



American Heritage School News

September & October 2009

Message From the Principal

Happy 40th Anniversary American Heritage School! Welcome to a landmark year full of celebrating our past, looking to our future, and linking the two with each present and faithful step forward!

Much is new this year. We have beautiful new classrooms, exciting new programs, new opportunities for students, new faces from around the world, even a new mascot.



*New AHS Mascot (Draft)
The "American Heritage Minutemen"*

But change at American Heritage School is based upon changeless principles that are an “anchor to the souls of men.”ⁱ In striving to align ourselves with these principles and a mission statement that has endured the test of time, the School has continued to grow and thrive from the day it opened its doors, impacting more lives in more profound ways.

And yet, amidst this ongoing growth, our focus continues to be on “the one” – the divine son or daughter with the impress of “Godly individuality”ⁱⁱ so “fearfully and wonderfully made”ⁱⁱⁱ in the heart and countenance of each child.

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Celebrating Our Past

This September we will hold our 40th Anniversary Celebration – an “opening ceremony” extravaganza that will serve as a powerful and inspiring kick-off to a year full of activities intended to honor the legacy of faith, sacrifice and patriotism that we have inherited at the School. The event will feature students in colonial attire, a large youth chorus, a BYU Brass Quintet performing specially arranged music for AHS, a revolutionary war flag ceremony, a dedicatory prayer for our new facilities, a special multi-media presentation, and more.

As you enter the building this year, please notice the new “time-line” banners beautifully depicting the history of American Heritage School:

In 1876, Brigham Young directed Karl G. Maeser to found “Brigham Young Academy,” a secondary school independent of the Church and the State, which grew to include grades K through 12 as well as a growing number of post-secondary students.

In 1896, as a result of financial strain, the Board of Trustees of Brigham Young Academy voted to transfer the academy to the Church.



Brigham Young Academy, Founders Day, 1900

In 1903, the Church divided Brigham Young Academy into two entities: Brigham Young University on the “upper campus” and the Brigham Young High and Brigham Young Elementary on the “lower campus.” Brigham Young High and Brigham Young Elementary served as the heart and laboratory of the BYU College of Education for 65 years. H. Verlan Andersen, Reid Bankhead, Laurie (Bankhead) Swim, H. Verlan Andersen Jr., LaDawn (Andersen) Jacob, and other future founders of American Heritage School personally attended or enrolled their children for many years in the Brigham Young Academy.

In 1968, BYU President Ernest Wilkinson announced that Brigham Young High and Brigham Young Elementary would be closed at the end of the school year. In 1968 and 1969 Dr. H. Verlan Andersen met with a group of other BYU professors and parents with the intent of re-establishing a private school to have their children's academic learning enhanced and enlightened by principles of morality, religion, liberty, and patriotism. The founders named it “American

Heritage School” and initially held classes in homes and other locations until they could find a suitable school building.

In 1970, American Heritage School founders acquired an old LDS chapel in Pleasant Grove, Utah and opened “American Heritage School” with 80 students enrolled. Enrollment doubled from 80 to 163 students. The first Board of Trustees included H. Verlan Andersen (Chairman), Dr. Smith Broadbent, Dr. Gary Beus, Dr. Eldred Johnson, Joe Ferguson, Allan Keith, Wayne Keith, and Glenna Peterson. Glenn Kimber, Allen Keith, and Norris Gould served as a few of the first principals at the School.



In 1972, H. Verlan Andersen commissioned teachers Geneve Cornell Deuel and Kay Asay to author a patriotic program entitled “The Spirit of America Speaks,” which has been produced annually each Spring and has grown to become a one-of-its kind “pageant of Christian Liberty.” Rick Hutson, Michelle Call, and Glenna Peterson served as School principals. Kay Asay began the choral program.

In 1975, a widow by the name of Mrs. Greene freed the school from debt and it has been debt-free ever since. Marva Johnson began a string program that year and the American Heritage School children's choir sang at the Grand Canyon, the Mesa Verde Visitor's Center, and at Zion's National Park. Geneve Cornell Deuel and Linda Boothe served as school principals.

In 1986, School founder H. Verlan Andersen was called by President Ezra Taft Benson to serve as a general authority.



H. Verlan & Shirley Andersen

In 1992, school founder Dr. H. Verlan Andersen passed away. Many families participated in a “Dusting Scholarship” as

a service-for-tuition agreement. The School came under significant financial strain, but continued to run smoothly as enrollment continued to climb. Board Trustees Mr. McCallister, Jim Jacob, and Verlan Andersen, Jr. (“VJ”) did much of the day-to-day management, including the School’s accounting and finance to keep it running smoothly. Gaylord Swim and his family joined the School, and Gaylord was elected Chairman of the Board of Directors. The School added the eighth grade, completing a full K-8 program.

In 1995, Gaylord Swim and Maxine Kerttula, principal, wrote and compiled the School’s first parent handbook. The uniform dress code was also adopted. Delta Science was introduced as a hands-on science program and Saxon Math was added to the curriculum. The School purchased its first three computers for the office and secretary and swamp coolers were added to the classrooms and auditorium, a great blessing to the faculty and students! Lauri Updike (7th grade teacher) introduced “Pre-hugged Teddy Bears” to the list of Christmas service traditions.

