

AMERICAN HERITAGE  
SCHOOL  
AMERICAN FORK, UTAH  
EST. 1970

# ANNUAL REPORT

## 2017







Dear Friends,

**This year marked one of the most significant milestones in our school's history.** We graduated not only our largest senior class to date (55), but also our most prepared. Impressively, 98% of them were already admitted to outstanding colleges and universities on graduation day, 78% on scholarship, with \$1.6 million dollars in scholarship money collectively. More importantly, these scholars entered the world as living examples of the values, principles, and skills taught at the school.



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 is why our Board of Trustees is leading the charge to expand our campus and offerings. In 2017 we concluded the acquisition of 28 acres surrounding the existing campus, and commenced construction on new athletic fields and a beautiful new high school facility. **As exciting as our physical growth is, our number one focus as we grow is to promote a spirit of Christian character, inspired scholarship, and self-governed liberty in the individual hearts and minds of each student, one by one.** "Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty" (2 Cor. 3:17).

American Heritage is much more than a K-12 school in American Fork, Utah. We are a worldwide community with families and students taking courses in all 50 states and 60 countries who come together to participate in on-campus, online, and afterschool programs that offer extraordinary opportunities infused with the light of truth. We hope you will join the spirited march of the Patriots! 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).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Grant Beckwith". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Grant Beckwith, Principal



## CHARACTER

Developing hearts centered in Christ, influenced by example and refined through experience.



**AT AMERICAN HERITAGE SCHOOL,** helping students develop Christ-like character is our number-one priority. Teachers, staff, and administrators are charged with being living examples of Christian discipleship.

In 2017, several guest speakers were invited to the campus including John Bytheway, **Immaculee Ilibagiza**, Gail Halverson, and Bruce and Marie Hafen. Each of these individuals shared a unique story of service

and faith and showed how Christian character is essential to a happy, meaningful, and impactful life. Students are also invited to participate in school-wide service days throughout the year. **“Succor[ing] the weak, lift[ing] up the hands which hang down, and strengthen[ing] the feeble knees,”** helps students maintain an outward focus and develop a desire to serve throughout their lives (*Doctrine and Covenants 81:5*).



# SCHOLARSHIP

Inspiring minds through transformational teaching and learning in the light of the restored gospel.

**AMERICAN HERITAGE SCHOOL PROVIDES** a rigorous academic experience with a restored-gospel perspective. Instructors use best-practice teaching methods to stimulate curiosity, challenge assumptions, and allow students to think and act for themselves. An immersive, week-long activity called “Experiential Learning Week” allows students to have meaningful, hands-on engagement in a chosen field of study. Experiential Learning Week course offerings included interior design, constitutional studies, digital media,

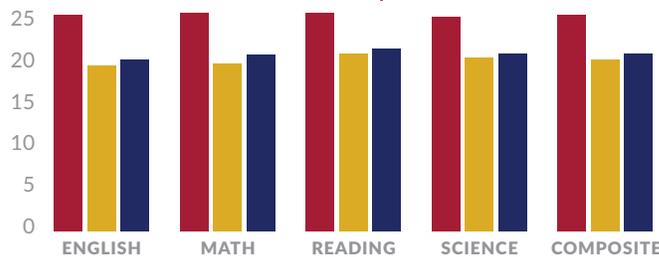
photography, culinary arts, zoology, bookmaking, aerospace, engineering, and more. American Heritage students historically perform one or two grade levels higher across the board on STAR testing and score an average of **25% higher on the ACT** than state and national averages. Last year saw the greatest gains from a previous year in the school’s history. Graduates from the class of 2017 were admitted to BYU (all campuses) and 20 other major universities and colleges throughout the country.

**13:1**

STUDENT TO TEACHER RATIO

**20**

AVERAGE CLASS SIZE



2017 Average ACT Scores



**25**

AVG. AHS ACT SCORE

## SENIOR CLASS OF 2017

— 55 STUDENTS FROM 6 COUNTRIES —

China | Italy | Hong Kong | Ghana | Korea | USA

**96%**

GRADUATION RATE

**98%**

COLLEGE ADMISSIONS

**78%**

COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

**\$1.6M**

IN COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP OFFERS

**100%**

WRITE & DEFEND A 20-PAGE SENIOR THESIS



# LIBERTY

**Choosing moral self-government as the foundation of thriving individuals, families and communities.**

**BY CAREFULLY STUDYING THE LIVES** of the founding fathers and mothers of America, students learn the importance of moral self-government and why it is essential to lasting liberty. Pageants, devotionals, and classroom celebrations bring to life many important moments from the past like the First Thanksgiving at

Plymouth; the signing of the Declaration of Independence by the Founding Fathers; and the crossing of the plains by the Mormon pioneers.

