

2016

Always
Honor and
Serve



AMERICAN HERITAGE



EDUCATING HEARTS & MINDS FOR LATTER-DAY FAMILIES

A REPORT TO
Parents, Patrons & Friends



Dear Friends,

The world into which our children are embarking is exciting beyond description—a world filled with opportunity in which light and darkness are magnified by the power of unprecedented access to information. One of the greatest responsibilities we face as parents is bringing our children up in light and truth. American Heritage School has a mission and a mandate to help more families with this increasingly difficult challenge.

This year, the American Heritage School Board of Trustees decided that it was time to significantly expand our campus and offerings in an effort to strengthen the rising generation against the ever-growing pressures of secularism and immorality. As a result of this courageous decision, and with incredibly generous support from those who share our vision, the school acquired 17 additional acres of adjacent land, began planning for additional buildings, commenced renovation on our existing facility, and added more courses and offerings to round out the American Heritage School student experience.

As exciting as our physical growth is, our hope for the future depends more than ever upon touching individual hearts with the light of Christ and His teachings. Our number one focus as we grow is to promote and preserve a spirit of faith, sacrifice, and liberty in the individual hearts and minds of each student who attends, one by one. “Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty” (2 Cor. 3:17).

American Heritage is much more than a school in Utah for a few LDS families seeking private education. We are a worldwide community with students in all 50 states and over 50 countries who have come together to participate in on-campus, online, and afterschool 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

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. Now 46 years later, this mission of educating both the mind and the heart of each child is still the central focus of American Heritage School.

SACRIFICE & RESPONSIBILITY

AHS does not accept federal, state, or local government funding, and welcomes assistance from all those willing and able to support its mission of Christ-centered and character-focused education. In 2015–2016, generous donors, parents, students, and community supporters gave over \$760,000 for student financial aid, teacher compensation, and continued development of the Home and Distance Education program. Generous donor support has allowed AHS tuition rates to remain about half of other Utah private schools.

CONTINUED GROWTH

In addition to funds collected through the annual drive, the school also received \$10 million dollars in private donations for land acquisition. Plans have been made for a new neighboring high school campus that will provide expanded opportunities for more families in Northern Utah County and throughout the world. In May, the requisite 17 acres were acquired and an architectural program study commenced in preparation for construction of the new facility. Early enrollment for the 2016–2017 school year reached record numbers as the demand for faith-focused, character-centered education continues to rise.



“The lessons, principles, and virtues I have been taught here will stay with me forever. I’ve been shown how everything that is truth and light and goodness is connected. It’s eternal. And it all leads back to our Heavenly Father and His son, Jesus Christ.”

—Emma Crosby, Class of 2016

PREPARED GRADUATES

The AHS class of 2016 had a nearly 100% graduation rate. Nearly all graduates went directly on missions or to colleges and universities. AHS graduates have received scholarships to BYU (all campuses) and more than 20 other colleges and universities throughout the country. Although academic accolades are impressive, a greater measure of success can be found in examining the heart of a recent graduate. Take a moment to read, in their own words, how an American Heritage School education has impacted their faith, character, and life goals: american-heritage.org/Senior_Essays.pdf



GRADUATE ESSAYS



46 YEARS
Since we opened in 1970

\$26 Million
Donations since 2001

\$265,000
financial aid awarded in 2015-2016

848 Enrolled students at American Heritage School

\$6 Million Annual budget

11% International students

20 STUDENTS Average class size

9 to 1 Student-to-Teacher/Aide Ratio

AHS by the Numbers

108 Faculty & Staff Members

81% AP Pass Rate

24.7% HIGHER ACT scores over state and national averages

\$3,960-\$7,620 2016 Tuition

2.6 Average extra-curricular activities participated in by AHS Students

406 Community Youth Chorus and Lyceum Orchestras enrollment

≈12,000 distance education enrollment



level, students learn to communicate effectively through both the written and spoken word. The “4R 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 50+ high school elective courses offered at AHS, including Advanced Placement and Concurrent Enrollment options, Christ is placed at the center of all learning.