In 1996, Claranne Garrett Duke, principal, Paula Christensen, Trudy Camp, Marsha Clark, and Linda Strong traveled to Virginia to attend the Foundation for American Christian Education (FACE) training at StoneBridge. In 1997 after extensive review from various board members and faculty, the Board of Trustees voted to adopt selected FACE methodologies and curriculum.

In 2000, portable trailers were needed to accommodate the School’s growing student enrollment of 275. The Board of Directors approved the relocation of American Heritage School to a new campus, which would



Portable trailers added to the old Pleasant Grove AHS building

require a major fundraising effort. The windows of heaven were opened, and well over \$12 million in donations were obtained for the new campus. 100% of students participated in a Spring 2001 fundraiser for the new campus. On September 7, 2001, ground

was broken for the new building. Gaylord Swim, Claranne Duke, Trudy Camp, and teachers were instrumental in the design of the new campus. LaReta Brinkerhoff (8th grade teacher) began the annual week-long tradition of Shakespeare Week.

In 2002, faculty and students gratefully moved into the new American Fork campus across from the Mt. Timpanogos Temple. With capacity for 400 students, there appeared to be plenty of room to grow. The old American Heritage School building (Pleasant Grove campus) was leased to the John Hancock Charter School. Student enrollment continued to increase and the number of teachers increased to meet the need. Fred Roberts served as principal of the School. Homeschool history curriculum was developed under the direction of John P. Covey.

In 2005, Gaylord Swim, Chairman of the AHS Board of Trustees, passed away. His wife, Laurie Swim, was unanimously elected to take his place as Board Chairman and Grant Beckwith was invited to serve as principal. Enrollment quickly surpassed 400, outgrowing the capacity of the recently constructed building. The Board of Trustees voted in 2006 to add high school and launch the “Educating Hearts & Minds Building Expansion (Fundraising) Campaign.”



Gaylord & Laurie Swim

In 2007, the first high school students enrolled at the School and growth continued in elementary school. Ground was broken in October 2008 for the building expansion. Generous students, patrons, and donors gifted over \$4 million to complete the school-wide facilities expansion amidst one of the most severe economic recessions in national history. Additions included high school classrooms, new elementary science and art rooms, an orchestra/choir facility, and additional land for parking and future growth. Employee, Financial, and Board Handbooks were drafted and the School engaged in accreditation

through the Pacific Northwest Association of Independent Schools.

In 2008, distance learning and other internet-based products were introduced to reach families around the world. Community impact increased as one of Utah's premier student orchestra programs was acquired (remaining open to the community), extracurricular athletics were launched, and the AHS Family Education Center established the annual Family Forum and Foundations Training events for the community.



In 2009, enrollment surpassed 500, a community youth chorus was acquired, and the first foreign exchange students (from Korea and Venezuela) were welcomed to the School. In addition, the first two American Heritage High School students were admitted directly from AHS to universities: Aja Tolman to BYU, Provo, and Catherine Bowen to Southern Virginia University.

Linking Future and Past to Anchor the Present

Successful people and institutions tend to have a deep understanding that they are indebted to other people for most (if not all) of their greatest accomplishments. One modern day prophet suggested that the most important word in all of human language is "Remember."^{iv} Once we truly acknowledge that we all stand on the shoulders of giants – that we are nothing without the work of those who rest in our graveyards and battlefields – we begin to become like those whom we honor through memory.

If we cannot acknowledge that we are nothing without them, then maybe we can at least remember Nemesis,

the Greek mythological goddess who roamed the earth seeking out the powerful and successful at the moment of their triumph only to destroy them for their vanity and arrogance.

In the recent words of a wise old college commencement speaker to the rising generation:

You the whiz mathematicians of this graduating class, mow your lawn before you enter Harvard. You the concert level violinist, help your mother iron the family clothes before you go off to the conservatory. You the scholarship football player, climb up with your father to mend the gutter before you head to practice. Ground yourself with reality, and when all those whom you thought rich and powerful desert you—and at times many of them will—you will have your hands, your work ethic, your childhood friends, and your families to remain with you. And they will.^v

Looking to Our Future

There are at least three questions that every forward-looking institution should be tenaciously asking and answering: (1) Where are we going? (2) How are we going to get there? (3) Why will we succeed?

In April of 2007 the AHS Board of Trustees took a significant and faithful footstep by adopting a 20-year strategic plan that answered these questions, including a simple but profound statement of core strategic vision:

"By 2027, American Heritage School will be an effective educational resource for parents worldwide in assisting children and families to maximize their divine potential."

The two questions "how are we going to get there?" and "why will we succeed?" have various answers in the School's strategic plan, ranging from program strategies to inspiring curriculum. But there is a BEST answer that does more to ensure we will achieve the mission and vision of the School than anything else: Attract, retain, and develop great teachers.

Our Teachers Need Your Help!

