment: **659**  
On-campus average class size: **21**  
On-campus student-teacher ratio: **12:1**  
Distance education enrollment: **194**  
Distance education courses: **61 Courses, 160 Sections, 345 course enrollments**  
Total Teaching staff: **84**  
Administration: **9**  
Full-time support staff: **7**  
Community lyceum orchestras enrollment: **143**  
Community choir enrollment: **120**  
Extra-curricular: **basketball, Boys/Girls State, choir, cross country, drama, orchestra, science fairs, service learning (Mexico, Idaho), speech competitions, soccer, student government, travel study (Washington, D.C. & Southern Utah)**  
Accreditation: **NWAC (AdvancEd) Provisional, PNAIS Candidate**

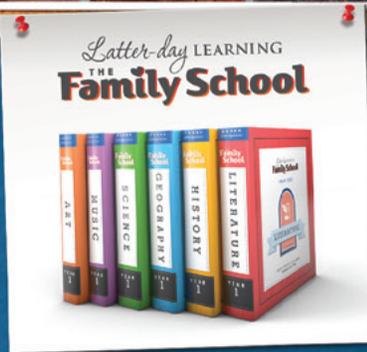
violinist Igor Gruppman, YouTube sensation Steven Sharp Nelson, and our own talented students.

**AMERICAN HERITAGE YOUTH CHORUS.** In 2012, the American Heritage Youth Chorus, an LDS-oriented choral organization for children and youth ages 8-18, completed a fireside road-tour through Utah and Idaho, building musical excellence and faith in the lives of thousands of young people through uplifting and sacred music. The 2012 tour music suite was entitled *This is Jesus*, focusing on the life and teachings of Jesus Christ, and featuring music composed by Steve and Janice Kapp Perry.

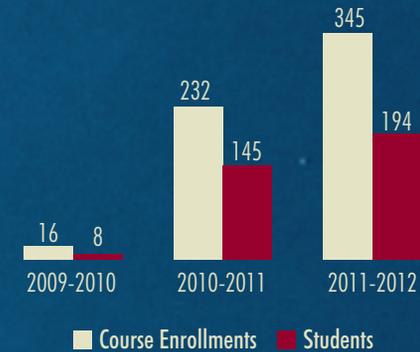


## HOME & DISTANCE EDUCATION

The AHS Home & Distance Education Program represents the fulfillment of the School's long-term vision "to become an effective educational resource for parents worldwide in helping children and families to maximize their divine potential." Beginning in 2009, eight students enrolled in a pilot distance education course (American History). Currently, there are over 340 course enrollments from 30 states, Canada, South Korea, China, and Hong Kong in one or more of the 61 distance education courses that have been developed by nearly 30 dedicated and qualified instructors. Courses cover various subject areas for students in grades K-12. Additional courses are being developed, and all distance education courses are accredited and available to home educators, AHS students, students seeking credit advancement or recovery, and interested adult learners.

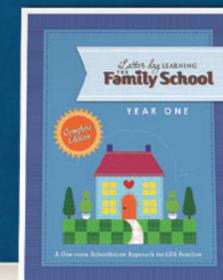


## Home and Distance Education Enrollment



## NEW FAMILY SCHOOL PRODUCT

Our new homeschool curriculum, The Family School, is the first in a six-part series designed in collaboration with hundreds of LDS home schooling parents. We are excited to announce this new offering (available Fall 2012) for LDS homeschoolers who desire the LDS-oriented "Principle Approach®" that American Heritage School has incorporated for many years. The Family School is designed for parents of children ages 4 to 12 and includes an entire year's worth of printed curriculum (180 days' worth of lessons) for a family to teach History, Literature, Science, Geography, Art, and Music. Reminiscent of a one-room school house approach with children of various ages learning together, every Family School lesson includes adaptable age-appropriate assignments and activities. Family School courses are parent-guided. And, The Family School is not just curriculum, it's a national community of homeschool families. See [www.latterdaylearning.org](http://www.latterdaylearning.org) for more information.





