

2014



AMERICAN HERITAGE
EDUCATING HEARTS & MINDS FOR LATTER-DAY FAMILIES



Patriots

A REPORT TO
Parents, Patrons & Friends





Dear Friends,

We live in a time of increasingly mixed and confusing moral messages about what is right and what is wrong. The motto of American Heritage School is "Educating Hearts and Minds for Latter-day Families." Character education—preparing students for strong, Christ-centered lives and families—is the fullest expression of that motto, and the focus of American Heritage School's curriculum and methodologies. This kind of education infuses the light of faith into every subject and every discipline. This kind of education can change the world—and it is changing the world, one heart and one mind at a time.

American Heritage is not just a school in American Fork, Utah—it is a worldwide community, with students in 50 states and 36 countries. If you are still considering joining us, we invite you to come and discover everything that education was intended to be—education not just for the mind, but for the whole soul. This is not a new form of education. In fact, it is very old. From the children of Israel to the children of the American Revolution to the children of the Restoration of the Gospel—this principled approach to education is a form of liberty education that wise parents have employed for generations "Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty" (2 Cor. 3:17).

Thank you for joining us, and may the Lord bless you and your family as you seek diligently to teach your children wisdom "even by study and also by faith" (D&C 88:118).

Grant Beckwith

-Grant Beckwith | Head of School



SCHOOL QUICK FACTS

Grades offered: K–12

On-campus enrollment: 734

On-campus average class sizes:

Kindergarten: 17

Elementary School (Grades 1–6): 23

Middle School (Grades 7–8): 24

High School (Grades 9–12): 15

On-campus student-teacher ratio: 11:1

Home & Distance Education Families: 873

Distance Education courses: 54

Course sales: 4,796

Student impact estimate: 13,500

Total teaching staff: 69

Administration: 8

Full-time support staff: 5

Community orchestra enrollment: 250

Community choir enrollment: 175

Extra-curricular offerings: **basketball, soccer, cross country, Boys/Girls State, choir, drama, orchestra, science fairs, service learning, speech competitions, student government, travel study, Lego robotics, debate**

Accreditation: **AdvancED, NWAIS Candidate**

EDUCATING HEARTS & MINDS

American Heritage School has outstanding academic and extracurricular programs. More importantly, however, is our focus on developing extraordinary Christian character. Developing true Christian character begins with educating the heart through the power of the Holy Ghost (Moroni 10:5, D&C 8:2-3). By first clearly laying Jesus Christ as the foundation of every curricular subject, the Holy Ghost becomes an inseparable partner in an American Heritage School education. We are a mission centered school: "We talk of Christ, we rejoice in Christ, we preach of Christ, we prophesy of Christ" so that each student may know the source of all truth (2 Nephi 25:26). We strive to continually nurture faith in and love for Jesus Christ by helping students to recognize the hand of God in each subject area. Our joy is found in developing young scholars who are governed by principle and who proactively further the cause of Christ throughout the world.

PREPARED GRADUATES

Continuing a strong tradition of excellence, American Heritage School's 2014 graduation rate was nearly 100%, most of whom either went directly on missions or to colleges and universities, many with scholarships. Over the last four years, AHS graduates have been admitted to BYU (all campuses), Purdue, University of Michigan, UCLA, University of Washington, Indiana University, University of British Columbia, University of Utah, Utah State, Edmonds College, University of

California at Santa Barbara, Southern Virginia University, Weber State, UVU, New York University, Institute of Chicago—School of Art, Florida Institute of Technology, McGill University (Quebec), and more. To date, AHS has had five students receive National Merit honors for their stellar academic performance, placing them in the top 3% of nearly 2 million eligible high school candidates. This year, one AHS graduate was selected as a National Merit Finalist. Several graduating seniors have received their mission calls and have reported to

"We are taught to think deeply for ourselves and discern between what is right and wrong. In a world full of so much confusion, it has been a solace to be able to turn to the words of the prophets and wise men and women to plant myself firmly in the knowledge of unchanging truths."

—Misha Duncan, Class of 2014

missions in Taiwan, Russia, Thailand, California, Costa Rica, Mexico, and Puerto Rico. Take a moment to read, in their own words, how an American Heritage School education has impacted their lives: <http://www.american-heritage.org/document/graduation>.



GRADUATE ESSAYS





NATIONAL ACCREDITATION

American Heritage School received accreditation through AdvancED in 2009. This affords AHS all the benefits of regional and national accreditation provided to public and private schools recognized by the Utah State Office of Education. In March of 2013, American Heritage School took a step toward dual accreditation by hosting a visiting team from the Northwest Association of Independent Schools (NWAIS). This would make available to AHS a national community of teachers and administrators in other independent schools with whom to network and share best practices. Currently, NWAIS has awarded AHS a “candidate” accreditation status and has scheduled a follow-up visit for sometime during the 2014–2015 school year.