NATIONAL ACCREDITATION

American Heritage School is committed to best practices shared by exceptional private schools around the country, such as recognizing and valuing diversity, honoring free and open inquiry, and striving for ongoing school improvement. American Heritage School is fully accredited through both the Northwest Association of Independent Schools and AdvancED (the same accrediting agency used by local public schools). It is also recognized by the NCAA for providing courses that meet their standards for collegiate student athletes.

INSPIRING & RIGOROUS CURRICULUM

American Heritage School strives for excellence in instruction across all subject areas. In every grade



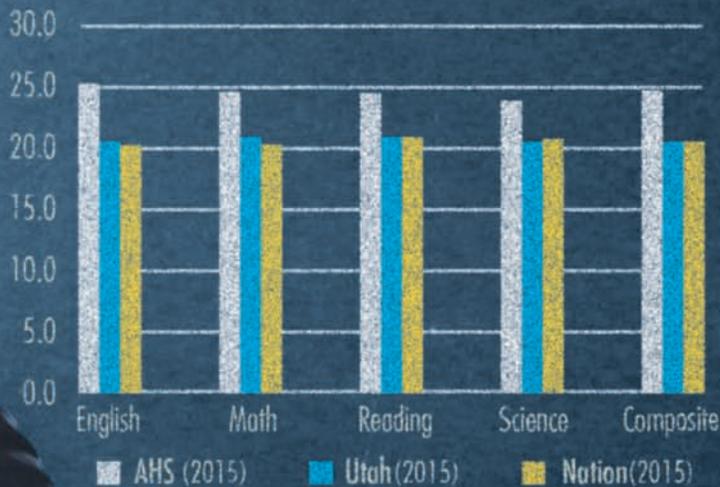
A+

Research
Reason
Relate
Record



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 among both public and private institutions. In 2016, AHS students achieved a strong 81% pass rate on AP exams.



ACT, 9–12 High School Norms 2015



FAITH-CENTERED FINE ARTS

Educating both the mind and the heart requires a curriculum rich with opportunities for creativity and self-expression. All students in grades K–7 participate in twice-weekly visual art and music classes. AHS has the rare distinction of providing a unified K–12 Kodály music program taught by a staff of OAKE-certified music teachers. This means that students in these grades are taught to sing, read notation, and develop an appreciation of excellent, inspiring music. As associate members of UHSAA in Region 7 (4A), high school students have opportunities to perform and compete at the highest levels, including the Utah All-State Choir, Honor Choir, and various region and state festivals. In 2016, the high school A Cappella Choir received a “superior” rating at the State Choral Festival, placing it among the top high school choral ensembles in the state.

Drama and theater tech are also an important part of the AHS culture. In 2015, over 150 on-campus students participated in one of three play productions: *The King and I*, *Handing Down the Names*, and *Much Ado About Nothing*. 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.



“I can still remember standing on the stage with a pioneer bonnet around my neck clutching a shawl and singing about Rocky Ridge in *Trail of Dreams*—our play two years ago. On closing night the Spirit was so strong. The person I played was a real person who went through incredibly difficult things for her faith.... Because of this experience, I felt nearer to my ancestors. It was one of the most sacred and spiritual experiences I have ever had. I am so grateful for that experience, and I wouldn’t have had one like it at another school.”