**American Heritage graduates possess great respect for the freedom that we enjoy** and, more importantly, a deep understanding of how to preserve and protect this precious gift of liberty.



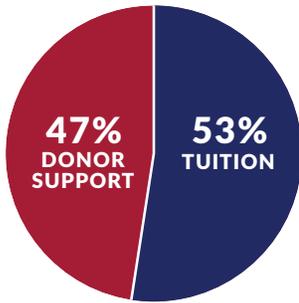
“This is a school that has taught me how to reason and relate, a school that has taught me how to identify true and correct principles, a school that has taught me to love others, and **a school that has made me a better person.**”

– Megan Holmes, AHS 2017 Graduate

The Spirit of America Speaks: Grades 3–12 Annual Liberty Pageant



# A Culture of Independence and Self-reliance



**THE GIFT OF AN AHS EDUCATION**  
How The True Cost of Each Student at AHS Is Funded

**47**  
YEARS SINCE AHS OPENED IN 1970

**\$58M**  
DONATIONS SINCE 2001

**\$566K**  
SCHOLARSHIP & TUITION REMISSION AWARDED IN 2016-17

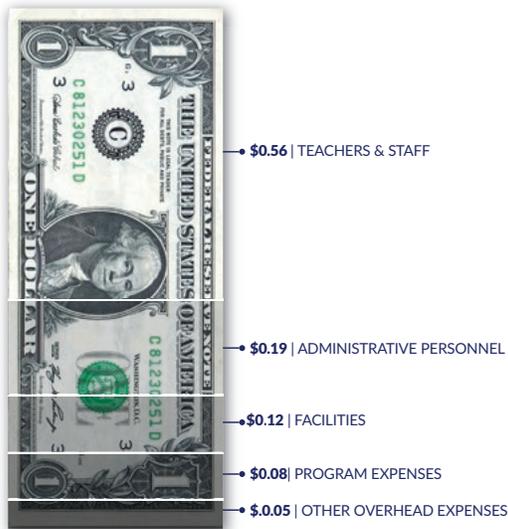
## CLEAN CULTURE COUNTS

"American Heritage School will save roughly **\$20 million dollars over a 50-year period** in facilities upkeep because of its 'clean culture.'"

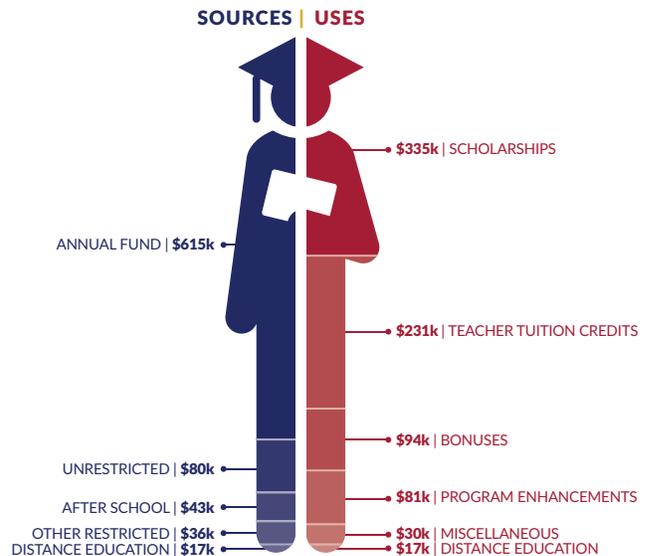
— Independent Facilities Management Audit

**THE SCHOOL HOLDS NO COMMERCIAL DEBT** and accepts no federal, state, or local tax funding. We are a truly independent and self-reliant school community. **To keep quality high and tuition low, we never use debt financing or tuition dollars – only donations – for land acquisitions, facilities expansion, and other significant building projects.** Without the generous support of donors, tuition for a private educational experience of similar quality and scope would need to be nearly double the present rate. In other words, **a student's tuition at AHS represents only about half of the true cost of that seat.**

## HOW EACH \$1 OF TUITION/ FEE REVENUE IS SPENT



## FUNDRAISING



# 2016–17 Year at a Glance

## NEW SPACES

An extensive building renovation added additional classrooms on the second floor. Student enrollment increased by about 7% in 2017.



