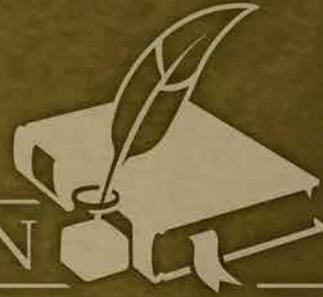


2015



AMERICAN HERITAGE

EDUCATING HEARTS & MINDS FOR LATTER-DAY FAMILIES

A REPORT TO
Parents, Patrons & Friends





Dear Friends,

We live in a time of mixed and confusing messages about morality. Secular rhetoric is shaming Judeo-Christian values more and more frequently, and it isn't just coming from the media anymore. From courtrooms to classrooms and from corporate America to community affairs, the established "state church" of America is increasingly one of secularism. Nearly one in four young Americans are leaving the organized faith of their upbringing, and families are being strained to the breaking point by the consequences of forgotten principles.

The mission of American Heritage School is to educate hearts and minds for latter-day families. By uniting the three great "people-forming" institutions of faith, family, and education, we are striving to strengthen the next generation of principle-centered leaders against the rising tide of secularism. We understand that teaching our children the best that the world has to offer, and doing it in the Light of Christ and His teachings, is our best hope for the future. It always has been. "Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty" (2 Cor. 3:17).

American Heritage is not just a school in Utah for a few LDS families seeking private education. We are a worldwide, interfaith community with students in all 50 states and over 50 countries. This also includes students who come from full-time public schools and homeschools to participate in afterschool, community-wide choir, orchestra, and athletic programs that offer world-class opportunities infused with the light of faith.

We hope you will join us. Come and feel the difference that faith-centered education can make in hearts and homes. 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 | Principal

SCHOOL QUICK FACTS

Grades offered: K-12

On-campus enrollment: 790

Distance education enrollment: **≈12,000 students**

Distance education courses: 62

Distance education course enrollments: **≈72,130**

On-campus teaching staff: 72

Administrative staff: 19

Support staff: 33

Community Lyceum Orchestras enrollment: 203

Community Youth Chorus enrollment: 175

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

Accreditation: NWAIS and AdvancED



EDUCATING HEARTS & MINDS

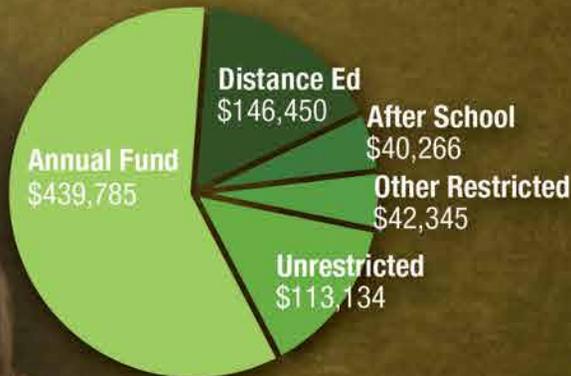
American Heritage School was founded in 1970 by a group of families who wanted to give their children a Christian, character-based education together with rigorous academic instruction. 45 years later, this mission of educating both the mind and the heart of each child is still the central focus of American Heritage School. Outstanding academic instruction provides students with the skills necessary to open doors of opportunity. An uncompromising, character education helps students decide which doors to open and how they can best use their knowledge and skills in building the kingdom of God on the earth.

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 their mission of Christ-centered and character-focused education. In 2014–2015, generous donors, parents, students, and community supporters gave a record \$782,000 to support need-based scholarships, increase teacher compensation, and upgrade classroom technology. Donated funds were also used to expand the rapidly growing Distance Education program at AHS, which offers a unique, LDS-oriented homeschooling curriculum for families around the world. 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.

2014–2015 Fundraising Report



"I know that I have a lot of big decisions coming up that will impact the rest of my life, and I feel that American Heritage has done a good job of preparing me for them."

—Robbie Bigelow, Class of 2015

PREPARED GRADUATES

Continuing a strong tradition of excellence, American Heritage School's 2015 graduation rate was nearly 100%. These graduates either went directly on missions or to colleges and universities. Over the last five years, AHS graduates have received scholarships to BYU (all campuses) and 20 other colleges and universities throughout the country. AHS has had several students receive National Merit honors for their stellar academic performances, placing them in the top 3% of nearly 2 million eligible high school candidates. One of the most extraordinary aspects of our AHS graduates has to do with the desires of their hearts. Take a moment to read, in their own words, how an American Heritage School education has impacted their lives and future goals: <http://www.american-heritage.org/document/graduation>.