—Klaesara Bybee, Class of 2016

THE KODÁLY CONCEPT



COMMUNITY-WIDE CHOIR AND ORCHESTRA PROGRAMS

American Heritage Lyceum Orchestras. The Lyceum Orchestras program at AHS currently has over 225 students from more than 75 schools. The 2015–2016 concert season featured performances with world-class musicians like The Piano Guys, William Joseph, Lexi Walker, and Jenny Oaks Baker. The Philharmonic also released its third commercial album, *Holy Night*, and has sold over 2,000 copies worldwide

through Deseret book and other major music distributors. Recently, The Philharmonic launched a YouTube Channel which has already received over 100,000 views. Including videos of the Philharmonic on collaborator sites, the Philharmonic has been viewed more than 70 million times on YouTube! Their Christmas-themed video *Ave Maria* was adopted by the LDS Church's "12 Days of Social" campaign where it was featured on LDS.org. The orchestra program offers mission-centered, world-class music education to students K–12 in five ensembles ranging from beginning to advanced.

American Heritage Youth Chorus. In 2016, the American Heritage Youth Chorus—an LDS-oriented choral organization for children and youth—completed

a 10-day tour of the Northwestern United States. The choir presented uplifting musical fireside for LDS stakes in Oregon and Washington. The message of the fireside centered on the purpose and power of the Book of Mormon. In the 2015–2016 season, the Youth Chorus also presented a free Thanksgiving concert for the community at the Alpine Tabernacle and completed its first ever professional music video (to be released in the Fall of 2016.) 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

In March of 2016, 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. Areas of interest included athletics, Constitutional studies, digital media, photography, fine art, cooking, sewing, molecular biology, web design, and world religions. These courses included student-led creative projects, expert guest presenters, and field trips to relevant places in the community.

American Heritage has all kinds of people. It is safe to learn here, and safe to fail, too. Teachers love and want what is best for the students. I've always struggled with confidence in myself, but by attending AHS I have changed. I have realized that God created me. He knows who He wants me to be and what He wants me to do here on earth. I know He has given me the talents and abilities to accomplish all that is necessary for what I must do. I have found myself, my mission, and my true potential. I will be forever grateful to American Heritage and the people who have helped me see myself how God sees me.

Isaac Reid, Class of '16



SERVICE-LEARNING

Education of the heart is further enhanced with regular opportunities to give service in the school, in the community, and in the world at large:

- Students participated in two school-wide “Service Days,” giving over 4,000 combined hours of service to individuals and organizations in the community.
- AHS classes held a “penny wars” competition and raised over \$2,500 to buy food supplements for children in the Philippines through the Liahona Children’s Foundation.
- Student collected white shirts and hundreds of children’s books and sent them to needy members in Mexico.
- At Christmastime, students earned money to purchase over 500 teddy bears to give to homeless children at the Ogden Rescue Mission.