INSPIRING AND 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, U.S.

Constitution, Family Science, Journalism, and various world languages. In addition, AP offerings have been made available in English, language and composition, calculus AB, calculus BC, biology, AP chemistry, music theory, and human geography. Add to these courses the flexibility of 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.



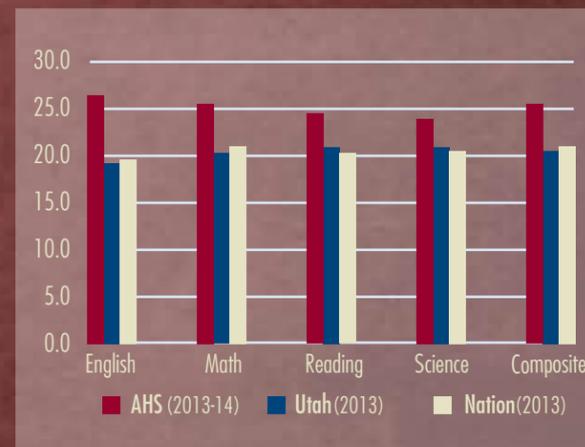
SURPASSING STATE AND NATIONAL STANDARDS

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.

ACHIEVEMENTS IN SCIENCE AND MATH

AHS students represented the school in its fifth appearance at the Central Utah Science and Engineering Fair at BYU in March 2014. AHS students came home with numerous scholarships and awards, including multiple top honors in grades 6-12. In the elementary school, several submissions to the “Trees

ACT, 9–12 High School Norms 2014



are Terrific” competition were chosen for statewide display and participation in the statewide competition.

In 2014, AHS sponsored three teams at the First® Lego® League (FLL) robotics competition held at the University of Utah. FLL teams are given the opportunity to work competitively to find innovative solutions to real-world challenges using LEGO-based robotics to accomplish their designs.

EXCELLENCE IN LANGUAGE ARTS AND GEOGRAPHY

In language arts, all AHS students engage in writing and public speaking for authentic audiences. This year’s Freedom Festival speech and essay contest focused on the American values of family, freedom, God, and country. American Heritage School students took home many top honors, demonstrating not only extraordinary commitment to these values, but also outstanding writing and communication skills.

Recognizing that pure, factual knowledge is an important yet often overlooked part of a quality education, AHS sponsors both a Scripps National Spelling Bee and a National Geographic Bee each year. At the Scripps Spelling Bee, our AHS scholars astounded many with their orthographic expertise. In the National Geographic Bee, Ethan Morrill (6th Grade) won our school competition and represented AHS at the state level where he placed 2nd overall.

mag-na-nim-i-ty

“The [American Heritage] Youth Chorus has helped me grow in so many ways, and the songs we sing always help my testimony grow. This year, our musical fireside program has helped me gain a stronger desire to stand for something—to hold fast to the things I believe.”

—Sidney Young, 11th Grade Student



FAITH-CENTERED FINE ARTS

The American Heritage School vision of education extends well beyond core subjects like math and reading. World-class fine arts programs are essential to the mission of educating hearts, as well as minds. All students in grades K–8 participate in visual art and music classes. AHS is the only school in Utah with a unified K–12 Kodály music program taught by an entire staff of Kodály-certified instructors.

Drama and theater tech are also an important part of the AHS culture. In 2014, over 150 on-campus students shared their talents and testimonies in one of three drama productions: *Trail of Dreams*, *Our Town*, and *A Midsummer Night’s Dream*. In every grade, students participate in a yearly “devotional” program that uses music and drama to illuminate historical and gospel truths that they are studying in their academic classes.



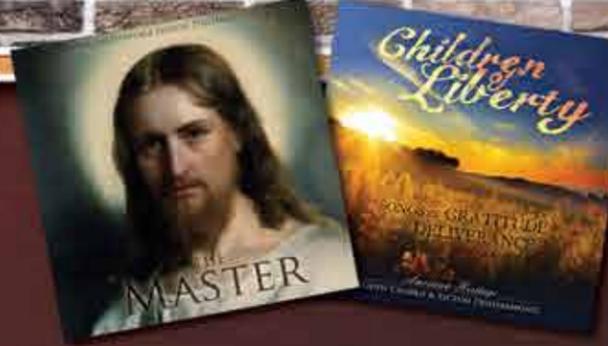
COMMUNITY-WIDE CHOIR AND ORCHESTRA PROGRAMS

American Heritage Lyceum Orchestras. In 2014, the orchestra program added a fifth ensemble and now serves nearly 225 students from almost 50



Mr. Brown posing with singer Lexi Walker at the 2014 Best of State Awards Gala. The orchestra accepted their sixth consecutive Best of State honor in 2014.

