American Heritage School has outstanding academics and extracurricular programs. We also believe that strengthening faith in Christ is indispensable to properly educating the hearts and minds of the rising generation. In addition to regular morning devotionals, prayer, and use of scripture as a foundational reference text in every subject, the AHS Honor Code focuses on the two great commandments to love God and neighbors “with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind” (Matt. 22:36–39). Every student and faculty member at the school commits to uphold the highest standards of moral conduct whether they are on or off campus.

Sacrifice is a foundational principle at American Heritage School. AHS does not accept federal, state, or local government funding, and welcomes assistance from all those willing and able to support our mission of Christ-centered and character-focused education. In 2012–2013, generous donors, parents, students, and community supporters gave approximately $525,000 to improve programs, increase teacher salaries, and help expand the Home and Distance Education Program. Tuition revenue covers the vast majority of the School’s ongoing expenses, and thanks to donations, the educational experience received by families at AHS is far more significant than what tuition alone would afford. Sacrifice brings forth the blessings of heaven!

Since the high school expansion in 2008, American Heritage School has added many inspiring and highly qualified teachers in a slate of new and rigorous courses, including Physics, Chemistry, Calculus, foreign languages, U.S. Constitution, Family Science, and Journalism. In addition, AP courses and AP tracks have been made available in English, literature, U.S. history, calculus, biology, music, and human geography. Add to these courses the flexibility of live and mentored Distance Education courses, and American Heritage School offers not only a unique faith-based atmosphere, but one of the most exceptional academic programs available anywhere in the nation.

Continuing a strong tradition of excellence, American Heritage School’s 2013 graduation rate was well over 95%, nearly all of whom either went directly on missions or to colleges and universities, many on scholarship. Over the last four years, AHS graduates have been admitted to BYU (all campuses), Purdue, University of Michigan, UCLA, University of Washington, Indiana University, University of British Columbia, University of Utah, Utah State, Edmonds College, University of California at Santa Barbara, Southern Virginia University, Weber State, UVU, Florida Institute of Technology, McGill University (Quebec), and more. Three AHS graduates achieved National Merit Scholar honors for their stellar performance on the PSAT/NMSQT, placing them in the top 3% of nearly 2 million eligible high school candidates. But the most
extraordinary aspect of AHS graduates has as much to do with their hearts as their minds. Take a moment to read a few of their very heartfelt graduate essays at http://www.american-heritage.org/document/graduation.

NATIONAL ACCREDITATION

American Heritage School received accreditation through NWAC (now AdvancED) in 2009, with provisional status, which affords AHS all the benefits of regional and national accreditation provided to public and private schools recognized by the Utah State Office of Education. In March of 2013, American Heritage School took another step toward dual accreditation by hosting a visiting team from the Northwest Association of Independent Schools (formerly PNAIS), which makes available to AHS a national community of teachers and administrators in other independent schools with whom to network and share best practices.

SCHOOL QUICK FACTS

Grades offered: K–12
On-campus enrollment: 710
On-campus average class size: 21
On-campus student-teacher ratio: 12:1
Distance education enrollment: 931
Distance education courses: 58
117 Sections, 5194 course enrollments
Total Teaching staff: 88
Administration: 7
Full-time support staff: 5
Community lyceum orchestras enrollment: 160
Community choir enrollment: 160
Extra-curricular: basketball, soccer, cross country, Boys/Girls State, choir, drama, orchestra, science fairs, service learning (Mexico, Western States, Midwestern States), speech competitions, student government, travel study (Washington, D.C. & Southern Utah)
Accreditation: AdvancED Provisional, NWAIS Candidate
SCIENCE, MATH, AND LANGUAGE ARTS EXCELLENCE

AHS students represented the school in its fourth appearance at the Central Utah Science and Engineering Fair at BYU in March 2013. AHS students came home with numerous scholarships and awards, including a second place project in high school, a second place project in elementary school, a third place project in middle school, and a special award from the US Air Force. AHS students also received invitation-only entrances to other regional science and invention fairs, including the Utah Energy and Renewable Energy Fair and the Westminster Energy Fair. Intel-Micron Flash also joined up with American Heritage School to sponsor two elementary school and middle school robotics teams at AHS that competed regionally. In September, Todd Barber, a jet propulsion engineer from the NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory in California, who worked on the successful NASA/JPL Mars Curiosity mission, made a special trip to AHS, where he addressed students at all grade levels in a series of assemblies about astrophysics, robotics, and rocket science.