Most teachers at AHS make less than they could earn elsewhere. They come and stay as long as they can because they are drawn by our mission and spirit. But we must do better to attract and retain the best teachers (which we have!). **The School has made tremendous strides forward in our teacher compensation over the last few years; however, for the first time, we have no present or expected donations in our “Professional Development Fund” or “Faculty Bonus Pool” for the 2009-2010 year – which historically have been a significant part of our teachers’ annual compensation.**



AHS Teacher Elaine Salsbury in 1999 with her Kindergarten class

Can you help our teachers? Donations to the American Heritage School Professional Development Fund and Faculty Bonus Pool are paid directly to teachers, dollar-for-dollar.

Our goal in this year’s “Educating Hearts & Minds Annual Campaign” is to raise \$300,000 to help increase our teachers’ modest salaries and benefits. With well over 300 families at the school, this is a very achievable goal if we’ll each take some personal responsibility for it. The \$4 million that we raised for the building campaign was a true miracle in one of the severest recessions we have seen in decades. **WE BELIEVE IN MIRACLES!** Raising tuition is always a last resort – and we continue to set tuition rates at approximately half of the “true” cost of a seat at AHS (accounting for

building, furniture, fixtures, etc.) to keep the school as affordable as possible.

We need your help! We all gratefully recognize the patient hands and willing hearts of men, women, and children (named and unnamed) on whose shoulders we already stand. We know that we all drink from wells that we have not dug.

But most of all, we recognize the hand of God. We are the branches; He is the vine.^{iv}

Sincerely,

--Grant Beckwith

ⁱ Ether 12:4

ⁱⁱ “God’s Principle of Individuality” is the first principle of “The Seven Principles of America’s Christian History, Government and Education” – a set of pedagogical principles developed by the Foundation for American Christian Education and employed foundationally at American Heritage School.

ⁱⁱⁱ Psalm 139:14

^{iv} Spencer W. Kimball, (*Circles of Exaltation* [address to religious educators, Brigham Young University, 28 June 1968], 8).

^v Dr. Victor Cline, Hillsdale College Commencement, May 2009.

^{vi} John 15:5

Student Submissions

*“Always Honor & Serve”
(By Kristee Hone, 11th Grade)*

The following inauguration speech was recently delivered to all AHS students by Kristee Hone, newly elected President of the AHS Student Government Association.



*Kristee Hone 11th Grade
AHS Student Government
President 2009*

Good afternoon. I was asked to speak to you today as your new Student Government Association President.

At American Heritage, there is something I feel we as students need to be reminded of and need to work on throughout this year. It is our school motto: “Always Honor and Serve.”

What does it mean to always honor and serve? To me it means to be a friend to those that need a friend. To help those who are in need of help. To stand up for what you believe in, no matter the circumstances. To be a strong example to those who are not sure of themselves, which is something we probably all take turns feeling at some point in life when we don't know where or what we need to be doing.

One of my favorite stories is about a little girl named Katie. Katie lived in a tiny house in a very small village. Her parents told her that everyone is a prince or princess, and taught her that they had all once lived in a beautiful Crystal Palace. She asked her parents if she could return to the Crystal Palace some day. Her father replied, "First you must learn to act like a princess." Katie decided at that moment, she was going to spend the rest of her life living and acting like a princess would.

We all are princes and princesses who are sons and daughters of a Heavenly King. He wants us to return to him someday. To return to him, we need to act like princes and princesses should. It won't be easy at times in our life, but if we always honor and serve our families, friends, neighbors, teachers, all those who we come in contact with, our reward in the end will be great!

In the years to come, life could get more difficult. We will be starting college or serving missions in other cities, states, maybe even countries. Our political and economic arenas and moral standards of this society may continue to deteriorate. But one thing that goes along with, "always honoring and serving," is to "stand when standing isn't easy." We all will have different experiences throughout this year and our lives. It will not always be easy to stand for what is right and true.

One of my favorite quotes, my sister has on her wall says, "When life gets too hard to stand...kneel." When we are remembering to stand, sometimes we stand tallest on our knees. Never give up something that is important to you like your testimony, your standards, your family, your education, and your freedoms.

As we advance into having a complete high school, the roles of student body leadership will increase in

magnitude. I want to encourage you to all participate. These leadership positions can provide us with some experience in a political setting and help us to understand what it takes to be leaders

I like this quote from President Hinckley's book 'Standing for Something', which states:

Regardless of our circumstances we must go forward with faith and prayer, calling on the Lord for his sustenance and direction. We will discover, as the years pass, that there has been a subtle guiding of our footsteps in paths of progress and great purpose. We must not be trapped by the sophistry of the world, which for the most part is negative and which seldom, if ever, bears good fruit. We must not be ensnared by or lean on the words of those clever ones who's self-appointed mission is to demean that which is sacred, to emphasize human weakness rather than inspired strength, and to undermine faith. We must walk with hope and faith. We must speak affirmatively and cultivate an attitude of confidence. We all have the capacity to do so. Our strength will give strength to others, and the cumulative rippling effect will be tremendous. ("Standing for Something," by President Gordon B. Hinckley, page 104)



I am so grateful that I am able to come to this school. Here we can learn what we want to learn, and here we can learn to be the princes and princesses that will make this world a better place. If we take advantage of what is available here, we can gain more knowledge, more confidence in ourselves, and gain the confidence necessary to stand when standing is not easy.



