



American Heritage School News

September & October 2010

Message From the Principal

“The Lord requireth the heart, and a willing mind.”¹

There are times and seasons in each of our lives when tender emotions seem to come a little more freely. In either depth of pain or gratitude, and sometimes both, the veil of heaven seems to draw a little thinner. I’m not sure exactly what started it for me recently. Maybe it was the new baby in our home this year, or the passing of one of our beloved past principals and teachers the week before the first day of school. Maybe it was the high school student who sat in my office recently and described how difficult but deeply significant it has been working late hours every day after school, in addition to her heavy homework load, to pay for her tuition so she could remain at American Heritage. Maybe it was the graduating senior who spent the better part of six months building two new podiums to donate to the school – a monument to how hard he personally has worked over the years, in and out of the classroom, to accomplish what might come a little more easily for others.



Geneve Cornell Henderson, beloved former principal and teacher at AHS for over fifteen years, passed away on August 22, 2010. Mrs. Cornell is the mother of Fifth Grade teacher, Jared Cornell, and the author of the annual AHS Patriotic Program, “The Spirit of America Speaks.” Her life and spirit continues to inspire us today. We love you, Mrs. Cornell!

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Whatever it was, my heart was filled to overflowing one recent morning as I stood at the back door greeting students. My third-grade son approached me with the usual sack lunch that he makes for me each morning. “Love you, Dad”– he said as he handed me the lunch sack, gave me a quick hug, and started off down the hallway to class. He was late arriving that morning, and was alone in the hall. From behind, I watched his oversized backpack tugging on his shoulders, his extra-sized shoes catching the floor, and his lanky elbows jutting out from both sides as he hitched his thumbs in his shoulder straps. The bell had just rung and he was obviously in no particular hurry. I almost called after him to rush him along, but stopped myself as I realized that he was scanning the “wall of the prophets,” one portrait at a time, as if he were seeing them for the first time. A lump welled in my throat. I watched him until he disappeared around the corner, my eyes now brimming to match my heart. I beheld in that holy instant “an heritage of the Lord”² and realized more fully the urgency of teaching the rising generation not just to *know* with their minds, but to *feel* with their hearts, as an “anchor unto their soul”³ in the “times of the storm”⁴ that will surely come for each of them.

The Intersection of Sacred and Secular Maps

American Heritage School has come to a defining point in its history when the school community is, in many respects, a microcosm not just of Utah County, or Utah, or the United States of America – but of a worldwide family from unique backgrounds and cultures, unified in their conviction that the best education is as much a matter of the heart as it is the mind.



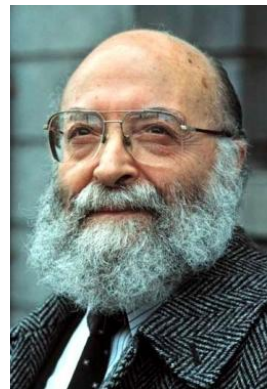
American Heritage School's inaugural graduating class of 2010-2011 represents 21 students from five countries.

The distance education program, for example, currently has students enrolled from 12 states and Canada, and is growing at a surprising rate. The international student program represents students from six countries and five continents. Our inaugural graduating high school class is comprised of some of the most brilliant and outstanding youth that I have known, many with standardized test scores and high school transcripts that will appeal to most any university in the country. The school's full accreditation visit in February 2011 will draw talented and experienced educators and administrators from across the Intermountain West and Pacific Northwest. In these and various other ways, we are seeing a literal fulfillment of the strategic vision of the school to "be an effective resource for parents worldwide in assisting children and families to maximize their divine potential."⁵

With such rapid growth and innovation comes the critical responsibility for us to stay focused on core and changeless principles – the great "vine"⁶ upon which our branches must continue to draw strength. American Heritage School's roots are deep, and extend not just to 1970 when the school opened its

doors at the Pleasant Grove campus, but to 1876, with a commission from Brigham Young to Karl G. Maeser (see a timeline of American Heritage School's history at the following link: <http://american-heritage.org/timeline.htm>).

Much like BYU, Notre Dame, Yeshiva, Hillsdale, SVU, Stonebridge, and other institutions that approach secular subjects through a sacred lens, we all agree that our faith is no excuse for academic mediocrity – and we all pursue academic excellence with a mission-driven zeal. None of us want our children to be taught in an environment that takes a dogmatic approach of "God said so" and gives up on a careful and honest pursuit of truth. But neither do we desire the agnostic approach of "thou shalt not believe without coercive, sensible evidence," which, as William James so aptly put it, "is simply an expression of a private, personal appetite for evidence of a certain peculiar kind."⁷



The Jewish author Chaim Potok, whose books appeal to a wide and diverse audience for their engaging illustration of the unavoidable intersection between sacred and secular thought systems, once described the difference between scholars in the two systems:

The scholar in a sacred system "assumes there is a design and purpose to nature," because God's spirit "hovers over all creation," giving divine origins to the premises of the sacred system. Thus, even the most sophisticated scholar in a sacred system faithfully transmits "inherited old and acceptable new scholarship" while respecting the established "boundaries of the system" according to a "predetermined choreography." By contrast, the scholar in a secular system always probes and challenges the system's boundaries, believing that all premises originate with human beings, the exclusive focus of secular systems. In secular systems, "it is man who gives, and man who takes away."⁸

Potok went on to describe “a boiling cauldron of colliding ideas and world views” that makes cultural confrontation between sacred and secular systems unavoidable. He then suggested four possible approaches for the religious person who faces such confrontation:

*First, the lockout approach: one can simply dodge the conflict by erecting impenetrable barriers between the sacred and the secular and then remaining in just one system. Second, compartmentalization: one creates separate categories of thought that coexist in a “tenuous peace.” Third, take down all walls and allow complete fusion in which the sacred and secular cultures freely feed each other, perhaps leading to a “radically new seminal culture.” And fourth, ambiguity: take down most if not all walls and accept a multitude of questions without intending to resolve them.*⁹

At American Heritage School, we reject the first three approaches, and the fourth (accepting ambiguity) still leaves the faithful and the agnostic alike, at some level, to yearn for more. In reflecting upon Potok’s four approaches, Bruce Hafen, then Provost of BYU, and future dean of the BYU Law School, rejected the first three approaches as well, acknowledged the need for the fourth under some circumstances, and proposed a fifth approach for integrating sacred and secular thought systems. His recommendation is born of a perspective provided by the restored gospel of Jesus Christ, what he described as “the most comprehensive explanation of life and of the cosmos available to humankind.”¹⁰ The idea, drawn from the interchange between Alma and Korihor in the Book of Mormon, was developed in an essay by Terry Warner entitled “On Having Faith and Thinking for Yourself”¹¹:

The main difference between Alma’s map of the universe and Korihor’s map is that Alma’s map is broader. If Alma’s map is represented by a ten-by-ten-foot square, Korihor’s map is a four-by-four-foot square within Alma’s larger square. Alma doesn’t have the answer to every question, but he does see and accept the same scientific evidence that Korihor does. Beyond that,

*Alma also recognizes evidence of personal meaning and spiritual reality that Korihor’s map by definition excludes... Not that these [secular] limits are all bad: we really don’t want science or the government to tell us the ultimate meaning of our lives—we make those choices personally, based upon evidence available outside the limited scientific sphere. Thus we integrate a secular map into the broader sacred map, but our sacred system cannot be made to fit within the smaller secular map.*¹²



*American Heritage School’s motto is
“Educating Hearts and Minds”*

American Heritage School is, emphatically, a place where “great theology and great scholarship are not only compatible, but mutually and limitlessly illuminating.”¹³ In the words of one modern day prophet: “In this gospel view there is no room for a contracted, narrow, or prejudicial view... We believe there is a spiritual influence that emanates from the presence of God to fill the immensity of space. (See D&C 88:12.) All men share an inheritance of divine light. God operates among his children in all nations, and those who seek God are entitled to further light and knowledge, regardless of their race, nationality, or cultural traditions.”¹⁴

To the new families and students who have joined our ranks, we welcome you with our “hearts and minds.” To the “legacy” families who have had your hand to the plow at American Heritage for many years, we honor you, and would not be who we are today without you.