## "ONE BY ONE"

The choirs and orchestras of American Heritage joined forces with Paul Cardall and Nathan Pacheco for an historic concert at the Salt Lake Tabernacle to premier "One By One," a new song with lyrics by Elder David A. Bednar.



## HONORING VETERANS

The Lyceum Philharmonic brought back a stirring performance of "One Nation," a special musical program about the Civil War written specially for American Heritage School.



JULY

AUGUST

SEPTEMBER

OCTOBER

NOVEMBER

DECEMBER



## LOOKING FORWARD

The Board of Trustees held a series of historic and visionary meetings outlining a bold and aggressive strategy for a mission-aligned campus expansion.



## DREAMS AND WISHES

The middle and high school production of Cinderella brought a bit of magic to the campus, boasting one of the largest student casts in the history of AHS drama productions.



## TEDDY BEARS

Over 400 teddy bears were donated by AHS students for the Ogden Rescue Mission, making roughly 5,000 bears donated since this project began in 2001.

## STUDENT WELLNESS

At an important All-Parent Meeting, Mr. Beckwith shared information about the school's ongoing and new efforts to improve student wellness by investing in health and fitness initiatives and improving homework and family life balance.



## HANDS-ON LEARNING

AHS high school students hiked through natural arches, decorated sponge cakes, built rockets with a 3D printer, and fed rhinoceroses during Experiential Learning Week.



## STILL GROWING

Ground was broken for a 28-acre campus expansion that will include outdoor athletics fields, an indoor athletics facility, curricular classrooms for grades 7-12, and a performing arts center.



JANUARY

FEBRUARY

MARCH

APRIL

MAY

JUNE



## STATE CHAMPS

Both varsity boys and girls basketball teams took home state titles in the USSA basketball tournament. Go Patriots!



## WORLD READERS

Elementary students embarked on an exciting journey around the world during The Amazing Read, reading a combined total of nearly 75,000 hours in a four-week period.



## FIRESIDE TOUR

The Heritage Youth Chorus completed an 11-day tour in the Southeastern United States. This marks the eighth service and performance tour for the choir, which has performed 45 musical firesides for LDS stakes in 23 U.S. states since its founding in 2009.

# Music Programs



**AMERICAN HERITAGE SCHOOL HAS A RICH** tradition of touching hearts and minds through music. Two community-wide music programs are housed at American Heritage School: The Heritage Youth Chorus and the Lyceum Youth Orchestras. These extraordinary programs have achieved a world-wide reach and have been praised for their unique ability to inspire hearts and minds through high-quality, uplifting music. In 2017, the American Heritage Youth Chorus completed its eighth musical fireside tour, visiting LDS stakes in Georgia, North Carolina, and Virginia with a fireside about living closer to Christ. The choir also performed

twice on Temple Square and released its first ever professional music video, reaching more listeners than ever with their unique brand of faith-centered choral music. The Lyceum Philharmonic received numerous accolades in 2017, including the coveted Best of State Award for the tenth consecutive year. The orchestra has recently performed side-by-side with **Paul Cardall, Nathan Pacheco, GENTRI, Lexi Walker, and Simply Three**. Videos featuring the Lyceum Philharmonic have been viewed by over a million individuals from around the world, making it one of the most widely viewed youth orchestras of all time.





“Singing in [the American Heritage Youth Chorus] has taught me that when we put forth our best effort and then turn to the Lord and give Him everything we have, **He will magnify our efforts beyond anything we could have even imagined.**”

— Caleb Kohn, AHS Class of 2017



# Character Athletics

**2017 WAS AN EXCEPTIONAL YEAR** for the athletics department at American Heritage School. An astounding four teams won state championships in the USSA league including boys volleyball, girls varsity cross country, girls varsity basketball, and boys varsity basketball. **Expanding**

**athletics opportunities for AHS students continues to be a priority.** In addition to a new, curricular intramural league, two extracurricular sports were added in 2017 (volleyball and golf) and more will be added as progress is made on the campus expansion.