**SERVE: to work for; to bestow the labor of heart and mind in the employment of another; service is love and honor exemplified (Mosiah 2:17, Matt. 6:24).**

## DISTINGUISHED GUESTS

Many special guests visited AHS in 2011-2012 to participate in classes or events, including BYU President Cecil O. Samuelson (commencement speaker), Senator Mike Lee and acclaimed vocal artists Alex Boye and Peter Breinholt (featured guests at *An American Heritage Christmas* and *Freedom's Holy Light* Veterans Day tribute), authors and speakers John and Jane Covey, and John Bytheway (*Family Forum* presenters), and cellist Steven Sharp Nelson (Lyceum Music Festival and recording guest). Accomplished guests like these aided our mission of demonstrating that Christian character really matters—in all aspects of life.

## FAMILY EDUCATION CENTER

American Heritage School is a place of learning for the entire family. The AHS Family Education Center sponsors numerous community-available education opportunities throughout the year, including an ongoing Family Lecture Series, the annual Family Forum & Family Ball, and the annual Foundations Training—all intended to convey critical relationship, parenting, and family education skills to parents seeking to improve their homes and families “by study and also by faith” (D&C 109:7).



## INTERNATIONAL STUDENT PROGRAM

In September of 2009, American Heritage School received federal government approval to admit foreign students (F visa-holders). Students promptly applied and were admitted from South Korea, Venezuela, and Hong Kong, with many more on the waiting list. Since then, the international presence at American Heritage School has grown to include students from China, India, Mexico, Japan, Korea, and France. Attracted to AHS by a common belief that honor and faith must be preserved in the classroom experience, international students comprise approximately 15% of the school's high school population, and add an important and beautiful cultural diversity to the American Heritage School community.

## CONSTITUTION EDUCATION

From an annual high school Constitution Bowl, to constitutional law Distance Education courses, to family education seminars on Constitution studies and awareness, American Heritage School believes patriotism must run deeper than a flag-waving appeal. Constitutional principles and the miracles of America's Christian heritage have long been an integral part of American Heritage School's curriculum. Thanks to the Family Education Center and the Home and Distance Education program, we now offer an active and growing number of high-quality, community-available Constitution education programs.

We're People



## OUR MISSION

American Heritage School exists for the purpose of serving parents in assisting in developing the minds, the hearts, and the bodies of students in order that they may:

1. Be useful in the hands of the Lord in building the kingdom of God on earth;
2. Increase faith in and knowledge of the Plan of Salvation;
3. Develop a love, understanding, and appreciation for America and the founding fathers;
4. Develop the basic academic knowledge and skills necessary to be able to make self-education a life-long pursuit;
5. Learn to reason and discern between right and wrong, truth and error;
6. Develop character and self-discipline of mind and body; and
7. Conduct themselves in all aspects of life as Christians.



All activities, teaching, governance, and administration are to be accomplished in light of the above objectives and in so far as possible in harmony with revealed principles of the restored gospel of Jesus Christ and laws of the land. All teachers, staff, administrators, and trustees shall strive to be living examples of the values, principles, and skills taught at the school.

## SERVICE LEARNING

Each year around Christmas time, American Heritage School students earn money to purchase and donate hundreds of teddy bears to homeless children who come to the Ogden Rescue Mission. In December of 2011, students from kindergarten to 12th grade donated nearly 600 teddy bears. In the Spring of 2012, high school students and parents made the annual week-long trip to Mexico to serve and learn by helping with repainting a public shelter, teaching English, delivering school kits to needy families, and upgrading a community soccer park. Other service

on the home-front included a special recognition of U.S. military Veterans, a senior service day mending fences at Deseret Land and Livestock in Vernon, Utah, and a Service Day at the Deseret Industries, American Fork Hospital, and in the libraries, hallways, and classrooms across campus. In May and June of 2012, approximately 150 students attended enrichment travel tours, including the "America's Providential Heritage" tour to Washington, D.C.; the "This is Jesus" choir tour to Idaho; and the Shakespeare tour to Cedar City, Utah.





## OUR VISION

American Heritage School's vision is  
to become an effective educational resource  
for parents worldwide in assisting children  
and families to maximize their divine potential.

## CONTACT US

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