The Lord requires our hearts, and our willing minds. May we all recognize our personal responsibility to preserve and maintain this truly extraordinary little school, where heart and mind unite in the manner so eloquently described by the poet Robert Frost, “as my two eyes make one in sight.”¹⁵

Sincerely,

Grant Beckwith, Principal

¹ D&C 64:34

² Psalm 127:3

³ Ether 12:4

⁴ D&C 123:16

⁵ American Heritage School Strategic Vision Statement, developed by the Board of Trustees in 2007 in connection with the School’s 20-year Strategic Plan.

⁶ John 15:5

⁷ William James, *Essays on Faith and Morals*, ed. and comp. Ralph Barton Perry (Cleveland: Meridian Book, World Publishing, 1967), 25, reprinted in Bruce Hafen, “The Dream is Ours to Fulfill,” *Educating Zion*, p. 221.

⁸ Chaim Potok, “Scholars Real and Imaginary in Culture Confrontation” (paper presented to the Utah Academy of Sciences, Arts, and Letters, Third Annual Tanner Academy Lecture, Utah State University, Logan, May 19, 1989), quoted in Bruce C. Hafen, “The Dream is Ours to Fulfill” Annual University Conference, 1991, Brigham Young University [“Hafen”].

⁹ *Id.* at 220.

¹⁰ *Id.*

¹¹ See Alma Chapter 30. See also C. Terry Warner, “An Open Letter to Students: On Having Faith and Thinking for Yourself,” *The New Era* 1 (November 1971): 14-19.

¹² *Id.* Hafen at 221.

¹³ Alan F. Keele, “All Truth Circumscribed in One Great Whole,” *Student Review*, June 24, 1992, 4, reprinted in Hafen at 222.

¹⁴ Howard W. Hunter, “The Gospel—A Global Faith,” *Ensign*, Nov 1991, 18.

¹⁵ Robert Frost, “Two Tramps in the Mud Time.”

Message From the Board

Introducing Board Chairman-Elect, Curtis Miner. At the August 2010 meeting of the American Heritage School Board of Trustees, Mrs. Laurie Swim, whose term as Chairman and Trustee expires at the end of this school year, encouraged the Board to nominate a Chairman-Elect who could spend the year serving alongside Mrs. Swim in anticipation of the leadership transition in 2011/2012. The Board unanimously elected Curtis Miner to succeed Mrs. Swim beginning

with the 2011/2012 school year, and to serve as Chair-Elect for the remainder of the current year.



Laurie Swim, pictured here with her late husband, Gaylord, will complete her term as Chairman of the Board of Trustees at the end of this school year.

“I will be ending my term at the end of this year, and my heart is tender,” said Mrs. Swim. “I believe in term limits. My heart will be here. I have complete confidence in Curtis, in each one of you, and in Mr. Beckwith, our head of school. This school is not about a person or persons, it is about a mission to prepare God’s children to serve him and love him.”

Mr. Miner, who served as the architect for American Heritage School’s initial construction and its expansion, has been a Trustee of the school since 2007. He and his wife, Janine, have four children (all at the school) and have been members of the school community for a decade.

“Curtis is as loyal and committed to the mission of the school as any of our board members,” said Mrs. Swim, “and he is an individual who has the respect of all who know him. His professionalism, sincere humility, his integrity, and most of all, his goodness of heart are what make him such a fine leader.”



Curtis Miner, Chair-Elect of the American Heritage School Board of Trustees, will become Chairman in the Fall of 2011.

Members of the Board of Trustees are unpaid volunteers who invest a significant amount of time and energy in long-term planning and direction for the School.

When asked how he would balance the demands of chairmanship with his professional and family commitments, Mr. Miner responded, “My primary commitments in life are to the Lord and to my family. American Heritage School is an invaluable support to

me and my family in what we are trying to accomplish in our home. I can think of few other institutions that I feel more honored to serve, where my time and energy is so well invested in my most important priorities in life.”

Thank you, Mrs. Swim and Mr. Miner, for your sacrifice and leadership!

Student Submissions

The following campaign speeches were delivered to a combined middle and high school assembly by Michael Morris and Walker Johnson, 12th Grade students who won the most votes in the AHS Student Government primary elections in September. Following these two campaign speeches, as well as speeches by their chosen vice-presidential running mates (Austin Hill and Steven Duncan), the Morris/Hill ticket won the general election in a very close race. Congratulations to all of the candidates for running such honorable campaigns!



Michael Morris, AHS Student Government President 2010/2011

If I were a politician, I would get up here and promise you longer lunches, free pizza, and at least two A's on every report card. But I am not a politician. I am a realist and it would be unreasonable to promise such things. However, I can promise you hard work and dedication to the principles of American Heritage School.

President Spencer W. Kimball, when speaking about the perfect leader said, “Jesus operated from a base of fixed principles or truths rather than making up the rules as he went along. Thus, his leadership style was not only correct, but also constant....[His] leadership was selfless. He put himself and his own needs second and ministered to others beyond the call of duty, tirelessly, lovingly, effectively.”

This is the kind of leader that Austin and I will strive to be. There is no better leader to model oneself after than the Creator of the earth Himself. Though we will inevitably fall short of Christ's perfect example, our wish as your elected officers is to serve and represent you well.

President Kimball also said, “A great leader listens not only to others, but also to his conscience and to the promptings of God.” That is what we plan to do.

Leaders are here for you. If we are elected, the only reason will be because of you and your votes. A leader should understand this and be a servant of the people. We are here to serve you. If there is something that you would like to suggest for our school, let us know. Now I understand that you will have your own representatives and senators, but if you have an idea, as your president and vice president we would be more than happy to listen to you.



AHS Senior, Austin Hendricksen, stands with Mr. Beckwith next to one of two podiums that he built for and donated to the school as part of an Eagle Scout project.

Throughout the past three years, I have served in the student body congress. I have worked as a representative, a senator and vice president. I have learned a lot in the realm of leadership. I know that Austin has as well; in fact, many of you will remember that he served last year as vice president. We have seen both unity and growth among the student body congress. Those are two values we wish to perpetuate. This is going to be a great year, and we are looking forward to it. We will do everything we can to help this school continue to move forward. We will work with your elected representatives and senators, along with the school's administration, to

make this great school even better. I know there are things you want to suggest. We pledge to do everything in our power, as long as your propositions are good and reasonable, to see those things through. The positions of president and vice president are not to be taken lightly and are definitely not to be abused. We understand this. We are not perfect, but we are learning.