INTERNATIONAL INFLUENCE

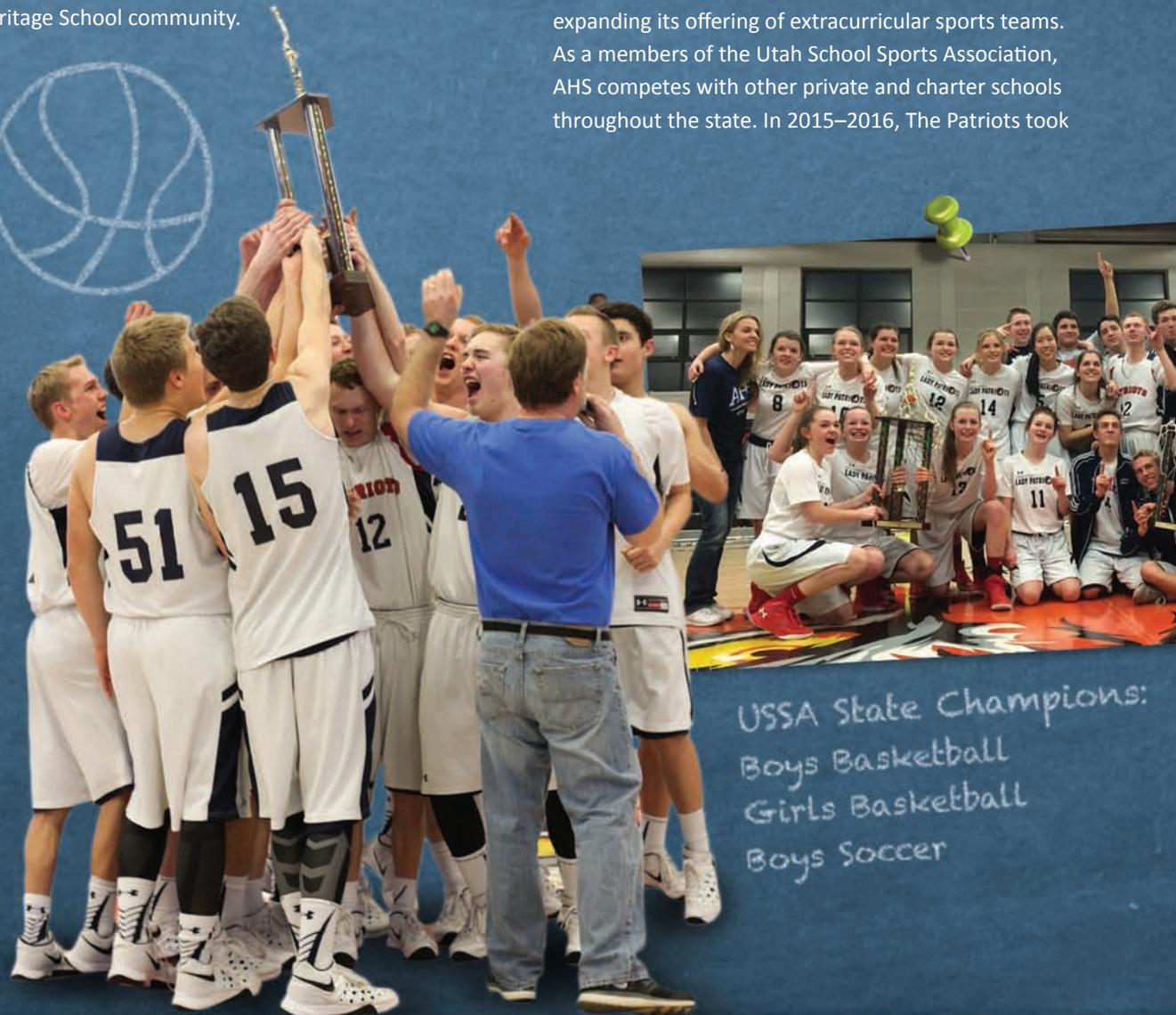
In September of 2009, American Heritage School received federal government approval to admit foreign students (F visa-holders). Students promptly applied and were admitted from South Korea, Venezuela, and Hong Kong, with many more on the waiting list. Since then, the international presence at American Heritage School has grown to include more students from those countries as well as from Canada, China, India, Mexico, Japan, Korea, France, Germany, Nepal,

and the Philippines. 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 perspective to the American Heritage School community.



AWARD-WINNING ATHLETICS

Athletics plays an important role in fulfilling 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. As a members of the Utah School Sports Association, AHS competes with other private and charter schools throughout the state. In 2015–2016, The Patriots took



USSA State Champions:
Boys Basketball
Girls Basketball
Boys Soccer

home state titles in boys basketball, girls basketball, and boys soccer. Members of the cross country team placed in the top three at several meets throughout the season. The middle school ballroom team received two silvers and two bronzes at a regional competition. Go Patriots!

FOCUS ON FREEDOM

American Heritage School believes patriotism must run deep within its students. 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 and to instill in them a spirit of gratitude for the blessings of freedom that they enjoy. Also, a special interactive program held each year on Constitution Day helps students get to know their founding fathers and mothers and contemplate the shared Christian character that made each of them great.

"In addition to gospel teachings, American Heritage has instilled in me a deep love and respect for the Founding Fathers, America's crucial history, and the founding documents such as the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution—in essence, a love of liberty."