4

USSA



STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS

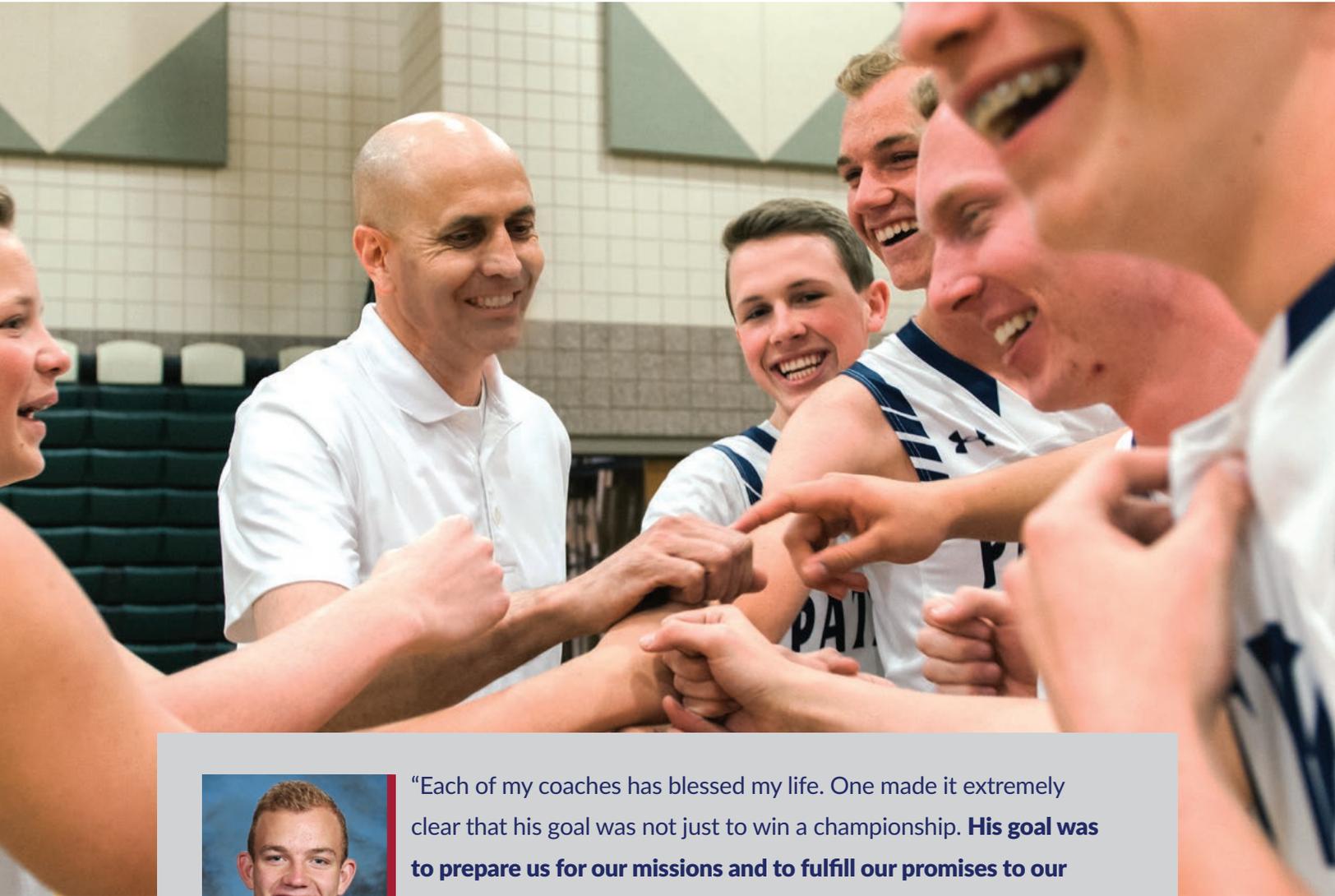
2016-17

BOYS VARSITY VOLLEYBALL  
GIRLS VARSITY BASKETBALL  
BOYS VARSITY BASKETBALL  
GIRLS VARSITY CROSS COUNTRY



## WE'RE MOVING UP!

Next year AHS will join the UHSAA (Utah High School Activities Association) in the 2A Division for Basketball, Soccer and Cross Country, as well as two **NEW** sports: **Tennis and Track & Field**. Volleyball will continue in the USSA League.



“Each of my coaches has blessed my life. One made it extremely clear that his goal was not just to win a championship. **His goal was to prepare us for our missions and to fulfill our promises to our brothers to bring the gospel to them.** He did all this and improved each of us as basketball players. He brought our confidence to a new level—confidence that we can use into our futures, not just on the court.