GRADUATE ESSAYS





INSPIRING AND RIGOROUS COURSES

American Heritage School strives for excellence in instruction across all subject areas. In every grade level, students learn to communicate effectively through both the written and spoken word.

The “4R-ing Method” (which stands for research, reason, relate, and record) provides a sequence for discovering truth and facilitates deep, life-long learning. In science and other disciplines, students are challenged to think critically, ask questions, and explore multiple points of view—including those of modern-day prophets and apostles. In all of the 30+ high school elective courses offered at AHS (including various Advanced Placement and Concurrent Enrollment options), faith in Christ is clearly placed at the center of learning.

NATIONAL ACCREDITATION

In 2015, American Heritage School successfully completed a 7-year process of preparation and self-study to receive full accreditation from the Northwest Association of Independent Schools (NWAIS). This means that American Heritage School is committed to best practices shared by exceptional private schools around the country like celebrating diversity, encouraging free and open inquiry, and striving for ongoing school improvement. American Heritage

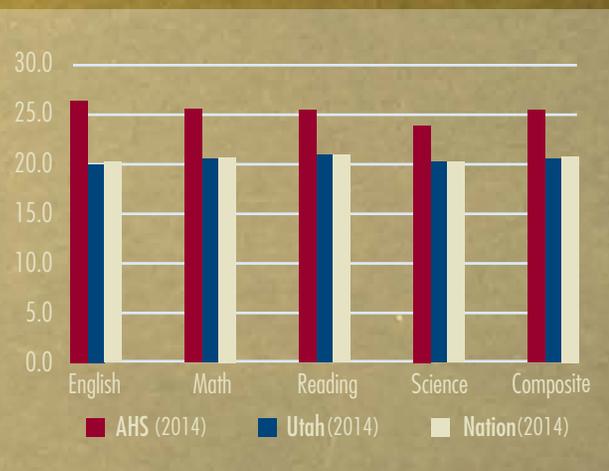
School is also fully accredited through AdvancED (the regional accreditation body for public schools) and recognized by the NCAA for providing courses that meet their standards for collegiate student athletes.



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.