—Kaleb Hansen, Class of 2016



Davin Nielson, AHS Class President 2015–2016

Latter-day LEARNING

THE FamilySchoolOnline.org



educational sharing

For decades, families have requested resources from American Heritage School for use in homeschools and academies. In 2007, the American Heritage School Board of Trustees commissioned the school's administration to create educational resources

for parents worldwide. Latter-day Learning is a brand that AHS uses to fulfill that mandate. Latter-day Learning's flagship program is known as The Family School.



Teacher Resources



Student Resources



inspiring curriculum & tools

The Family School

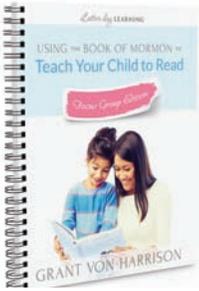
The Family School provides lesson plans to help parents and teachers lead inspiring, engaging lessons. Lessons contain academic concepts, gospel principles, flashcards, discussions, projects, and enrichment activities. Parents can teach multiple children at once using the Family School because activities for various age levels are provided.

The Family School Curriculum Team

Our team of 39 authors, editors, designers, and publishers produced 441 lesson plans and thousands of supporting resources in 2015-2016.



Using the Book of Mormon to Teach Your Child to Read



American Heritage School re-published Grant Von Harrison's scripture-based literacy curriculum, now titled Using the Book of Mormon to Teach Your Child to Read. Dr. Grant Von Harrison is the author

and is a former BYU professor whose research focused on early literacy with the intent to bless families worldwide. He developed phonics-based, early literacy curriculum based on his research, to serve parents, tutors, classroom teachers, and schools.

New Calendar, Planner, and Completion Tracker

Parents and teachers using TheFamilySchoolOnline.org received three new teaching tools in March 2016:

1

A calendar planning tool allows parents and teachers to drag and drop lessons onto a personal digital calendar.

2

A lesson preparation tool generates a list of materials needed for teaching one or more lessons.

3

A lesson completion tracker helps scholars, parents, and teachers monitor their progress.

These functions and tools help parents and teachers support their children's educational needs.



Online Courses

During 2015–2016, Mr. Nicholas Gentile led a scholarly, rigorous, LDS-oriented, inspiring, and character-focused exploration of the history of America. This course was open to students of all ages. Mr. Gentile is one of many Latter-day Learning teachers who provides online courses for students around the world.

building community

Conferences

Latter-day Learning representatives participated in conferences and congresses nationwide, including the World Congress of Families IX held in Salt Lake City in October



2015; the LDS Home Educators Conference held in Baltimore, Maryland; the LDS Homeschool Connections Conference in Salt Lake Valley; the Winter Homeschool Conference in Ogden, Utah; the Center Point LDS Homeschool Conference in Salt Lake City, and the Northwest LDS Homeschool Conference in Yakima, Washington. At these conferences, Latter-day Learning shared presentations and products to help parents and educators embrace the mission, values, and methods taught at American Heritage School.

Facebook Groups

The Worldwide Latter-day Learning Facebook Group has nearly 2,000 members who use social media to share ideas, information, and experiences. Join today!



Annual Latter-day Learning Retreat

American Heritage School hosted its 4th Annual Latter-day Learning Retreat in March 2016. The Retreat theme was "Become a Better Teacher in Your Home." A total of 366 individuals participated on-campus and 61 additional families living around the world joined



Lessons contain academic concepts, gospel principles, flashcards, discussions, projects, and enrichment activities.



us via Internet podcast. Presenters included John Bytheway, Merrilee Boyack, Richard and Linda Eyre, LaDawn Jacob, the Bigelow Family, and many others. Attendees met The Family School curriculum team, expanded personal networks, and shared lessons learned.