President John F. Kennedy said, "Leadership and learning are indispensable to each other." As we lead we will continue to learn and better understand how to accomplish what is right for you and for American Heritage. I hope you understand that we care about the student body and the school. We know that it is a blessing to be here, and we will try and make this year the best it can be. We hope you understand what an opportunity you have to be a part of American Heritage School.

We will be examples of our school motto to "Always Honor and Serve." We will lead in a respectful manner. We will try to do everything we can to help you and help the administrators make this school everything it can be. This is our last year here at American Heritage School, and we plan on making it great. With your help, we will succeed. Thank you. (Michael Morris, 12th Grade, Campaign Speech for President, AHS Student Government)



Walker Johnson, 12th Grade, has attended AHS since kindergarten

For thirteen years I have attended this school. From Mrs. Strong in kindergarten to Mr. Haymond in twelfth grade, I have largely been shaped by this school into who I am today. I have learned many life lessons here and have made many wonderful friends. It is a fantastic building with a wonderful location, right across the street from the House of the Lord.

For those of you who remember the "old chapel" school building in Pleasant Grove, I hope you still appreciate that our current building actually has more than one bathroom. For those who did not attend

school at the old building, I hope you appreciate what we have, and do all you can to keep it as a place to learn and feel the Spirit. Regardless of whom you elect as Student Government President, this wonderful legacy will continue. As the high school grows and develops into a prime place to learn how to learn, the scholars attending this school will continue to grow strong.



Summer Summit students have an opportunity to "summit" a climbing wall to celebrate their accomplishments at the end of their summer course work.

Our teachers sacrifice so much to be here and to help us learn – and they do a fantastic job. Here we are taught to think and to reason for ourselves. One of the main principles we are taught is self-government. We learn how to behave and how to gain the most out of our situation. Once we control ourselves, we can begin to make connections with others that are uplifting and enjoyable.

We learn how to govern ourselves in groups, including as friends and families. We learn what kind of behavior is acceptable, and what is not. We integrate ourselves into society. We have leaders to follow. Fathers are to lead families, teachers to lead classes, principals to lead schools, captains to lead teams. There is always a leader to look toward for guidance and support in an organized group. For a time, we are content to follow and obey. A good

leader will listen to concerns from the group but will still take responsibility.

We have an ever changing and developing Student Government coming into fullness at our school. We have many opportunities to learn how to lead and to apply the principles we have been learning about for years to real life situations. We can learn how to compromise, how to hold ground, how to push to obtain what is needed, and how to ensure that which is right. We are still under the guidance of the Administration, but that is because we are still learning and trying new things. We are able to spread our wings, as it were, to reach for new heights. But our falls are protected and forewarned by caring people who have been where we are now and already know the path. As we enter high school, we can learn to lead and represent. I hope that all of you who want to learn how to lead will run for a representative or senator position. It is a wonderful place to develop the leadership skills that we will use throughout the rest of our lives. But even among these leaders in Student Government, there needs to be a leader for the leaders.

In councils of wise men, there is always one of experience to whom they defer. In city councils, on school boards and church presidencies, there is one in the forefront to lead and to guide. As this is my senior year of high school, I hope to be able to prepare my leadership skills for larger situations in the world. I wish to continue to grow. I hope to be Student Government President to serve all of you in a capacity that I am able to fill. This will be a learning experience for all of us. I have not served as President at the school before, but I hope to continue to learn leadership skills in life. I want to be able to look back and know that I helped make our school year a little bit better in my own way. I hope that this will be our best school year yet, and that we can strive to make next year even better.

We are children of liberty, choice, and accountability. Another principle that we are taught at this school is conscience. In Mr. Haymond's class, we have come to find many other words that mean the same thing as conscience, including reason, common sense, the light of Christ, and revelation. These attributes should always be followed. If I am elected President, I cannot promise or even predict which particular policies I

will change, agree with, or oppose. But I can emphatically promise that I will follow my conscience in deciding which decisions are best for the school, the scholars, and the education that we continue to gain. I will strive to keep everyone's best interests at heart. Thank you. (Walker Johnson, 12th Grade, Campaign Speech for President, AHS Student Government)



American Heritage School has an exceptionally strong reading, writing, and language arts program that begins in Kindergarten with rigorous phonogram training and continues through high school with significant focus on mastery of English, literature, and the liberal arts.



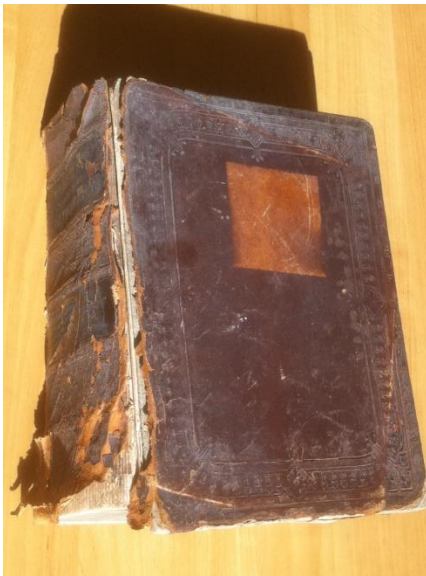
"Thanksgiving" pencil sketch by Klaesara Bybee, 7th Grade Art Class

The following "Psalms of Thanksgiving" were submitted by Second Grade students from Mrs. Bingham's class in connection with their study of Psalm 23.

"I thank thee for my family and the shelter thou hast given me. I thank thee dear Father in Heaven for thy prophet which hast given us the scriptures. I loveth the Lord. He shall have glory in thy hands. I rejoiceth and liveth on the earth. I will go on a mission because thou hast commanded. I thank thee for the wonderful temple. The Lord is my King. He comforts me in all that I do. He guideth me in the paths of righteousness. The Lord is my shepherd. We are his sheep. He loves all of us, I know. We can return to

thee in heaven. That's why I believe in thee. Thou are my God." (Tanya Waggoner, 2nd Grade)

"The Lord is my King that I shall serve for all my life. He will guide and bless me through all my life. He sent his Son to die for us. He promised that if we choose the right, we can have eternal life. He hast made the earth that I stand on right now. I know that he hast given me strength. For behold, when there is a time when I am sad, he comforteth me. He says that I can be strong even when life doth not seem fair. I know that he loveth me and is my shepherd. Yea, I am his lamb. He doth watch over me. I know he loveth me, Amen. (Jenaya Vanderbeek, 2nd Grade)



Original 1847 Noah Webster Dictionary recently donated to American Heritage School. AHS uses a reprint of the 1828 Noah Webster in its curriculum because it contains bible references and biblical perspectives in its definitions.