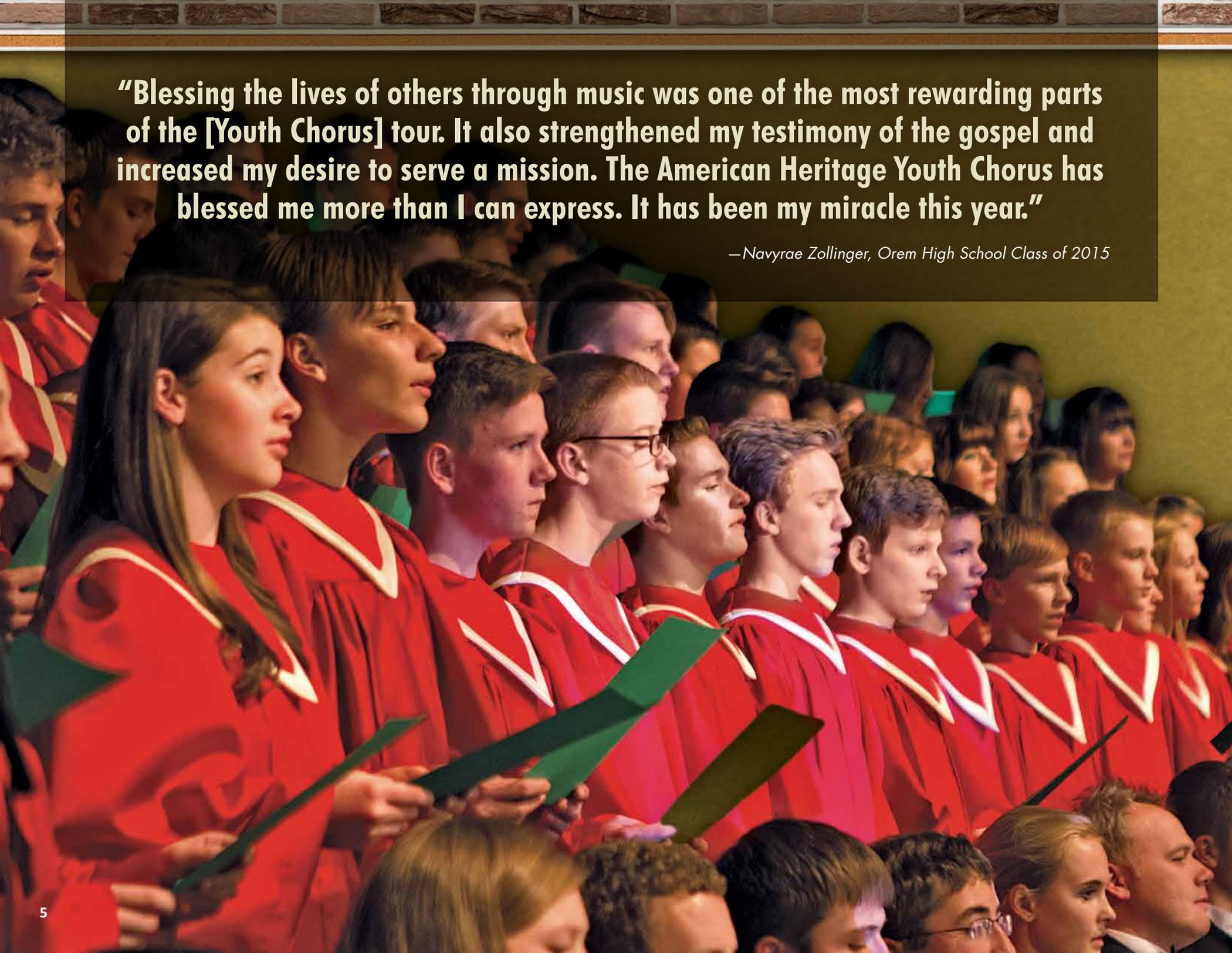
ACT, 9–12 High School Norms 2014



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. In fact, 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 2014–15, over 150 on-campus students shared their talents and testimonies in one of three play productions: *The Wizard of Oz*, *The Importance of Being Earnest*, and *The Merchant of Venice*. In nearly 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.



“Blessing the lives of others through music was one of the most rewarding parts of the [Youth Chorus] tour. It also strengthened my testimony of the gospel and increased my desire to serve a mission. The American Heritage Youth Chorus has blessed me more than I can express. It has been my miracle this year.”

—Navyrae Zollinger, Orem High School Class of 2015

COMMUNITY-WIDE CHOIR AND ORCHESTRA PROGRAMS

American Heritage Lyceum Orchestras. For the seventh 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 2014–2015 Concert Season featured performances with Steven Sharp Nelson, Vocal Point, Jenny Oaks Baker, Nathan Pacheco, and Lexi Walker. They were invited to perform with The Piano Guys cellist Steven Sharp Nelson at the opening ceremony for the 2015 American String Teacher’s Association National Conference—the largest single gathering of string teachers in the nation. The orchestra also recorded a new Christmas album entitled *Holy Night* that will be released by Deseret Book in the fall of 2015. Of all of the programs supported by American Heritage School, the Lyceum Philharmonic has by far 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 20,000. The orchestra also sponsors two summer music festivals (Lyceum Music Festival and

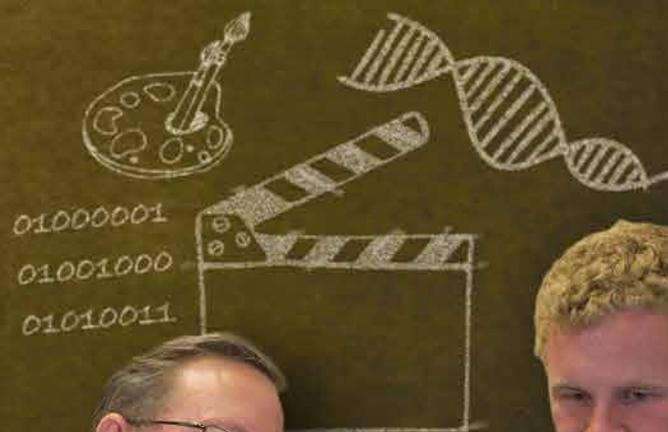
Lyceum Music Festival Youth) where students work side-by-side with professional musicians. This year’s festival guests included national recording artist William Joseph and Ryan Murphy, Associate Director of the Mormon Tabernacle Choir. At the core of their mission is a desire to uplift and inspire listeners through wholesome, high-quality instrumental music.