Stain glass window from the old AHS Pleasant Grove building "The House of the Righteous Shall Stand"



Sixth grade students gather around Miss Richardson for a discussion of Ellis Island "Milestones of Freedom" in connection with the AHS Constitution Day Celebration on September 17, 2009

I am going to challenge each of us to befriend someone new or to go out of our ways to do one act of service a day. I think that if we do this, it will help define who we are as individuals, and the world around us will be a better place.

I am really excited to be your Student Government President for the first semester of the 2009-2010 school year. If you have ideas for activities or if you have problems that you would like to address, please let me help you. I think we can advance the number of activities at this wonderful school. We have a lot of talent and can make our activities fit our culture at this school. I think we can really build our student leadership program into something we are proud of.

I am convinced this is one of the best schools ever, with some of the most remarkable youth and friends, leaders, teachers, and staff, I think I will ever meet and love. We have what we need to succeed, right here at American Heritage! Thank you.

Kristee Hone, President
2009/2010 AHS Student Government Association

Calendar at a Glance

September

- 16-17 Constitution Day Assemblies K-11
- 17 40th Anniversary & Dedication 6:30 p.m.
- 18 Mid-Term
- 22-24 Book Fair Tu. 12-3 p.m. W & Th. 8 a.m.-8 p.m.
- 23 Parent Teacher Conferences 4:00-8:00 p.m.**
- 24 Parent Teacher Conferences 4:00-8:00 p.m.**
- 24 Testing: EXPLORE (8th), PLAN (9th), Practice ACT (10th-11th) 8:10 a.m.-11:40 a.m.
- 25 Teacher In-Service, No School (K-11th)**

October

- 2 Picture Day (Cory Adams)
- 9 Sixth Grade Devotional 8:40 a.m.
- 9 Fall Festival 6:00 p.m.
- 14 PSAT/NMSQT Exam 10th-11th 8:10-11:40 a.m.
- 15 Fall Break – No School**
- 16 Fall Break – No School**
- 19 Fall Break – No School**
- 22 First Term Ends
- 23 Fall Dance 8:00-10:00 p.m.(14 and up)
- 23 Teacher In-Service, No School (K-11th)**
- 27 Jr. Spelling Bee (1st -3rd)
- 29 Harvest Parties 2:00 p.m.(K-6th)
- 30 Teacher In-Service, No School (K-6th), Early out for (7th-11th) 2:00p.m.**

November

- 6 Picture Retakes 8:40 a.m.
- 7 "Price of Freedom" Multi-Media Presentation and Lyceum Philharmonic Concert at AHS
- 9-13 Custodial Appreciation Week
- 10 Sr. Spelling Bee (4th-8th)
- 13 Family Lecture Series 7:00 p.m.
- 13 Teacher In-Service, No School (K-6th), Early out for (7th-11th) 2:00 p.m.**

AHS 2009 Standardized Test Results Congratulations Students!!

Congratulations to all AHS students for a truly exceptional performance on the 2009 national standardized exams (Iowa Test of Basic Skills and ACT "PLAN" and "Explore"). Once again, school-wide scores were very strong. The composite school averages were 85th percentile for grades K-6 and 95th percentile for grades 7-8. This outstanding performance represents positive trends (compared to

AHS school averages last year) for both elementary and middle school. In addition, Grades 9 and 10 took the ACT “PLAN” and ACT “Explore” exams and averaged well above state and national averages, including five students who received special letters of recognition from the Utah State Office of Education for exceptional performance on these exams relative to high school peers statewide (national percentiles are not provided by ACT for the PLAN and Explore exams and we will not have year-over-year trend data until next year; this was the first year taking these exams). Congratulations AHS students, teachers, and families! Keep up the great work.



AHS Teachers Awarded “Master Teacher” Honors

Congratulations to Mrs. Paula Soderstrom (first grade teacher) and Mr. Stephen Carman (ninth grade teacher) on their completion this summer of the American Heritage School Master Teacher Development (“MTD”) Program, Level 1. The MTD Program requires well over 150 hours (per level – four level total) of focused study and application in AHS curriculum and methodologies. Well done teachers!

AHS 40th Anniversary Celebration and Building Dedication

Don’t miss American Heritage School’s 40th Anniversary Celebration and Building Dedication, next Thursday, September 17, from 6:30-8:00 p.m. Please bring your whole family and invite your neighbors to this SPECTACULAR celebration that will commemorate American Heritage School’s 40th

Anniversary, Constitution Day, and the completion and dedication of our new building. The program is free and open to the public and will feature students in colonial attire, a 100+ member AHS Youth Chorus and BYU Brass Quintet performing specially arranged music for the event, a revolutionary war flag ceremony, remarks from Mayor Heber Thompson and AHS Board Chair Laurie Swim, a special multi-media presentation, and more. You won’t want to miss this! We have 1200 seats in the recreation hall and hope that each family in the school will invite guests so that we can fill them! This is a rare opportunity to experience American Heritage School through pageantry, song, history, and celebration. If you can help us by inviting guests, please use the following link and forward it to anyone that you would like to invite: <http://american-heritage.org/Dedication.htm>

40th Anniversary Essay Contest

Calling all writers! The American Heritage School 40th Anniversary Celebrations include an essay contest with prizes for students and adults in various categories. The theme is “What does American Heritage School stand for, and what does it mean to you?” Contest guidelines and criteria are set forth in the attached flyer. Due date for essay submissions is October 1 – so start your drafting early!