"Thou art my God who loveth me with all thine heart; who maketh me with all thy love. O God, I love thee with all my heart and my soul. Wilt thou lovest me? I know thou dost. I will always love thee. Thou givest me a great teacher who I loveth with all my heart and with all my soul. Thou givest me healthy food to eat and to strengthen me. Thou art my God who died for us and rose with living breath and lovest us all. Thou giveth me wonderful things which thou lovest and which thou created with all thy heart. Thou lovest me with all thy heart. (Halle Miller, 2nd Grade)

Calendar at a Glance

October

- 22 Fall Festival 6:00 p.m.
- 26 Jr. Spelling Bee 2nd -3rd) 8:40 a.m.
- 28 Harvest Parties 2:00 p.m.(K-6th)
- 29 First Term Ends
- 29 **Teacher In-Service, No School (K-6th)**
Early out for (7th-12th) 2:00p.m.
- 29 Fall Dance 8:00-10:00 p.m. (14 and up)

November

- 5 Picture Retakes 9:30 to 10:00 a.m.
- 6 (Saturday) "The Price of Freedom"
2:00 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.
- 8-12 Custodial Appreciation Week
- 9 Sr. Spelling Bee (4th-8th)
- 10 Parent Organization Meeting 8:30 a.m.
- 12 **Teacher In-Service, No School (K-6th),**
Early out for (7th-12th) 2:00p.m.
- 16 AHYC Fall/Thanksgiving Concert Alpine
Tabernacle 7:00 p.m.
- 18 Second Grade Devotional 2:00 p.m.
- 19 Second Grade Devotional 8:40 a.m.
- 22-26 **Thanksgiving Holiday, No School**

December

- 1 LCE Orchestra Concert "Messiah"
- 2 4th-12th Grade Christmas Choir Concert
7:00 p.m.
- 3 Mid-Term
- 3 Winter Formal 7:00-10:00 p.m. (16 and up)
- 9 AM Kindergarten Devotional 8:40 a.m.
- 9 PM Kindergarten Devotional 2:00 p.m.
- 10 **Teacher In-Service, No School (K-12th)**
- 11 (Saturday) "An American Heritage Christmas"
2:00 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.
- 17 All School Christmas Sing 8:40 a.m.
All Kindergarten attend AM 8:30 – 11:30
- 17 Teddy Bear Project 10:00 a.m.
- 17 School Ends 12:05 p.m. (1st -12th)
- 20-31 **Christmas Holiday, No School**



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

Fall Festival

Every year we look forward to the Fall Festival, sponsored by our wonderful Parent Organization. This year, on Friday, October 22, at 6:00 p.m. the Fall Festival will be our best yet! Families and community friends will gather at American Heritage School for a night of live band music (performed by BrushFire), games for the entire family, food, and fun festivities to enhance school community connection. See the newsletter flyer for more details.



See <http://ahsauction.blogspot.com/> for more details on this car, and this football, to be auctioned live at the Fall Festival by a professional auctioneer!



The silent auction is the primary fundraising mechanism of our Fall Festival, and we are thankful for the donated items that we receive from generous school patrons and area businesses. This year, we will have our first ever LIVE auction for many of the items. A professional auctioneer is donating his time to run the live auction. You will not want to miss this unique addition to the festival! We have some amazing auction items on the “block” including a red 2005 Dodge Neon car (listed at \$8,000 starting bid at \$3,500, details on the blog below), a football personally autographed by 8 All-American BYU Quarterbacks and LaVell Edwards, a cruise, and so much more! This year’s fund-raising goal is to

provide Audio Enhancement Systems in our classrooms. Studies show this will increase good classroom behavior, encourage participation, reduce student distraction from valuable instruction, and lead to higher test scores. For more information about the Fall Festival, see the following links for a flyer, map of the festival, and also the Parent Organization’s new Fall Festival blog:

http://american-heritage.org/FF/FF_Flyer.pdf
<http://ahsauction.blogspot.com/>

The Price of Freedom

Back by popular demand, and including another performance (we sold out weeks in advance last year) – join us on Saturday, November 6, at 2:00 p.m. and 7:30 p.m., for a multi-media concert event honoring veterans. Composer Rob Gardner and AHS Orchestra 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. This moving portrayal features archive footage of WWII combined with powerful music, and includes a special tribute to Utah Veterans. Tickets are \$10 in advance or \$12 at the door for matinee and \$15 at the door for the evening performance. Also, on November 5, at 3:45 p.m., all middle and high school students desiring to watch the Price of Freedom dress rehearsal will be allowed free of charge (parents not included, sorry). Watch a trailer for the event at the following link. See you there!

<http://american-heritage.org/POF/POF.html>

Service-Learning Travel Study Update

Mexico 2011. The annual AHS service learning trip to Mexico (this year to Querétaro, Mexico) will take place March 11-18, 2011. Querétaro city is located three hours from Mexico City. Students will be working with the local LDS branch and the municipality to lay cement floors (with mixers this time!), teach hygiene classes, finance and business classes, and participate in firesides and youth activities with members of the Church. Given the poverty level and living conditions of families in Querétaro, students will not be staying in the homes of members. Students will stay either at a ranch home or a hotel owned by a member of the Church. The experience will also include recreation, including

sight-seeing, hiking along a beautiful river, and exploring waterfalls.

England/Scotland 2011. We are still actively planning for our “Reformation Tour 2011” to England and Scotland, which will include Christian Reformation Era and early Church History sights, among others. Estimated cost will be \$3500/person for an 8-10 day itinerary. We will announce details in November. Stay tuned!



AHS Seventh Grade Scholars with Mrs. Updike and parent chaperones gather for a photo in front of Mount Vernon (above) and the Supreme Court Building (below) during their “American Heritage” tour to Virginia and Washington D.C. in June of 2010.



American Heritage School students have opportunities to travel and learn at various times throughout the year and in various grade levels. In some cases, service is combined with the travel to make the experience impactful from a learning and character-building perspective.

AHS Distance Education Program Expanding Rapidly, Blessing Lives

In August, American Heritage School launched approximately 50 distance education courses that have received almost 400 course enrollments. We now have students all over UT and in AL, AZ, CA, ID, IN, KS, LA, PA, TX, VA, WA, and Canada! And the list is growing.

The most popular courses have been our history courses, including the US Constitution, Studies in Church History, World History from 1600 to Present (10th Grade). Kindergarten Language has also enrolled more students than anticipated. So far, students and parents have reported great satisfaction with these courses.

The Kindergarten Language course has produced exceptional results for pre-K and early elementary school age children. Developed with the curricular expertise of Mrs. Linda Strong, who has taught at AHS for over 20 years, this course provides students and their parents with dozens of hours of online video-instruction spread over a 30-week schedule. Each lesson is segmented into a 10 to 20 minute daily video which is also coupled with a detailed workbook, writing paper, materials, and flash cards that help the child work individually or with the assistance of a parent. These lessons guide help the child in learning how to form letters, all of their sounds, reading, and spelling. The course, which costs only \$220, also offers direct interaction with Mrs. Strong who will provide feedback regarding student writing samples and help parents answer questions as they arise. Parents are beaming over the results they are seeing with their child and with their own increased understanding of how to teach writing, reading, and spelling to their children.

Another fantastic course has been the “World History from 1600” course. In addition to rich online resources, every student receives wonderful books of primary source readings, PowerPoint slides, quizzes, essay instructions, and personal tutorials with Mr. Gentile. With smiles, students report gaining many new views of history through this course! For more information log on to:

<http://distance.american-heritage.org>.