American Heritage Youth Chorus. In 2015, the American Heritage Youth Chorus—an LDS-oriented choral organization for children and youth—completed a 14-day tour of the Northeastern United States. The choir presented uplifting musical firesides for LDS stakes in Maryland, Virginia, New York, Pennsylvania, and Ohio. The fireside, entitled *These Are the Days*, focused on America’s providential founding and the Restoration of the gospel. The choir also did many free performances—including at the National Mall in Washington, DC—and served in the communities that they visited. 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 uplifting and sacred choral music.



EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING

American Heritage School offers students many opportunities to interact with, explore, and serve in the world in which they live. In March of 2015, 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 and engage in meaningful, real-world learning experiences. Interest areas included molecular biology, digital media, Constitutional studies, math and engineering, psychology, visual art, athletics, and computer programming. These courses included student-led creative projects, expert guest presenters, and field trips to relevant places in the community.



SERVICE-LEARNING

American Heritage students are given opportunities throughout the year to give service in their school, in their community, and in the world at large. In October, students participated in a school-wide “Service Day”, giving over 2,000 combined hours of service to individuals and organizations throughout the community. They also held a “penny wars” competition and raised over \$3,000 to buy food supplements for children in Peru, Guatemala, and the Philippines through the Liahona Children’s Foundation. At Christmastime, American Heritage School students earned money to purchase hundreds of teddy bears to give to homeless children at the Ogden Rescue Mission. In all, over 600 teddy bears were donated.

DISTINGUISHED GUESTS

Many special guests visited AHS in 2014–2015 to participate in classes or events, including UVU President Matthew Holland (commencement speaker), acclaimed vocal artists Michael and Vanessa Ballam (featured guests for Christmas benefit concert), pianist William Joseph (Lyceum Music Festival guest), conductor Ryan Murphy (Lyceum Music Festival Youth guest), and authors Shannon Hale and Tito Momen (guest lecturers). Accomplished guests like these aided our mission of demonstrating that Christian character really matters—in all aspects of life.

AWARD-WINNING ATHLETICS

Athletics plays an important role in the mission of American Heritage School. AHS offers physical education classes for all students and is continually expanding its offering of extracurricular sports teams. As members of the Utah School Sports Association, AHS competes with other private and charter schools throughout the state. In 2014–2015, The Patriots

took home state titles in girls cross country, boys cross country, and girls basketball. They also had strong showings in boys basketball and soccer. The AHS ballroom team participated in the Utah Ballroom Education Association state-wide tournament and had several pairs advance to the semi-finals. Go Patriots!



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, India, Mexico, Japan, Korea, France, Germany, and Nepal. 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.