AHS Students Win Statewide Essay Contest; Attend “National Treasure Quest” Tour

The Daily Herald recently reported on American Heritage School students Michael Morris and Erika Brown’s “National Treasure Quest” tour of American History sites in Washington D.C., Philadelphia, and Virginia:



August 21, 2009: In the spirit of the Nicholas Cage movie “National Treasure,” a group of high schoolers, including two students from American Heritage, went on a National Treasure Quest this month. Most participants had to pay for their trip, but two participants won trips by placing in the ConSource Essay Contest. American Heritage school students Erika Brown and Michael Morris, Jr., won all-expenses-paid trips to Revolution-era historical sites with the Journey Foundations “National Treasure Quest. Congratulations Michael and Erika!



AHS Students Erika Brown and Michael Morris both won an all-expense-paid tour to Washington D.C. for their winning essays on principles of the American Founding.

AHS Students Honor Constitution Day at Ellis Island

American Heritage School celebrated Constitution Day 2009 by re-enacting the Ellis Island immigration, including taking the U.S. Oath of Citizenship and learning about the Constitution through the eyes of immigrants in the early 20th Century. Students received passports and initialed their personal commitments to “Milestones of Freedom” that were discussed with their classes. Personal “pocket copies” of the Declaration of Independence and the U.S. Constitution were also given to every student in the school (many thanks to the Nitta family for donating them!).



Mr. Cornell's 5th Grade class gathers around the “Welcome to Ellis Island” banner in connection with AHS Constitution Day Celebrations

AHS Honor Code: Standards for Life!

This year marks the first year that all students and parents in the school have been requested to sign and submit an “Honor Code Statement” that reinforces the LDS-based standards and expectations in the AHS Code of Conduct, including “For the Strength of Youth” and “My Gospel Standards”. See the following links (for K-6 and 7-12 Honor Code Statements) on the “About Us” page of the School’s website to obtain copies of the Honor Code Statements.

<http://american-heritage.org/pdf/HonorCodeK-6.pdf>
<http://american-heritage.org/pdf/HonorCode7-12.pdf>

“Rosetta Stone” Online Foreign Language Learning Software Now Available to All AHS Students & Families

American Heritage School has received many requests to make RosettaStone® (web-based foreign language learning tool that we use in our foreign language classes) available to families and teachers for personal at-home use. We have discussed our license with RosettaStone® and have received permission to accommodate these requests. The cost will be \$75 per license (same price the school pays for each student user). Each license is for use by one person, facilitates learning one language (can be changed once), and will be active for one year. A

multimedia headset and internet connection are required and are not supplied by American Heritage School (multimedia headsets may be purchased inexpensively at department stores and electronics stores).

To register online for Rosetta Stone, click on the “Get RosettaStone®” link on our home page (www.american-heritage.org). Language choices include: Arabic, Chinese (Mandarin), Danish, Dutch, English (American), English (British), Filipino (Tagalog), French, German, Greek, Hebrew, Hindi, Indonesian, Irish, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Latin, Pashto, Persian (Farsi), Polish, Portuguese (Brazil), Russian, Spanish (Latin America), Spanish (Spain), Swahili, Swedish, Thai, Turkish, Vietnamese, Welsh.

Payments must be received by American Heritage School before activation. Payments (\$75 per license) can be made by two methods:

- (1) *Credit card.* Call 801-642-0055 with payment information.
- (2) *Check.* Mail or bring to the AHS Office (736 N. 1100 E. American Fork, UT 84003).

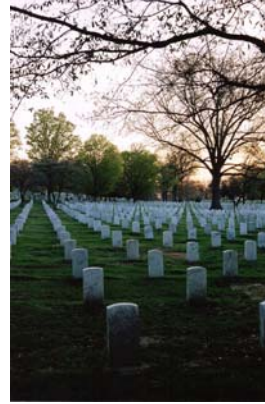
The deadline for registration and payment is October 15. Courses will become active by October 20.

ACT Exam Information for 8th-11th Grades

On the morning of September 24, all students in 8th-11th grades will take the EXPLORE, PLAN or Practice ACT. Students should get adequate sleep, eat a healthful breakfast, dress in layers, and bring a personal calculator. These tests prepare students to take the official ACT exam. Because BYU and other schools consider only an applicant’s highest composite scores, students should consider taking the ACT/SAT multiple times. Studies show that students who retake the ACT have a 57 percent chance of increasing their previous score by 1 to 3 points. Those points may not seem like much, but they could make all the difference when it comes to applying for admission and scholarships. The next official ACT exam will be given on October 24th. The registration deadline (without a late registration fee) is September 18. Registration and payment can be completed online at ACT.org. When registering for the official

ACT, please use our American Heritage School ACT School Code: 972923.