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Accreditation Overview

By Leland Anderson

In a recent phone conversation, a gentleman from another state expressed amazement that a school with a faith-based mission-statement such as American Heritage School's had become accredited and received transferability to public schools—a milestone which became effective for the 2009-10 school year. Though very pleased by this, he wondered how a school with a faith-based mission statement could receive regional and national accreditation. I responded that American Heritage School's Mission Statement has been and will continue to be fundamental to the AHS Accreditation process. I recounted a brief history of AHS's accreditation process, repeated and elaborated here:

In 2007, AHS became a candidate for accreditation through the Pacific Northwest Association of Independent Schools (PNAIS). Prior to this, Principal Grant Beckwith and the Board of Trustees determined that PNAIS was the preferable accreditation option in that AHS would be evaluated for (1) alignment of classroom practices with the School's mission statement and (2) the School's implementation of good practices commonly found in bona-fide educational institutions.

Alignment of Practices with AHS Mission Statement

The PNAIS accreditation process is heavily focused on the question "Does the school deliver what its mission statement says it delivers?" Even prior to becoming a candidate for PNAIS accreditation in 2007, American Heritage School's Board and Administration have focused on, and been guided by, the school's mission statement. In 2007, the Board put in place a 20-year Strategic Plan, including a "Statement of Core Strategic Vision" and an official motto that crystalize the School's mission statement and strategic plan into short and carefully worded phrases:

By 2027, American Heritage School will be an effective educational resource for parents worldwide in assisting children and families to maximize their divine potential (Vision Statement), and "Educating Hearts & Minds" (Motto).

Although the AHS Board adopted the motto and statement of core strategic vision, it unanimously decided to retain its mission statement unmodified, including its seven aims as follows:

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. (AHS Mission Statement)

Accreditation “Major Standards and Good Practices”

The visiting accreditation team will also want to ensure that AHS operates according to PNAIS “Major Standards and Good Practices.” A copy of these standards and practices is available for review on the AHS Edline Site or at the following link:

http://www.edline.net/files/JFHDB/df9150ad3bf0dcc03745a49013852ec4/07_PNAISSelfStudy_Manual.pdf



AHS High School Drama Department presents “Fiddler on the Roof” this coming January 2011. The cast has been selected and is full of talent! “Tradition! Tradition!”

To demonstrate AHS’s implementation of good practices, AHS has been going through a reflective “Self Study” process through which board members, administrators, teachers, parents, and students discuss and write answers to hundreds of questions about every aspect of the school from classroom curriculum, to finance, to health and safety, to administration. The process results in school-wide improvement and a written Self Study document.

AHS has studied accreditation questions through focus groups, teacher in-service, and collaboration times (used regularly for curriculum mapping, analysis, and refinement), administrative meetings, and parent meetings. Moreover, the AHS Board of Trustees has allocated significant meeting time to discuss self-study questions, especially questions related to institutional leadership. Board-level committees and sub-committees meetings have also met to develop and refine the short- and long-term plans of the school.

Conclusion

After many years of preparing, we are now ready to host a full-team visit by peer school administrators, teachers, parents, and board members. A September 2010 visit from peer school heads, Nate McClennen and George Edwards (who will serve as Team Chair and Vice-Chair, respectively), confirmed that AHS is ready for a full-team visit. The four-day Accreditation Team Visit will be hosted at American

Heritage School on February 8-11 and, although no definitive representations can be made, the visit is expected to result in dual accreditation with both PNAIS and NWAC.

Thank you to so many in the school community who have been involved in the accreditation process. We are confident in the successful outcome in February 2011 and, more importantly, the rigorous self-study process has been a great blessing to the quality of our programs, operations, and offerings!



Third Grade students in Mrs. Morrill's class review their "passports" and learn about the US Constitution in American Heritage School's annual Constitution Day Celebration reenactment of a simulated Ellis Island immigration experience.

College Preparation and Academic Counseling

This year, all juniors and seniors at American Heritage School should take the ACT or SAT college admissions tests. Juniors should register to take the ACT administered on April 9, 2011. Seniors may also take (or re-take) these tests before college admission deadlines which begin in December 2010 and continue through March 2011, depending on the

institution. Juniors and seniors should review the ACT and SAT registration deadlines as shown below. See attached flyer for more details.

In preparation for the ACT, American Heritage School is partnering with "Kaplan At School" to provide three ACT preparation options:

First, on Saturday, November 13, 2011 from 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m., all American Heritage School high school students are invited to participate in a practice ACT in the AHS Lecture Hall. This practice test will provide an authentic setting and diagnostic feedback for students.

Second, interested students may pay \$499 (not included in AHS tuition) to participate in a Kaplan test preparation series that will be held at AHS in February and March of 2011 (see attached flyer for details).

Third, as a result our participation in the "Kaplan At School" program for paid participants, all AHS students in grades 9-12 (regardless of participation with Kaplan test preparation) will also be provided with free Kaplan online resources, including two full-length ACT tests and hours of video instruction on test preparation and test taking hints. To access these materials students must go to our BrainHoney website (<http://american-Heritage.Brainhoney.com>) and use the following login information:

Username = studentfirstnamelastname
Password = Password (with a capital "P")

Students may change their password by clicking on their name in the screen's upper right hand corner.

Additionally, Assistant Principal Leland Anderson will provide two workshops for all AHS students, focused on the new writing section of the ACT, which is now required by BYU and many other universities. These two sessions (free) will be held on November 11 and 12 from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. in the Lecture Hall.

Finally, academic counseling sessions for all students in grades 9-12 will start soon. Appointments will be scheduled for all students and their parents to meet with Mr. Hunsaker to discuss post-secondary education and career options, study goals,

standardized test results, interest surveys, college admissions, and scholarships. Eleventh and twelfth grade students will be scheduled during November and December, and ninth and tenth grade students will be scheduled in March and April. Don't miss your appointment; these are very valuable opportunities to have your questions answered or clarified!

Accelerated Math Program for Elementary School Students

By Mrs. Camp, Assistant Principal

Did you know that there is an Accelerated Math Program in elementary school at AHS? We take three main approaches to helping math students stay at the threshold of their math ability. The first option offers the opportunity of advancing students to the next grade level of math from 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. during math hour each day. The second option provides parents with the opportunity to serve as a mentor at home with students moving ahead at a self-directed pace. The third option is an opportunity to learn from the Saxon Dive program with computer generated instructional lessons. In all cases, the AHS math teachers stay involved, and the student has the opportunity to develop academically at a pace that suits them. We have many students in elementary school that are currently taking advantage of one or more of these options. If you are interested, please speak to your student's teacher or to Mrs. Camp to see if we can do something more for your child in math.