different schools. For the sixth year in a row, the American Heritage Lyceum Philharmonic received the distinguished “Best of State” award from Best of State Utah in the “Performing Arts, Orchestra” category. The 2013–2014 Concert Season featured performances with GRAMMY-Award winning artists Mark Wood and Michael Martin Murphey, Platinum-selling vocalist Jackie Evancho, and Billboard-topping artists The Piano Guys, Jenny Oaks Baker, William Joseph, Daniel Beck, Jessie Clark Funk, and George Dyer. In 2014, The Lyceum Philharmonic recorded two professional albums. *The Master*, a rare collection of sacred hymns, is being carried by Deseret Book and receiving critical acclaim from listeners throughout the country. Of all of the programs supported by American Heritage School, the Lyceum Philharmonic has the largest “external” reach with over 30 million views on their YouTube video with The Piano Guys and a combined live audience this season of more than 30,000. At the core of their mission is a desire to uplift and inspire listeners through wholesome, high-quality instrumental music. See videos of the Lyceum Philharmonic in action at <http://www.american-heritage.org/Music/OrPerformanceClips>.



American Heritage Youth Chorus. In 2014, the American Heritage Youth Chorus—an LDS-oriented choral organization for children and youth—completed a Four Corners Area road-tour with fireside performances for LDS and interfaith audiences in Colorado, New Mexico, and Arizona. Their 2014 fireside program, *Standing for Something*, was based on the New York Times best selling book by Gordon B. Hinckley. The Youth Chorus also joined forces with the Lyceum Philharmonic to produce a new album of inspirational music entitled *Children of Liberty: Songs of Gratitude and Deliverance*. The album pays tribute to the pilgrims, patriots, and pioneers who shaped America’s providential destiny. The mission of the American Heritage Youth Chorus is to build musical excellence and enduring faith in the lives of audiences and choir members through sacred and uplifting choral music.

LYCEUM PHILHARMONIC CLIPS



EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING

American Heritage School offers students many opportunities to interact with, explore, and serve in the world that they live in. In March of 2014, high school students “paused” their regular classes for one week to engage in an intensive, project-based learning experience. Experiential Learning Week gave students the opportunity to focus on one area of interest—selected from a variety of offerings such as Constitutional law, molecular biology, engineering, digital media, visual art, and world religions—and engage in meaningful, real-world learning experiences. These courses included student-led creative projects, expert guest presenters, and field trips to relevant places in the community.

SERVICE LEARNING AND TRAVEL STUDY

Each year around Christmas time, American Heritage School students earn money to purchase and donate hundreds of teddy bears for homeless children who come to the Ogden Rescue Mission. In December of 2013,

students from kindergarten to 12th grade donated over 500 teddy bears. Other service on the home-front included sponsoring special recognition programs for U.S. military Veterans, preparing and sending Christmas packages to soldiers abroad, and mending fences at Deseret Land and Livestock. Students also volunteered at Deseret Industries, at American Fork Hospital, and in the libraries, hallways, and classrooms across campus. In June and July of 2014, approximately 150 students attended enrichment travel tours, including

the America’s Providential Heritage tour to Washington, D.C.; the Standing for Something Youth Chorus tour to Colorado, New Mexico, and Arizona; and the Shakespeare tour to Cedar City, Utah.

DISTINGUISHED GUESTS

Many special guests visited AHS in 2013–2014 to participate in classes or events, including Bill Mumma, President of the Becket Fund for Religious Liberty (commencement speaker), acclaimed vocal artists Daniel Beck and Jessie Clark Funk, speakers Dr. Wallace Goddard and John Hilton III (Latter-day Learning Conference), violinists Igor and Vesna Gruppman (Lyceum Music Festival), and guest speakers Timothy Ballard and Kyle Maynard. Accomplished guests like these aided our mission of demonstrating that Christian character really matters—in all aspects of life.



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 more students from those countries as well as from Canada, China, France, Germany, India, Japan, Korea, and Mexico. 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 high school population at the school, and add an important and beautiful cultural diversity to the American Heritage School community.

AWARD-WINNING ATHLETICS

Athletics plays an important role in the mission of American Heritage School. AHS offers physical education classes for all students (including ballroom

dance in middle and high school) and is continually expanding its offering of extracurricular sports teams. 2014 was a banner year for AHS athletics which was celebrated at a special Awards Banquet in May. Here are a few Patriot performance highlights:

Both the boys and the girls cross country teams placed first in their debut competitions. Remaining strong throughout the rest of the season, the teams continued to bring home first place designations and other medals. One of the most exhilarating weekends to be a Patriot was when the varsity boys basketball team won the league championship, thanks to Davin Nielson’s buzzer-beating three pointer that forced the game into overtime. Both the varsity and junior varsity girls basketball teams came home with second place trophies, and our junior varsity boys team chauffeured home a championship medal. The Patriots also performed with distinction in the 2014 soccer league tournaments, with our varsity girls soccer team claiming the championship. We are anticipating more amazing moments in 2014–2015. . . . Go Patriots!