“Price of Freedom” Veteran’s Day Pageant to Debut in Utah at AHS



Saturday, Nov 7th, American Heritage School is honoring WWII Veterans in a multimedia concert event. Composer Rob Gardner and Music Director Kayson Brown will work with professional singers and the American Heritage Lyceum Philharmonic to present the story of four young soldiers who fought for our freedom. The moving portrayal features archive footage of WWII combined with moving music and will include a special tribute to Utah Veterans. Stay tuned for more information on tickets and pricing.

American Heritage Lyceum Philharmonic From Best-of-State to National Stage

As the last of the construction dust is swept away, crews of men in hard hats are replaced by crews of students with instruments. And if you strain your ears on a Wednesday afternoon you may hear a new sort of racket coming from the north end of American Heritage School. The award winning Lyceum Orchestras get underway September 16th with a concert season that is sure not only to catch the eye of the community but the ear of the nation.

**WINNER
BEST OF STATE**



UTAH 2009

After being named “Best Youth Performing Ensemble” in the State by Best of State Utah and performing on network television over the summer, the American Heritage Lyceum Philharmonic was selected as one of three orchestras in the country to perform at the 2010 American String Teachers National Conference in Santa Clara, California. This is an extraordinary opportunity to expose music educators from across the nation to the caliber of

music education and unique mission found here at American Heritage School. The Philharmonic will be performing sacred LDS hymns, classical masterpieces, and giving the California premier of a WWII patriotic tribute called “The Price of Freedom.”

*American Heritage Lyceum Philharmonic
2009-2010 Concert Season*

Nov 7 - “The Price of Freedom” Multi-media Concert and Veteran’s Day Celebration at American Heritage School

Dec 17 “An American Heritage Christmas” featuring Michael Ballam at American Heritage School

Feb 17-21 ASTA National Conference Tour – California

March 1 Abravanel Hall Festival Performance

April 16 Grand Finale Concert

If you play an instrument, or know someone who does, it’s not too late to come be a part of one of our FOUR youth orchestras. Click the Youth Orchestras link on the AHS website to get started.

<http://american-heritage.org/Lyceum.htm>

***Lyceum Music Festival 2010 to Feature
Renowned Violinist Jenny Oaks Baker***



The American Heritage Lyceum Music Festival is pleased to announce its 2010 Guest Artist - nationally acclaimed violinist Jenny Oaks Baker. Juilliard graduate and renowned soloist, Jenny Oaks Baker has sold over 150,000 albums and has performed at Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center and the Library

of Congress. Jenny is a Utah native and daughter of Elder Dallin H. Oaks, she said regarding the Lyceum Music Festival, “It sounds wonderful. I love working with young LDS musicians!” Students will be performing with Mrs. Baker American masterworks

from the orchestral repertory as well as music from her eight solo albums. This is a rare opportunity for talented, young musicians to perform with a world class artist. Sometimes all it takes to inspire a budding young musician is a positive role model like Jenny Oaks Baker, who has “made it,” and who believes they can too. The 2010 American Heritage Lyceum Music Festival is scheduled for July 26-31. Registration begins in January and is by audition only.

***American Heritage Youth Chorus to
Perform with Mormon Tabernacle Choir***

The Mormon Tabernacle Choir has invited approximately 10 students from the American Heritage Youth Chorus to participate in a combination youth choir that will perform side-by-side with the Mormon Tabernacle Choir at their 2009 Christmas Concert. It’s not too late to join the American Heritage Youth Chorus. Contact Rob Swenson at rsvenson@ahsmail.com if you are still interested in auditioning (especially young men with changed voices) – we need you!

AHS Senior Class Trip to Jerusalem

We are pleased to announce that the AHS Senior Class Trip has been confirmed for Jerusalem in May 2010. This is a change from the “Reformation Tour” (England/Scotland) that was previously announced last year.



American Heritage School students, parents, and faculty will have the opportunity to travel to Jerusalem for the inaugural “Senior Class Trip” in May 2010.

The length of stay will be 6 days beginning Thursday, May 20 (flying out of SLC). The “all-in” cost provided by LDS World Tours is \$2,995 per person, which includes airfare, lodging, and all other expenses. Dr. Richard Holzapfel of the BYU Dept. of Religious Studies will be the tour guide, with logistical support provided by LDS World Tours. Depending upon interest, seating may (or may not) be limited. **Thus, we invite any AHS families or faculty that are interested in joining the tour to please e-mail Mr. Beckwith directly, gbeckwith@ahsmail.com.** Depending upon the success of this tour, we are tentatively planning the Reformation Tour for the Spring or Summer of 2011 and hope to rotate the Holy Land Tour and the Reformation Tour every other year going forward.

From the Parent Organization

Thank you to all the parents who are serving at American Heritage! You are blessing the lives of the students, teachers and administration. Don't forget to turn in your yellow volunteer sheet. We have about 50% of the volunteer sheets so far. We would like to have every family sign up for one or two events. There are extra forms in the front office. Remember that in the parent handbook in section 20.4 “How Service Hour Records are Used” it states: Service hour records are used by administration to help determine whether to readmit a family returning to the school, whether to grant scholarships, and whether to grant seating requests (request for a teacher) in the case of limited available seats in a class where multiple requests for a teacher have been made. Please contact the Parent Organization regarding service opportunities by contacting Katie Holmstead at (801) 796-7791 or katie@holmstead.com.