AHS in the News

American Heritage held a press conference in September announcing various new and exciting advancements at the school. To read the press statement, and to view news articles that have recently been published regarding American Heritage School, including one from the Deseret News, go the school's newsroom at the following link:

<http://american-heritage.org/Newsroom/newsroom.htm>

AHS Taking to the Trail in Cross Country

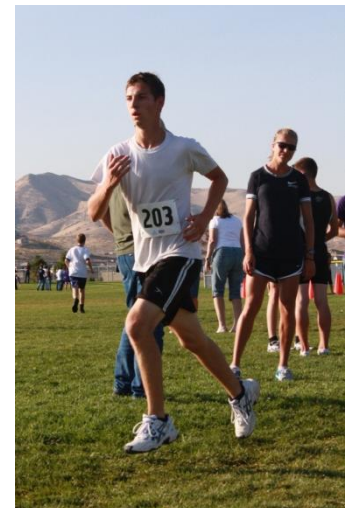


*Ariel Kelley led the AHS
Girls Cross Country team
in its inaugural season*

AHS's first ever cross country team lengthened their strides in order to successfully finish the race in excellent fashion. The team competed in two invitationals, the Orem Kiwanis Cross Country Invitational and the Westlake High School Cross Country Classic in Saratoga Springs, during their first season, and made a great showing under the

direction of Coach Kassi Anderson at each race. The team competed against some of the largest and fastest teams in the state, and made respectable showings in each event.

The AHS team was led by Drew Bowen for the boys and Ariel Kelley for the girls. The team was made up of eleven dedicated students who spent a great deal of time after school preparing for the races. Members of the team who competed include: Ian Boggess, Drew Bowen, Guillermo Bustamante, Jongsu Choi, Ariel Kelley,



*Drew Bowen led the AHS
Boys Cross Country team.
Coach Andersen looks on
from the sidelines*

Austin Hendrickson, Scott Hilton, Keegan McGhie, David Pack, Esteban Selva, and Madison Vosters. A

special thank you goes out to Coach Anderson for her dedication to the team which inspired their success in this inaugural season.

Faculty News & Notes

We welcome all new faculty and staff members who have joined AHS since our last (May/June) newsletter:

- Jackie Abrams, Fifth Grade
- Vivian M. Adams, LDS Church History (AHS Distance Education)
- Charmaine Andersen, Computer Technology (AHS Distance Education)
- Doug Andersen, AP Human Geography (AHS Distance Education)
- Kassie Andersen, Cross Country Coach
- Mike Bohn, Asst. Development Director, Asst. Family Education Center Director, Family Science Instructor, Student Government Mentor
- Julie Bouche, Tenth-Grade English (AHS Distance Education)
- Crystal Budge, Physics
- William Duncan, U.S. Constitution (AHS Distance Education)
- Ed Duquette, Daytime Custodian.
- David Hancock, Journalism, Yearbook, Debate, Athletic Director, Ninth-Grade English (AHS Distance Education)
- Jeff Meade, Middle & High School Mathematics
- Nancy Morrill, Third Grade
- Monica Orcutt, Spanish I, Spanish II, Spanish III (On-Campus), and Spanish (AHS Distance Education)
- Miriam Robertson, Literature (AHS Distance Education)
- Patrick Wright, Financial Literacy (AHS Distance Education)

For detailed bios, see the following link:

<http://american-heritage.org/Teachers/Directory.htm>

We also bid a fond farewell to the following employees who are no longer with us: David Goff (tech support), Kathy Jewell (K-4 science), Vachelle Johnson (administrative assistant), and David Taylor (evening custodian). Mrs. Jewell sends her regards to her previous students and all of her friends at American Heritage: "I am thankful for the years that I have had teaching and being with the students. I feel blessed for having had the opportunity to grow and

learn together... and I wish you good luck in the future and success in your new adventures. May Heavenly Father walk with you always." To contact Mrs. Jewell, you can send an e-mail to katharinejewell@yahoo.com. Mrs. Jewell informed Mr. Beckwith that she is actively engaged in a CNA and Phlebotomy certification program. She also mentioned that Arturo the snake is happy and doing very well at the Jewell's house. We'll miss you, Mrs. Jewell, Mrs. Johnson, and Mr. Taylor!

International Student Spotlight

Did you know that American Heritage School has approximately 30 international students from all around the world, including China, France, Korea, Venezuela, Japan, and Mexico? They are full-time, on-campus students who live with host families in the Utah County area. We'll be spotlighting a few of them in each of our newsletters.



Benjamin Sun was born in Moscow, Russia, and named Sasha. He is the oldest of four children, two brothers and one sister. He was raised in Kazakhstan until he was seven, and then moved to Beijing, China, where he is known as ZiXi. When he came here as a foreign exchange student, he decided to go by Benjamin after Benjamin Franklin. Benjamin has been a "globe trotter" and often travels with his mother, who works as a translator in various countries. Some of the places he has visited include France and Italy (he also has relatives in Italy).

Benjamin is a great friend to all around him, and his host family says that "he feels like another member of our family!" He is very pleasant to be around, helpful, has a great sense of humor, and seems to be happy all the time with an ever-present smile. Benjamin also loves to get up early and work out before school. After school, the first thing you will see in his hand is a basketball – anywhere there is a hoop. In Beijing, Benjamin was actually a member of one of the best basketball youth teams in the area.

Welcome, Benjamin Sun!

Positions Available

Webmaster (FT): We are seeking a full-time Webmaster to oversee the school’s Web and application development. See link below for detailed qualifications.

Online Speech-Language Pathologist (PT): We are in the development stage of offering online educational resources including high-quality, interactive, online training for children and parents seeking special speech, language, and communication instruction and help.

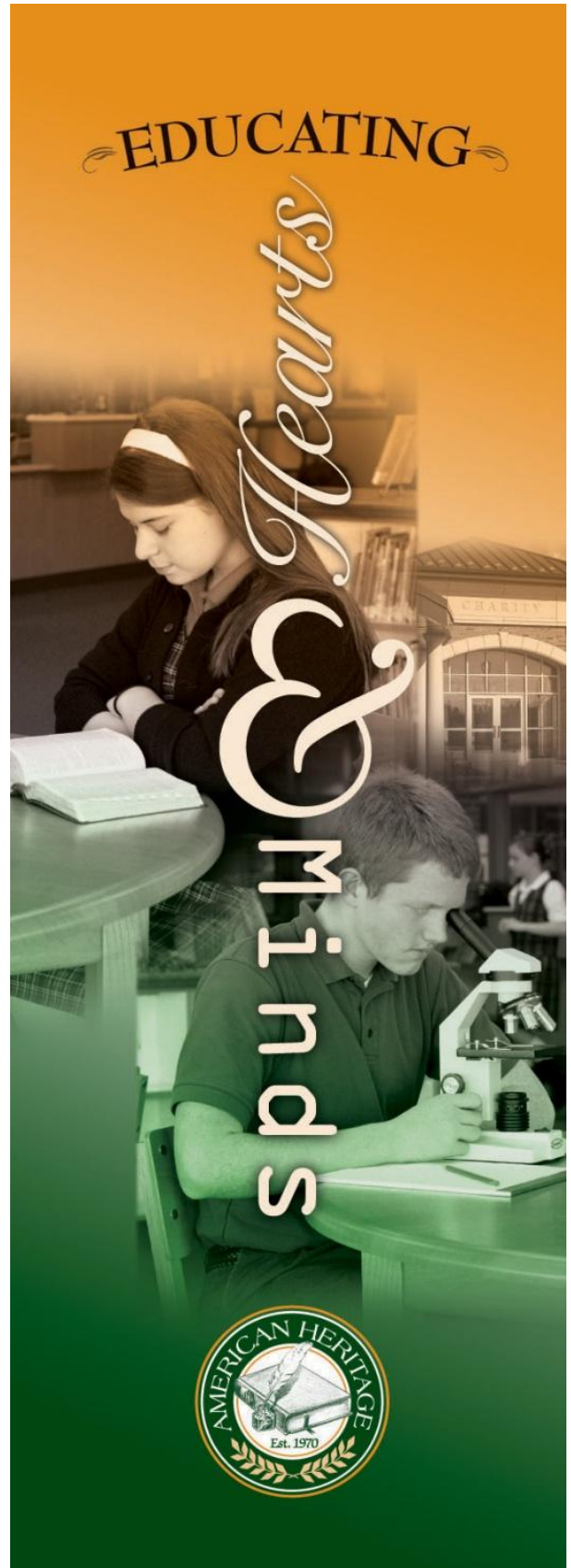
For qualifications and more details on these job openings, see the “Opportunities” page of our website at the following link:

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

Non-discrimination Notice: American Heritage School does not discriminate against any employee, student, employee applicant or student applicant because of race, creed, color, religion, sex, age, national origin, physical and/or mental disability.