FOCUS ON FREEDOM

American Heritage School believes patriotism must run deeper than a simple flag-waving appeal. The annual Patriotic Program, The Spirit of America Speaks, is a student pageant that traces the history of Christian liberty from the creation story in the Old Testament, to the Reformers in Europe, to the American Revolution, and ultimately to the Restoration of the Gospel in the promised land of America. In conjunction with the Sesquicentennial Celebration of the Gettysburg

Address, hundreds of our AHS students committed the Gettysburg Address to memory and then recited it in unison in an unforgettable all-school assembly. AHS also offers a growing number of high-quality, community-wide educational programs with a focus on freedom. This year, three after-school courses were offered: “Our Christian Forebears: Principles of Seventeenth-century Puritan Discipleship” and “Defending Religious Freedom Today” by Mr. Nicholas Gentile, and “Studies in the American Covenant” by Mr. Timothy Ballard.



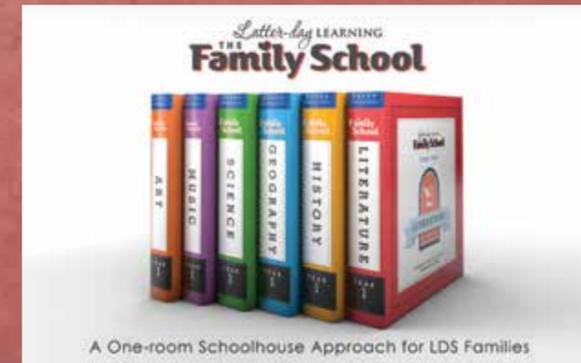
HOME & DISTANCE EDUCATION

American Heritage School’s Home and Distance Education (HDE) Program continues to experience remarkable growth aligned with American Heritage School’s vision statement: “[to] be an effective educational resource for parents worldwide in assisting children and families to maximize their divine potential.” Families around the world were impacted in 2013–2014 by a team of more than thirty volunteer, contracted, and part-time professionals—who collectively invested approximately 15,000 work hours—to make the mission, curriculum, and spirit of American Heritage available everywhere.

THE FAMILY SCHOOL—YEAR 2

The Family School—Year 2 was drafted, designed, piloted, and revised during 2013–2014. The Family

School is a six-year series of LDS homeschool curriculum, which includes lessons, notebooks, flashcards, and other resources for families with children ages 4 to 14. The Family School courses are parent-guided and embrace a “one-room schoolhouse” approach to teaching multiple children together, followed by assignments and activities for all children— younger, middle, and older ages—all in harmony with principles of the restored Gospel of Jesus Christ.



LATTER-DAY LEARNING NETWORK

The Latter-day Learning Network (a social network) was established in May 2012 and has grown to include approximately 2,800 families in 50 states, Washington, D.C., Puerto Rico, Christmas Island (administered by the U.S.), and 37 countries or territories: Afghanistan, Algeria, Andorra, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bahrain, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, China, Christmas Island, Colombia, France, Germany, Hong Kong, India, Iran, Japan, Jordan, Korea, Lebanon, Mexico, Mongolia, New Zealand, Nigeria, Philippines, Portugal, Puerto Rico, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Spain, Ukraine, United Kingdom, United States, and United States Minor

Outlying Islands. This network provides a dynamic online and interactive dimension to The Family School curriculum; it is dedicated to helping mothers, children, teachers, and American Heritage School to easily connect and share with one another. It provides a sense of community and enables the free and open sharing of ideas, struggles, successes, feedback, and friendship.

LATTER-DAY LEARNING CONFERENCE

In April of 2014, parents and students from across the country came to American Heritage School for a special homeschooling conference. The annual Latter-day Learning Conference featured guest presenters who

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.



LatterdayLearning.org



are experts in the fields of education, psychology, educational design, and family science. This years presentation topics included “Bringing Up Your Children in Light and Truth” by Dr. Wallace Goddard and “Becoming the Best You” by John Hilton III. In conjunction with the Latter-day Learning Conference, American Heritage also hosted a 5k run, field day, and family ball.

Over 800 families across 50 states and 37 countries benefited from American Heritage School’s Home & Distance Education Program in 2013–2014.

“At American Heritage, we have gained the skills necessary to ford the deeper rivers of life. We have built a firm foundation upon Christ and His true principles in preparation to stand firm in the world as a beacon of steadiness, truth, and light—even when other pressures swirl around us as a raging river, as life’s pressures surely will.”

—Andrew Sessions, Class of 2014



CONTACT US

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*In our hearts forever
Katie Hancock
1999–2014*