— Brayden Bailey, AHS 2017 Graduate

# A Foundation of Sacrifice

**SINCE ITS FOUNDING IN 1970, AMERICAN** Heritage School has maintained a culture of collective sacrifice and careful stewardship. Ever since the mortgage on the old building was paid off by a generous donor, the school has operated without any debt and has not accepted assistance from government or other external sources. In 2017, over \$32 million dollars was donated for the

acquisition of adjacent lands and for construction of additional facilities. Nearly \$800,000 was donated by families, faculty members, and others in the school's annual fund drive, helping fund student scholarships, increased teacher compensation, and other important priorities. Sacrifice makes sacred, and nearly every family at AHS gives back in spirit of shared responsibility and stewardship.



**“Those who lay the foundation of any great work do so because of love—love of God, love of fellow men, and love of country. This love instills in them a profound desire to consecrate their lives to building Zion both temporally and spiritually. The founders of American Heritage School loved the founders of this nation. They loved their fellow men, and they loved God’s word, His prophets, and commandments. They believed in His promises.”**

— LaDawn Jacob, Board of Trustees, May 9, 2017  
Campus Expansion Groundbreaking Celebration





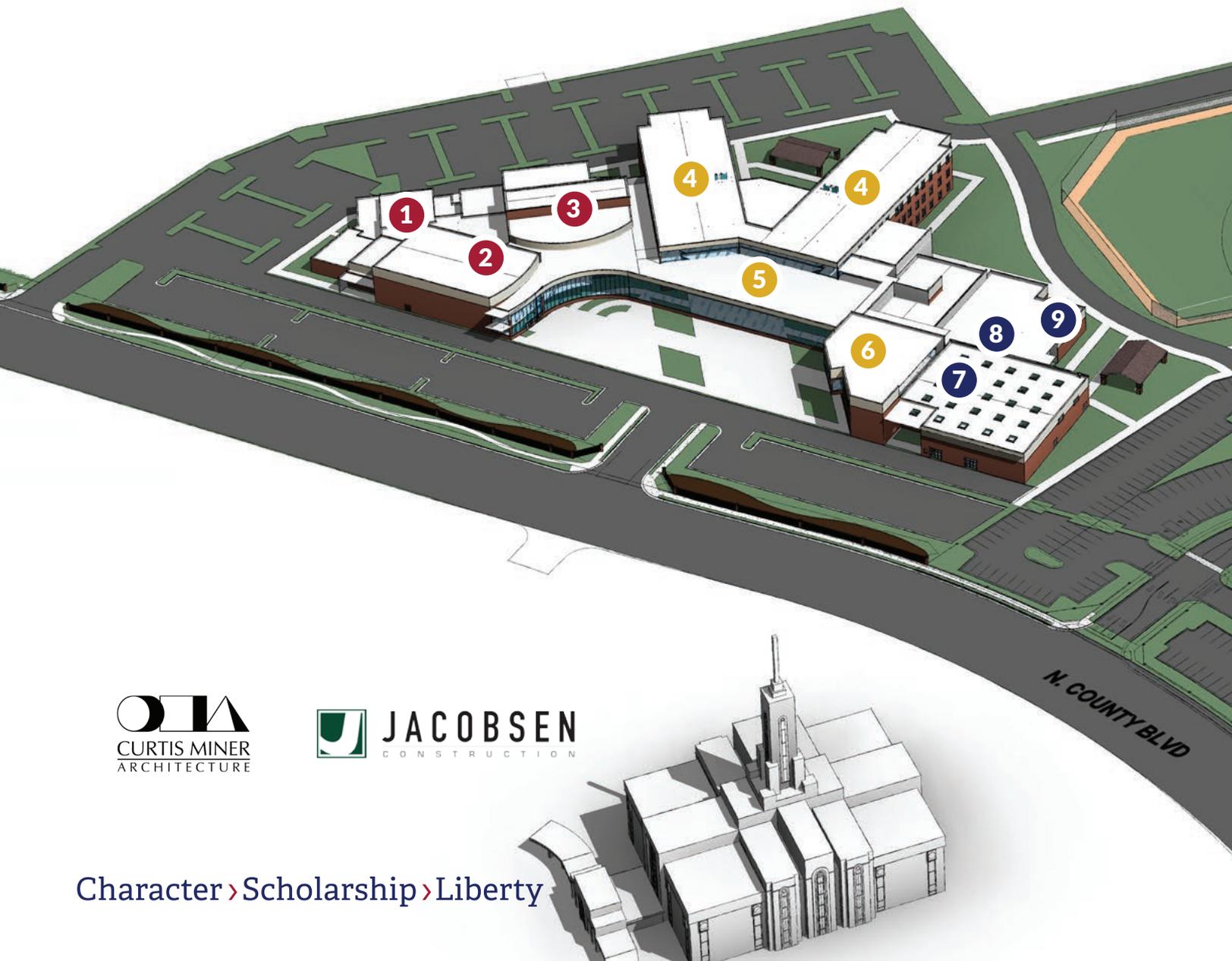
# Campus Expansion: Foundations for the Future