Benjamin Anderson works on a Kindergarten language arts course from home. He enjoys the interactivity with the computer, materials, and his Dad!



Purchase Tickets Online

THE PRICE OF FREEDOM

Join us this Veterans Day weekend as we honor the brave soldiers who have paid the price for our freedom. Written by acclaimed composer Rob Gardner and lyricist McKane Davis, THE PRICE OF FREEDOM tells the story of four brave WWII soldiers and those they left behind, featuring archive film footage, a talented cast of professional singers, and the American Heritage Lyceum Philharmonic.

Saturday, Nov. 6, 2010

Matinee Performance 2:00 p.m.

Evening Performance 7:30 p.m.

Tickets:

Advanced Purchase, \$10.

At the door Purchase, \$12 Matinee, \$15 Evening.

Ages 8 and up.

Purchase Tickets

American Heritage School (801) 642-0055

www.american-heritage.org





All Things Come of Thee:

A Musical Celebration of

Thanksgiving

Featuring
American Heritage Youth Chorus

November 16th
7:00 p.m.

Directed by
Rob Swenson, Concert Choir
Cheri Hancock, Children's Choir

Free Admission
Alpine Tabernacle
110 East Main American Fork

fALL FeStiVAL

American Heritage School

Friday, Oct. 22nd, 2010
6 - 8:30pm

Mark your calendars and
bring the whole family for a fun night!

Auction!
Don't forget to bring
your auction items in
by Tues, Oct. 19th

Teen
Activities
in room 329

Food!

Sloppy Joe Meal - \$3

(sandwich, chips and water bottle)

Hot Dog Meal - \$2

(Hotdog, chips and water bottle)

Nachos - \$1

Bottled Water - .50 cents

Dessert?

Visit the Bake Sale/Dessert Bar in the
Recreation Hall, pick a dessert and simply
place a donation
in the jar!

Fun!

Free Face Painting

Balloon Artists

Watch these amazing artists create balloon
magic and get a free balloon creation!

Kid's Crafts & Candy Walk

Free, Fun Crafts and Activities!

Children's Store

Featuring many inexpensive kids favorites!

Service Station

Many opportunities to give service with your
family! Covering Books, Baby Quilts and
Coloring for the Music Dept.

Special Musical Performance!

A Premier Folk Music Ensemble <http://www.brushfiremusic.net/>

**Brush
Fire** 

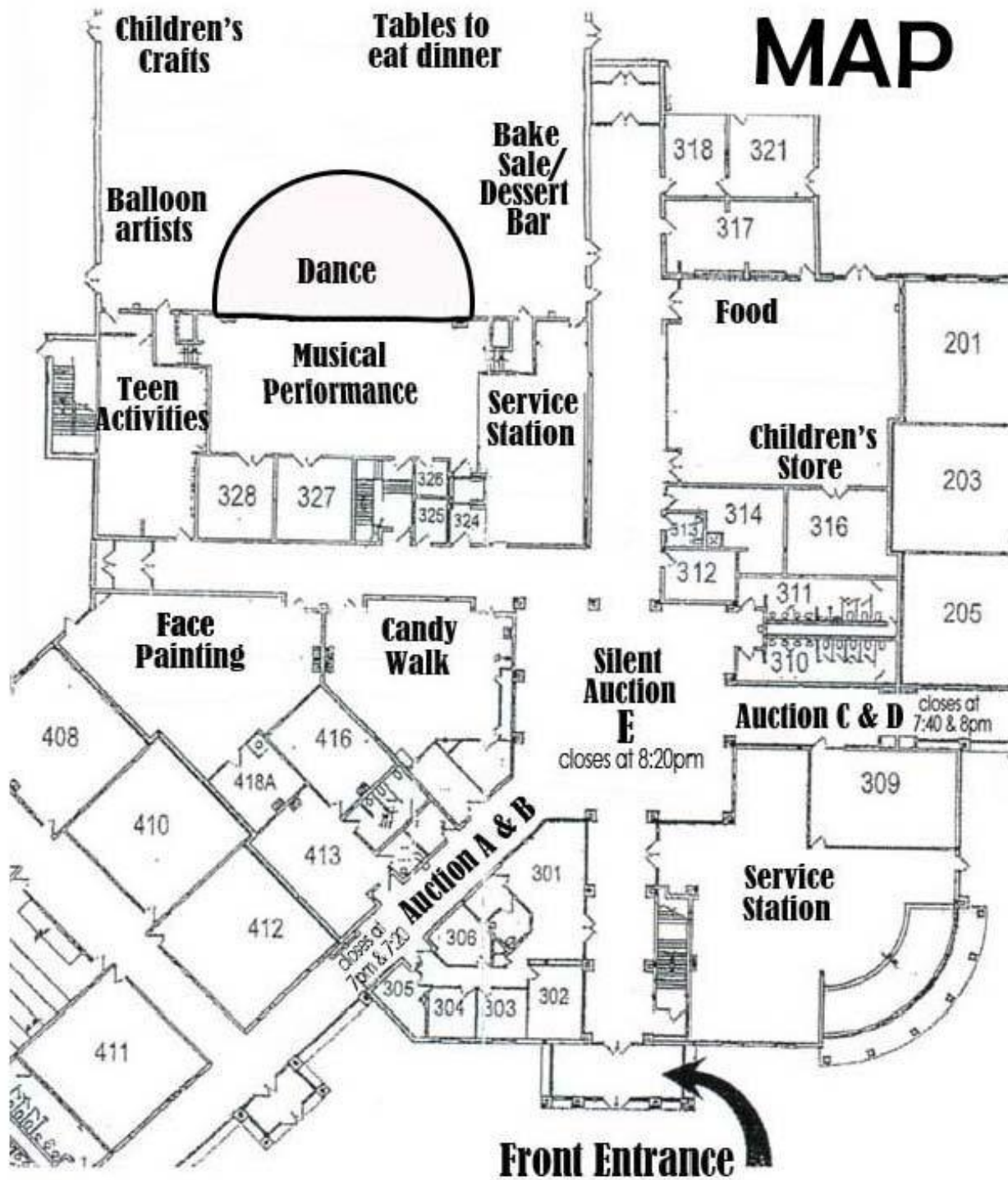


Silent Auction!

Visit www.ahsauction.blogspot.com to see some of our exciting auction items and have an opportunity to bid in advance!