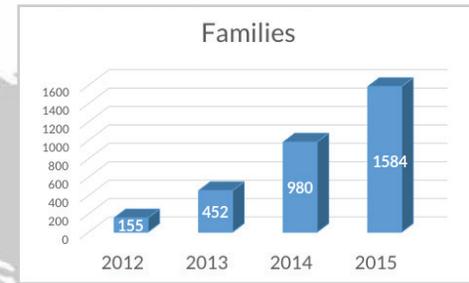


Teacher and Leader Training

Latter-day Learning traveled to James Madison Christian Academy (JMCA) in Roanoke, Texas and Liberty Hills Academy (LHA) in Bountiful, Utah to train faculty and leaders. These schools use Latter-day Learning and American Heritage School resources in their teaching and administration. For example, JMCA and LHA teachers include Latter-day Learning curriculum in their courses. Moreover, both academies embrace an honor code that is similar to American Heritage School's honor code for students and employees. Additionally, these academies produced American Heritage School's annual Patriotic Program, *The Spirit of America Speaks*. Latter-day Learning assists organizations who seek to carry out the kind of education AHS enjoys.

worldwide reach

Latter-day Learning families now live in 60 countries.



This is what we are going for. It's not just straight A's or a certain score on the SAT's, although I know that they are achieving excellence in academics, but it's that they learning a certain type of behavior, a certain type of discipline and character. They are becoming fine individuals.

—Karmel Larsen



This Christ-centered way of teaching invites the Holy Ghost in a way that enables you to learn and teach with power that you'll be amazed by.

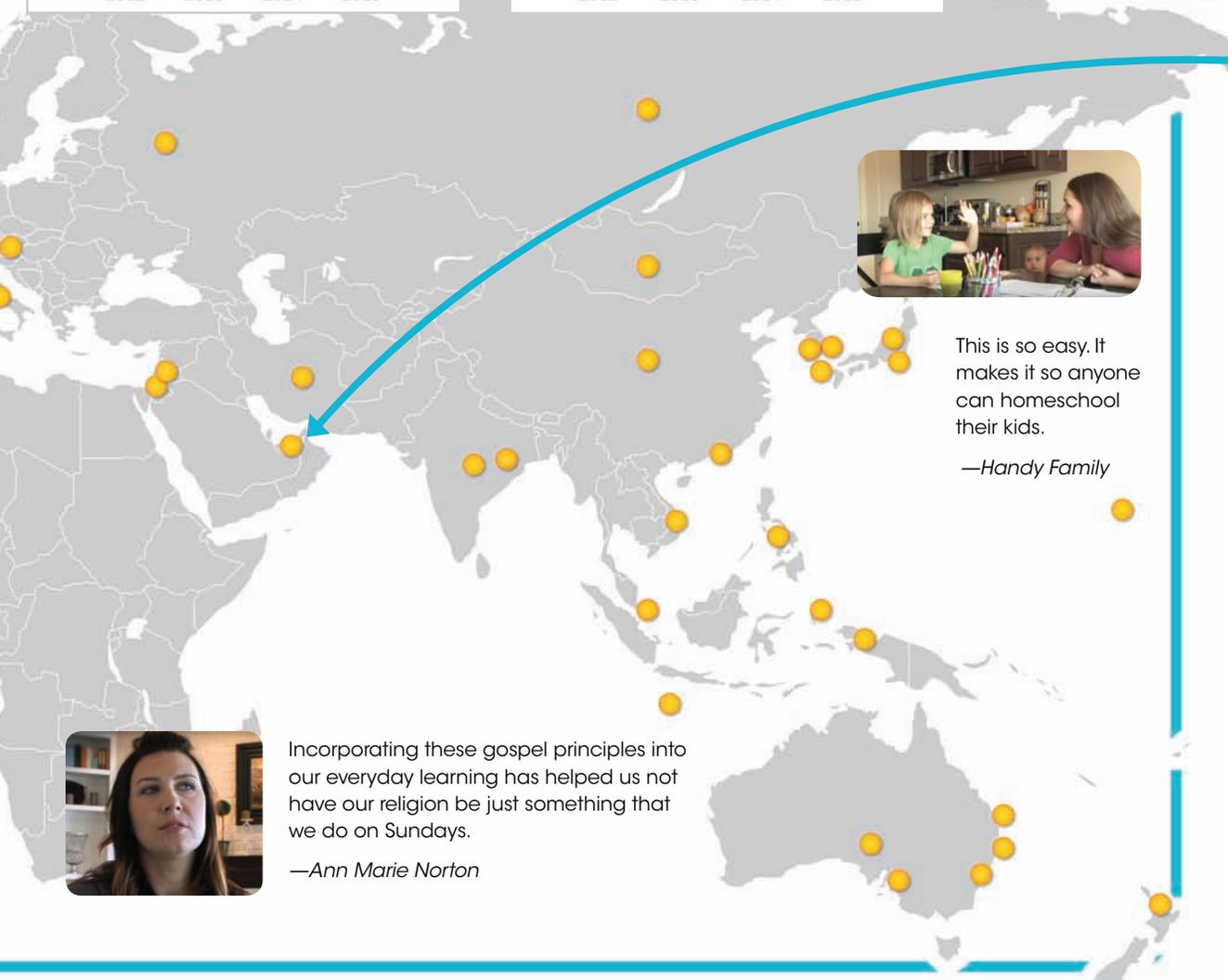
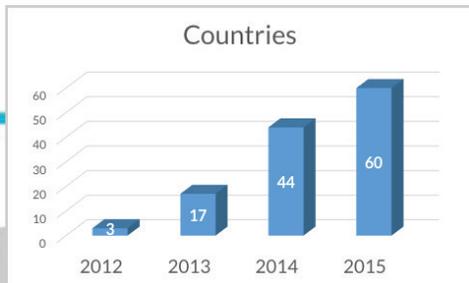
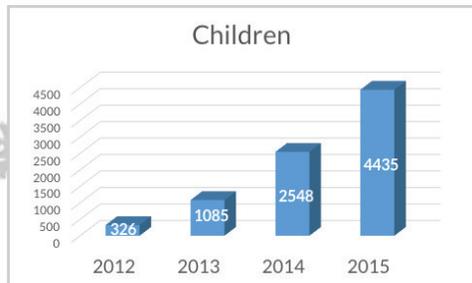
—Dr. Jenet Jacob