Fall Festival is Coming!

This year's Fall Festival will be held on Friday, October 9 from 6:00 - 8:30 p.m. Come make new friends and enjoy food, square dancing with a live band, and activities for the kids while giving service to the school and raising money for the new elementary playground system.



Diagram of the primary elementary play system that is the Parent Organization's goal for the Fall Festival fundraiser

We will also be celebrating the 40th Birthday of American Heritage with a cake auction. Please remember to turn in a volunteer sheet for the Fall Festival and be thinking of an item or items to donate for the silent auction. Donation letters can be picked up in the front office. See you at the Festival!

From the Health Office

Please remember that all medications at the School must be stored, secured, inventoried, and administered by the AHS Health Aid (Mrs. Wheeler). Also, for students to carry and self-administer medications (including asthma inhalers), a written authorization from both the parent and health-care provider must be completed and submitted to the AHS Health Office. Thank you!

Annual AHS Spelling Bee Coming Up!

Please note that the annual AHS spelling bee, which identifies students that AHS sends to the Scripps National Spelling Bee, is scheduled on the AHS School calendar to be held earlier this year in order not to overlap with the National Geographic Bee that takes place in January-February 2010. Thus, the AHS Junior Spelling Bee for grades 2-3 will be held on October 27 and the Senior Spelling Bee for grades 4-8 will be held on November 10. See the link below for more information on word lists and rules. Also, please note the following:

- First grade students will not participate in the Junior Bee this year as a result of other spelling activities planned for their grade level.

- Although the “Spell It!” manual is entitled “2009”, we have been instructed that the 2010 will remain the same.

Good luck students – and enjoy the gift of language!

<http://american-heritage.org/SpellingBee.htm>

“Flagpole” Cell Tower Proposal for AHS



American Heritage School has received an offer from Clearwire LLC, a cell tower provider who plans to construct a “flag-pole” cell tower in the close vicinity of the School, or, with the School’s permission, on the School’s premises. As a result of technology advances in recent years, such a tower would have the

appearance and functionality of an actual flagpole. The proposal also includes significant cash payments to American Heritage School of approximately \$10,000 per year for up to 40 years. If American Heritage School chooses to accept this offer, those funds will be available for classroom uses (e.g. technology, textbooks, fieldtrips, etc.). If American Heritage School rejects the offer, we understand that Clearwire still intends to install the flagpole tower in the School vicinity along 700 North (likely on an existing telephone pole on 700 North) and will likely make the lease payments to Rocky Mountain Power per an existing agreement. American Heritage School values the input and opinions of the school community and invites the input of the School community regarding this opportunity. Interested individuals are encouraged to go to the following link where they can provide input, view pictures of the proposed “flagpole” cell tower, a draft form of the proposed lease agreement, and a few reports responding to health-related questions that have been raised concerning cell phones and cell towers.

<http://american-heritage.org/Cell%20Tower.htm>

Feedback may be provided online at the above link and we will also hold an open public meeting at the School on Thursday, October 1st, at 2:00 p.m. for any parents that are interested in meeting with School administration and a representative of Clearwire LLC to discuss this proposal. The School plans to make a final decision at our October 8 board meeting.

Positions Available

The following positions are open for the 2009-2010 school year.

Accompanist (PT): Seeking experienced accompanist to support the after-school American Heritage Youth Chorus. Must have an enduring love of youth, love of teaching, and love of the Restored Gospel. Position open immediately; applications will be accepted until the position is filled.

See the “Opportunities” page of our website for more details. american-heritage.org/Opportunities.htm



*Don't Miss the 40th Anniversary Celebration,
Sept. 17 at 6:30 p.m.!*



AMERICAN HERITAGE SCHOOL
FAMILY EDUCATION CENTER

Proudly Presents

Understanding Our Times

A Monthly Colloquia Series starting on October 1, 2009, 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

The purpose of this seminar is to increase our understanding and appreciation of our American Heritage through the study of correct, governmental principles found in our Nation's Founding Documents.

Topics for "Understanding Our Times" include:

- An in-depth study and relating of *The Declaration of Independence*
- An in-depth study and relating of *United States Constitution*
- Comparing and Contrasting Founding Principles with Current Events
- Aristotle's Six Forms of Government
- Cycles of History
- Key Presidential Inaugural Addresses



Presented by:

J. Ruel Haymond

AHS Teacher and Family Education Center Assistant Director

Adults and Students are invited!

Join us for this life transforming experience!

More information will soon be available at <http://www.american-heritage.org/fec.html>



AHS 40th Anniversary Essay Contest for All Ages!

Through the past 40 years American Heritage School has had a profound influence in the lives of many who have entered its doors. Its influence has continued to reflect in each of the remarkable lives of its pupils. Please write an essay of 300 words or more that includes specific references to the school and its legacy and answers the following questions:

“What does American Heritage School stand for, and what does it mean to you?”