Bring Cash (small bills make it easy!) for your food & fun purchases and your checkbook/Cash for your auction purchases.

Auction Pay Stations are open at 7:30pm front entrance and 8pm back entrance.



Welcome to
American Heritage School

Home of the Patriots



"The Lord
requireth the **heart**
and a willing **mind**"

– *D&C 64:34*



Patriots are sons and daughters of liberty. In the American Revolution, they were minutemen, chosen for their youth, ability, and enthusiasm. They signed a covenant upon enlistment that they would serve as the early response and first defense against the enemy. "**Inspired by a better cause**," they loved liberty more than life, and fought for a "patriot dream that sees beyond the years" (America the Beautiful, Alma 43:45). **Patriots** at American Heritage School remember all the great patriots who defended our Promised Land, and know that AHS stands for "**Always Honor & Serve**" (AHS Honor Code). The early patriots looked to the Old North Church tower for a signal of their cause. Today, AHS **Patriots** look to **God for strength and direction**, always ready to **stand for truth**. We "**stand fast in the liberty wherewith Christ has made us free!**" (Gal. 5:1)

College Entrance Examinations

The American College Test (ACT) and the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) are the two standardized entrance examinations required by most universities and colleges.

BYU and many other universities use a student's highest ACT or SAT score to determine admission and scholarship decisions no matter how many times the student took the test. Therefore, it may be advantageous for some students to take the ACT or SAT multiple times. In fact, approximately 60% of students who take these tests multiple times improve their score significantly.

In preparation for any standardized test, please remember to sleep early the night before, eat a healthful breakfast, and arrive early and prepared with proof of ID, No.2 pencils, and appropriate calculators (available online at websites shown below). ACT and SAT test registration deadlines follow:

ACT Test Dates and Registration Deadlines

Registration and fees must be submitted online at <http://www.actstudent.org/>. If you are interested in taking the ACT this year, please make note of these Saturday test dates and registration deadlines:

ACT Dates	Registration Deadline	(Late Fee Required)
September 11, 2010	August 6, 2010	August 7 – 20, 2010
October 23, 2010	September 17, 2010	September 18 – October 1, 2010
December 11, 2010	November 5, 2010	November 6 – 19, 2010
February 12, 2011	January 7, 2011	January 8 – 21, 2011
April 9, 2011	March 4, 2011	March 5 – 18, 2011
June 11, 2011	May 6, 2011	May 7 – 20, 2011

SAT Test Dates and Registration Deadlines

SAT registration and fees must be submitted online at <http://sat.collegeboard.com/register>.

SAT Dates	Register-By Date	Late Registration	
		Mail	Phone/ Online
Nov 6, 2010	Oct 8, 2010	Oct 22, 2010	Oct 22, 2010
Dec 4, 2010	Nov 5, 2010	Nov 19, 2010	Nov 19, 2010
Jan 22, 2011	Dec 23, 2010	Jan 7, 2011	Jan 7, 2011
Mar 12, 2011	Feb 11, 2011	Feb 25, 2011	Feb 25, 2011
May 7, 2011	Apr 8, 2011	Apr 22, 2011	Apr 22, 2011
Jun 4, 2011	May 6, 2011	May 20, 2011	May 20, 2011

American Heritage School and Kaplan Test Prep and Admissions bring you the nation's leading SAT and ACT* prep for only \$499

Complete ACT Prep

Enroll now and benefit from:

- **The Smartest Course** An adaptive study plan based on your performance, keeping you focused on the areas with the most potential to increase your score
- **The Ultimate in Convenience** A wide variety of program options and locations, including Live Online, to fit your busy schedule
- **Expert Instructors** Top-scoring teachers extensively trained in the proven Kaplan methods
- **The Best Guarantee** You'll score higher or get your money back![†]

In preparation for the Apr 9, 2011 ACT

Location			
American Heritage School 736 N. 1100 E. American Fork, Utah Class Code: 7SAF00XX			
1	Sat	Jan 22	8:00am—12:00pm
2	Thu	Jan 27	3:30pm—6:30pm
3	Thu	Feb 01	3:30pm—6:30pm
4	Sat	Feb 05	8:00am—12:00pm
5	Thu	Feb 24	3:30pm—6:30pm
6	Thu	Mar 3	3:30pm—6:30pm
7	Sat	Mar 12	8:00am—12:00pm
8	Thu	Mar 17	3:30pm—6:30pm
9	Sat	Mar 26	8:00am—12:00pm
10	Thu	Mar 31	3:30pm—6:30pm

Ask us about **College Prep Advantage!** It includes **Complete SAT & ACT Prep** plus our **College Admissions Course & Planner** to help you create a standout application.

Call or visit us online to enroll.

Pay your tuition in 3 installments!

1-800-KAP-TEST | kaptest.com/college

*SAT is a registered trademark of the College Entrance Examination Board which was not involved in the production of, and does not endorse, this product. ACT is a registered trademark of ACT, Inc. †Conditions and restrictions apply. For complete guarantee eligibility requirements, visit kaptest.com/hsg. The Higher Score Guarantee applies only to Kaplan courses taken and completed within the United States, Canada, Mexico, the United Kingdom, and France. COL03506

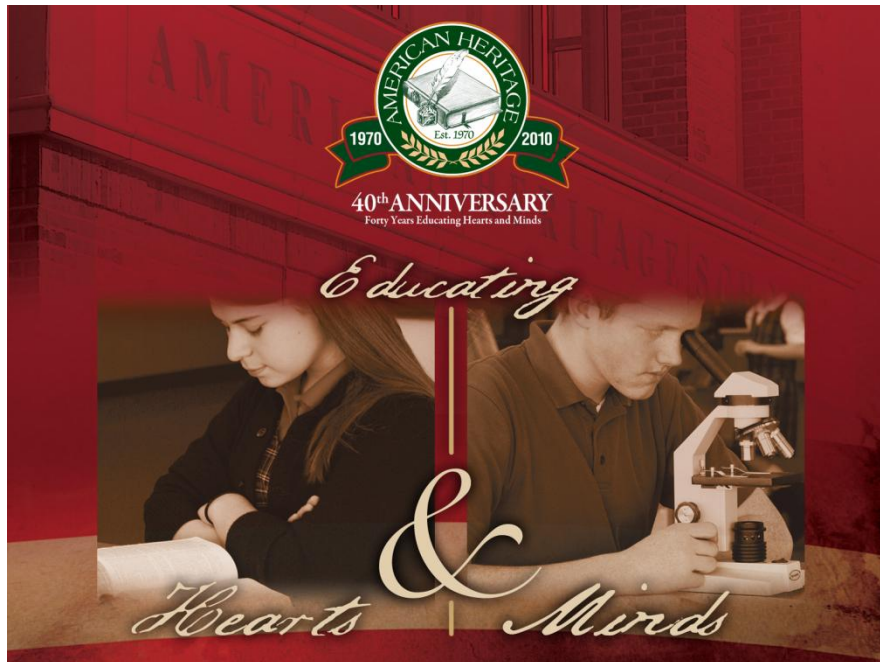
Prep smarter, score higher—guaranteed or your money back!

MISSION STATEMENT OF AMERICAN HERITAGE SCHOOL

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;
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VISION STATEMENT

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