The Family School is always there to give you the fundamentals, and the activities, all the support, the ideas of what to do in homeschool.

—Pablo Riboldi

Learn more at www.LatterDayLearning.org



This is so easy. It makes it so anyone can homeschool their kids.

—Handy Family



Incorporating these gospel principles into our everyday learning has helped us not have our religion be just something that we do on Sundays.

—Ann Marie Norton



Andrea Rea (center) is originally from Utah and now lives in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, with her husband and the six youngest of her nine children. She says of The Family School, "It is so wonderful that the curriculum helps us draw every concept and principle back to the gospel. What I love most about The Family School is the peaceful spirit it brings to our home and the unity it gives us as a family." Andrea is now helping other families in Abu Dhabi use The Family School.

While searching through my notebooks from my early years at AHS, I found, tucked inside my kindergarten notebook, a quote by Elder David B. Haight, bordered by a design, roughly colored in with orange and green crayons by my young hands. It reads, 'Nothing touches the soul but leaves its impress and thus, little by little, we are fashioned into the image of all seen and heard, known and meditated.' In this way, I feel that my time at American Heritage has not merely changed my life, but helped to shape it thus far, both in my childhood days and throughout my youth. I'm realizing that lessons learned in Kindergarten are just as relevant—if not more so—in my life today than they were back then. I am so grateful that through the ever-increasing complexity of life, as I grew from childhood to youth and now from youth to young adulthood, these truths will remain steadfast.

Sarah Hilton, Class of 2016



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.



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