Eligibility: All students (K-12), alumni, parents, and employees within the American Heritage School community are eligible to participate.

Submission: Each entry must be accompanied by a completed entry form (this form) and be submitted to homeroom teachers or the Office by Thursday, October 1st, 2009 to qualify. Entries must be typed or neatly handwritten. Entries may be discussed with parents but not composed by them. Each entry must have a title on the original document that matches the title listed on this form. The student’s name should NOT appear on the essay itself.

Entry Form:

Student’s Name: _____

Student Age: _____ Grade: _____ Teacher: _____

Title of Entry: _____

Parent Names: _____

Email: _____

I certify that this essay is my own work.

Student Signature/Name

Categories & Prizes: Winning essays will be published in the School Newsletter and all winners will have opportunities throughout the year to present their winning essays at major school and community events!! Awards will be given in four participant categories.

<u>Grades K-3</u> First Place: \$20 Second Place: \$10 Third Place: \$5

<u>Grades 4-6</u> First Place: \$40 Second Place: \$20 Third Place: \$10
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<u>Grades 7-12</u> First Place: \$80 Second Place: \$40 Third Place: \$20

<u>Adult</u> First Place: \$80 Second Place: \$40 Third Place: \$20

Selection Process: Each entry will be judged anonymously by Parent Organization representatives and a committee of AHS administrators. See reverse side for judging criteria.

AHS 40th Anniversary Essay Contest Judging Criteria

Essays will be judged on each of the following criteria using a four-point scale: 4 = Excellent; 3 = Good; 2 = Fair; 1 = Weak. In each category the essays with the highest overall scores (by consensus of the judges) will receive the awards.

___ **1. Ideas and Information:**

The essay answers the essay question in an inspiring way; it conveys a clear and effective purpose.
The essay contains accurate, specific, interesting information.
The author uses a thought-provoking title.
The essay does not just scratch the surface of a topic, but has depth and completeness.

___ **2. Organization:**

The author uses a purposeful organizational pattern.
The writing has logical divisions and sequence.
The author uses transitions between sentences and paragraphs to make the writing smooth.

___ **3. Voice:**

It is evident the author sincerely cares about the topic and audience.
Voice is appropriate to the intended audience and purpose.

___ **4. Word Choice:**

The author uses good words which are appropriate to the purpose.
Nouns and verbs are specific.
Modifiers often appeal to the spirit and the senses.
Words are selected to fit meaning, not just to impress.
Vague words and overused expressions are avoided.
Many phrases seem fresh and original. The reader gets the impression that nobody has said it exactly like this before.

___ **5. Smooth, Well-crafted Sentences:**

Each sentence is well-constructed.
The writing flows smoothly and clearly from one sentence to the next.
Sentences vary in length and don't all begin in the same way.
The sentences should not seem choppy and disconnected, nor should they ramble (or run on) without a sense of direction, order, or closure.

___ **6. Conventions:**

The essay is carefully edited for clarity, brevity, usage, and mechanics.
Clarity means that the meaning is clear.
Brevity means that it is not wordy or repetitive.
Usage refers to acceptable language, word choice, and grammar.
Mechanics means appropriate punctuation, spelling, and capitalization.

___ **7. Presentation:**

The essay satisfies the length requirements (minimum of 300 words)
Handwriting, font, margins, and spacing make the paper neat and readable.
Any graphics used (optional) aid the reader or audience.



AMERICAN HERITAGE SCHOOL

BUILDING DEDICATION
&
40th Anniversary Celebration

September 17, 2009

6:30-8:00 p.m.

American Heritage School
736 North, 1100 East, American Fork

Program

WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS

Grant Beckwith, Principal

COLONIAL FLAG CEREMONY AND PLEDGE

Jared Cornell, 5th Grade Teacher
Student Soldiers

INVOCATION

Rachel Bigelow, 11th Grade Scholar

SPECIAL MULTI-MEDIA PRESENTATION

"Sacrifice to Make Sacred"

PATRIOTIC MEDLEY

"I Love My Land, America/God Bless America"

American Heritage School Children's Choir

Conducted by Deborah Otteson

Accompanied by Nicole Thurston

"CELEBRATING CHILDREN"

Laurie Swim, Chairman

American Heritage School Board of Directors

“O GOD, BENEATH THY GUIDING HAND”

American Heritage School Chamber Choir

Composed and Conducted by Rob Swenson

Accompanied by Heidi Rodeback

Rachel Bigelow, Cello

THE HONORABLE HEBER THOMPSON

Mayor, American Fork City

DEDICATORY PRAYER

Bob Sorensen, Board Member

American Heritage School Board of Directors

“CHILDREN OF LIBERTY”

(American Heritage School Song)

American Heritage School Combined Children’s and Chamber Choirs

Composed by David Skousen

Arranged and Conducted by Rob Swenson

Accompanied by Heidi Rodeback

BYU Student Brass Quintet

BENEDICTION

Walker Johnson, 11th Grade Scholar



40th ANNIVERSARY

Forty Years Educating Hearts and Minds

Tours following the event

(Meet in the “Freedom Gallery” located in the North Auditorium Foyer.)