## Performing Arts Center (PHASE 3)

- 1 300-seat Small Theater | Auditorium
- 2 900-seat Concert Hall
- 3 Music Classrooms & Rehearsal Rooms

## Classrooms (PHASE 2)

- 4 Specialized Rooms For Science, Art, Engineering, Math & Technology
- 5 Student Commons & Activity Area
- 6 Administrative Staff Offices



Character › Scholarship › Liberty

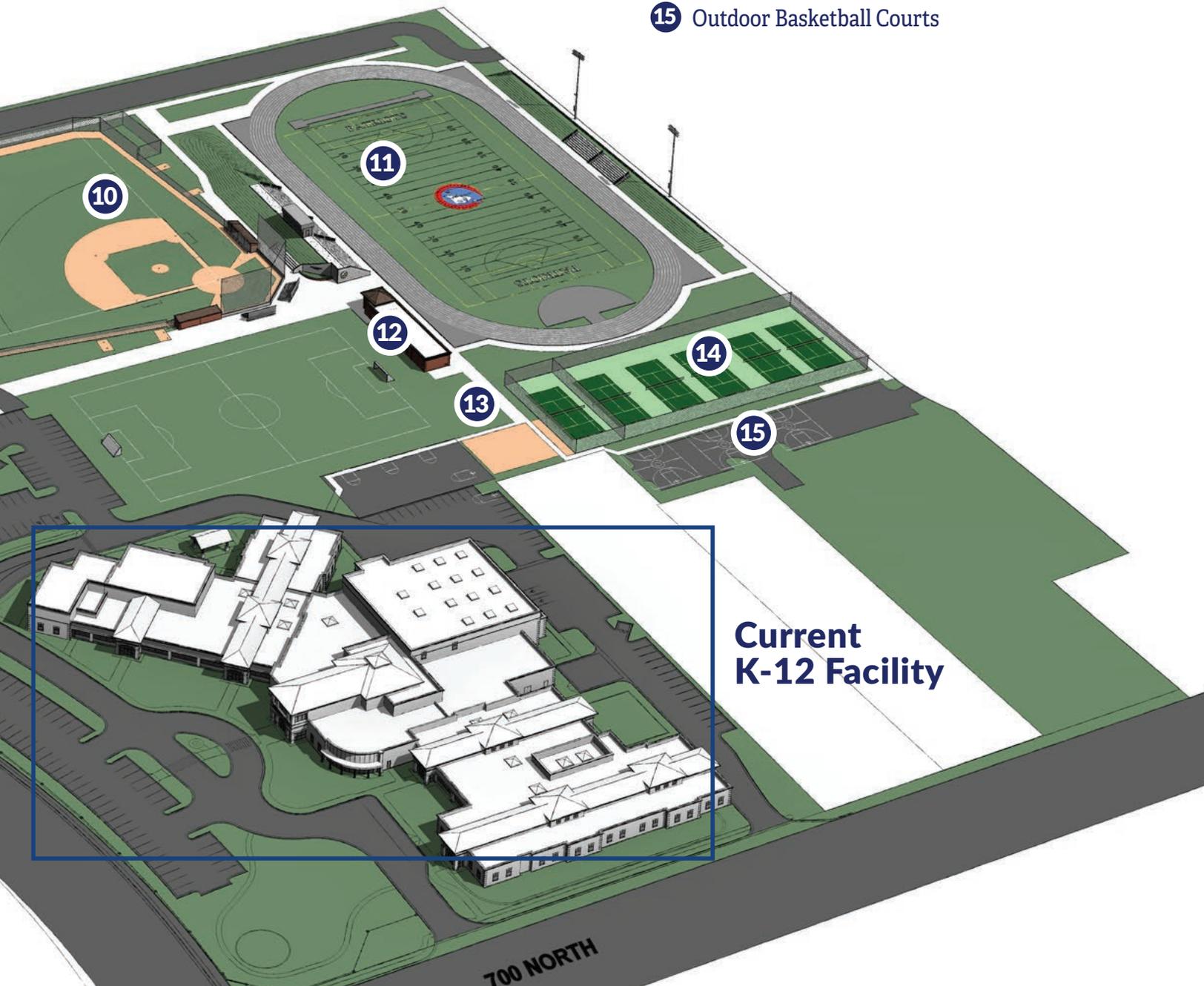
# AMERICAN HERITAGE SCHOOL

## Indoor Athletics (PHASE 1B)

- 7 2,000-seat Competition Gym with Elevated Indoor Track
- 8 Auxiliary Gym
- 9 Dance, Health, PE, Weight & Conditioning Rooms

## Outdoor Athletics (PHASE 1A)

- 10 Baseball & Softball Fields
- 11 1,200-seat Stadium, Soccer, and 8-lane Track & Field, with Announcer Booth
- 12 Concessions, Restrooms & Outdoor Storage
- 13 Expanded Elementary Play System
- 14 Tennis, Volleyball & Basketball Courts
- 15 Outdoor Basketball Courts



**Current  
K-12 Facility**

700 NORTH

# Campus Expansion

Scheduled Completion: Spring/Summer 2018

TENNIS  
COURTS

RESTROOMS &  
CONCESSIONS

TRACK & FIELD  
STADIUM





**PATRIOT  
SQUARE**

**ATHLETIC  
CENTER**

**BASEBALL/SOFTBALL  
FIELD**



# Campus Expansion Athletic Center Renderings



2,000-SEAT COMPETITION GYM | ELEVATED 3-LANE INDOOR TRACK  
DANCE, HEALTH, P.E., & WEIGHT & CONDITIONING ROOMS | BOYS & GIRLS LOCKER ROOMS

## A Culture of Character Athletics



“I am so grateful that I could participate in so many sports at American Heritage. I learned what it means to be a leader, how to develop relationships on a team, and how to push myself past what I think is possible, which helped me academically as well. **I know from my experiences in AHS athletics that I can do hard things.**”