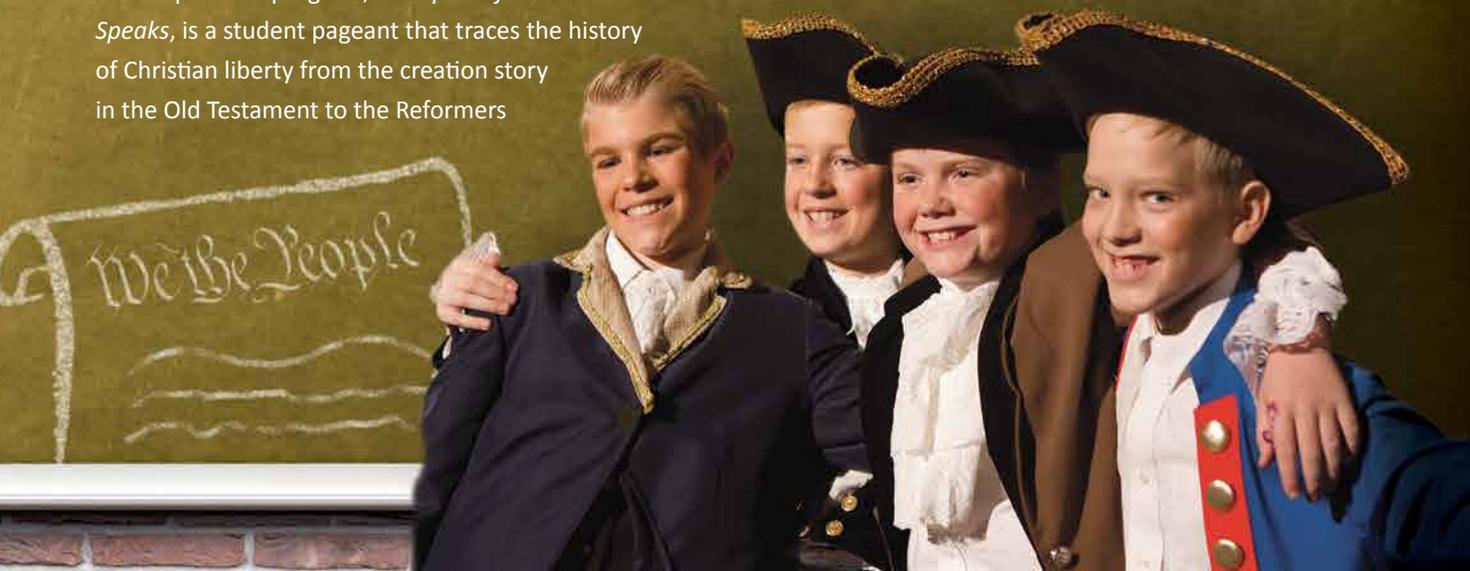
FOCUS ON FREEDOM

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. Students in grades K–12 participate in this unique and inspiring program each year to remind them of their roots. The program helps instill in them a spirit of gratitude for the blessings of freedom that they enjoy.

LATTER-DAY LEARNING

American Heritage School's worldwide outreach, Latter-day Learning, experienced remarkable growth during the 2014–15 school year. In August 2014, the Latter-day Learning program launched TheFamilySchoolOnline.org as a means of distributing The Family School curriculum with greater accessibility and affordability. By the end of 2014–15, enrollment in this new online access surpassed 3,000 families. This growth is truly aligned with American Heritage School's vision 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 2014–15 by a team of



more than forty 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 3

The Family School is a six-year series of homeschool curriculum, which includes lesson plans, flashcards, notebook materials, and other student 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. During 2014–15, The Latter-day Learning curriculum development team drafted, designed, piloted, and revised “Year 3” of The Family School curriculum six-year 2014–15, passing a halfway point milestone, in the development of this project.

COMMUNITY BUILDING

Latter-day Learning launched a private Facebook group during the late part of 2014–15. Almost immediately the group provided an effective means of sharing ideas and community support among nearly 1,000 families. Additionally, the Latter-day Learning internal network, which was established in May 2012, grew to approximately 3,300 families in all 50 states, and more than 50 countries around the world. These social networking platforms continue to grow as Family School families and other home educators connect throughout the world. These growing networks strengthen a sense of community and facilitate connection, interaction with one another, and the free and open sharing of ideas, resources, struggles, successes, feedback, and friendship among parents, students, and American Heritage School. We invite you to join!

THE FAMILY SCHOOL—ONLINE MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL

During the past year, American Heritage School piloted a new bundle of eight interactive, teacher-led, Family School courses for distance education middle and high school students. The courses were facilitated online by excellent faculty. Real-time class meetings took place each week that school was in session using audio/visual-rich webinar tools. Students experienced the advantage of live interaction with a cohort of students from around the world and first-rate faculty who led academic, character-focused discussions and guided project-based learning.

TheFamilySchoolOnline.org





CONFERENCES AND TRAININGS

In addition to hosting hundreds at the 3rd Annual Latter-day Learning Conference and AHS Foundations Training, including one family who drove all the way from Mexico to attend (see picture), the school also sent representatives to Nebraska, Texas, Idaho, Utah, Arizona, and Virginia to present trainings and promote The Family School as part of AHS's worldwide outreach efforts to assist families worldwide in maximizing their divine potential (see Statement of Strategic Vision). AHS also began providing administrative support consultations and academic services to academies and co-ops in Utah and Texas who are teaching students using AHS curriculum and methodologies.



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.



"I truly feel the experiences and learning I have had at American Heritage could not have happened somewhere else. I have been able to see the importance of my own place and mission in the Savior's plan as I have studied the past and look to the future."

—Samantha Burton, Class of 2015



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