— Jens Jorgensen, AHS 2017 Graduate

# Worldwide Reach

## AS AMERICAN HERITAGE SCHOOL

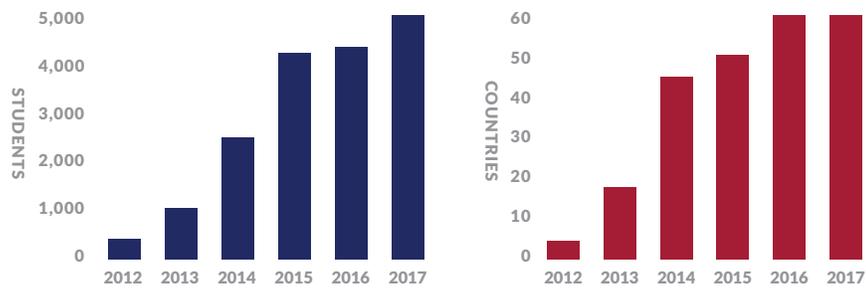
looks back on their worldwide outreach during 2017, they will see a year of reflection, refocus, and important refinement to the Family School curriculum. Once again, Family School provided a needed service to over 2000 families near and far, but importantly, Family School also made significant investments to improve each family's

experience on [www.familyschoolonline.org](http://www.familyschoolonline.org). On the day of Family School's 5-year anniversary, July 27, 2017, the product of this investment was revealed to over 500 families online and on-campus as part of the Family School MY WAY Reveal. It's an exciting time for the school's worldwide outreach, as families have tools to connect with content and each other their way.



**5,000**  
STUDENTS

**60**  
COUNTRIES



TOTAL FAMILY SCHOOL STUDENTS AND COUNTRIES BY YEAR



# FAMILY SCHOOL *My Way*

from AMERICAN HERITAGE SCHOOL



[www.familyschoolonline.org](http://www.familyschoolonline.org)



**FAMILY SCHOOL STUDENTS WORLDWIDE**



"I will forever be grateful to my parents for sacrificing and seeing the benefits of this school to let me attend. I hope sometime in the future **my own children will be able to experience what I did here.**"

— Sarah Curzon, 2017 AHS Graduate



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