In language arts, all AHS students engage in significant writing and public speaking for authentic audiences. In the regional 2013 Freedom Festival Speech, Essay, and Video Production contests, focused on American values of “Family, Freedom, God, and Country,” American Heritage School students took home many top honors, demonstrating not only extraordinary commitment to these values, but extraordinary writing and communication skills as well.

SURPASSING STATE & NATIONAL STANDARDS

American Heritage School classes continue to score well above national and state averages on standardized exams, making AHS one of the most academically competitive schools in the state—public and private schools included.
Award-Winning Music Programs

American Heritage Lyceum Philharmonic. In 2013, for the fifth year in a row, the American Heritage Lyceum Philharmonic received the distinguished “Best of State” award from Best of State Utah in the “Performing Arts, Orchestra” category. This year, the Lyceum Philharmonic was also honored with the “Best of the Best” award, which named the American Heritage Lyceum Philharmonic as the top performing group across all performing arts categories, professional and amateur. Comprised of exceptionally talented high-school aged musicians from across Utah, the 2012–2013 season featured the Lyceum Philharmonic with acclaimed recording artists Steven Sharp Nelson, Peter Breinholt, Jenny Oaks Baker, George Dyer, Dallyn Vail Bayles, and Paul “Cactus Jack” Lamar. The Lyceum Philharmonic’s 2012–2013 touring season included a premier and western states tour of a new work by Rob Gardner and Rob Moffatt, One Nation, commissioned by American Heritage School to celebrate the sesquicentennial of the Civil War. The Lyceum Philharmonic’s first album, Hearts & Minds, is now in stock at Deseret Book stores across the country. Radio host Steven Kapp Perry even dedicated an entire podcast to this remarkable orchestra program, which serves as an ambassador of the mission of American Heritage School. You can enjoy the podcast for free at: http://thecricketandseagull.com/-hearts-and-minds-with-kayson-brown.

American Heritage Youth Chorus. In 2013, the American Heritage Youth Chorus, an LDS-oriented choral organization for children and youth ages 5–18, completed a Midwestern States road-tour with fireside performances for LDS and interfaith audiences in Wyoming, Nebraska, Iowa, Missouri, and Nauvoo, Illinois. The 2013 tour music suite was entitled True to the Faith: Heroes of Courage and Covenant, a unique program highlighting stories from scripture, Church history, and the modern day. The mission of the American Heritage Youth Chorus includes building musical excellence and faith in the lives of young people through uplifting and sacred music.
HOME & DISTANCE EDUCATION

American Heritage School’s Home and Distance Education (HDE) Program continues to experience remarkable growth aligned with American Heritage School’s vision statement: “[to] be an effective educational resource for parents worldwide in assisting children and families to maximize their divine potential.” Families around the world were impacted in 2012–2013 by a team of more than thirty volunteer, contracted, and part-time professionals—who collectively invested approximately 15,000 work hours—to make the mission, curriculum, and spirit of America Heritage available everywhere.

THE FAMILY SCHOOL—YEAR 1 COMPLETED

The Family School—Year 1 was drafted, designed, piloted, and revised during 2012–2013. The Family School is a six-year series of LDS homeschool curriculum, which includes lessons, notebooks, flashcards, and other resources for families with children ages 4 to 14. The Family School courses are parent-guided and embrace a “one-room schoolhouse” approach to teaching multiple children together, followed by assignments and activities for all your children—younger, middle, and older ages—all in harmony with principles of the restored Gospel of Jesus Christ.

LATTER-DAY LEARNING NETWORK GROWS WORLDWIDE

The Latter-day Learning Network (a social network) was established in May 2012 and grew to include approximately 1,500 families in 48 states, Christmas Island (administered by the U.S.), and 23 countries: Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, India, Iran, Japan, Jordan, Korea, Mexico, New Zealand, Mongolia, Nigeria, Philippines, Portugal, Russia, Singapore, Spain, United Kingdom, and United States. The Latter-day Learning Network continues to grow as Family School families and other home educators throughout the world join and participate in it. This network provides a dynamic online and interactive dimension to The Family School curriculum; it is dedicated to helping mothers, children, teachers, and American Heritage School to easily connect and share with one another. It provides a sense of community and enables the free and open sharing of ideas, struggles, successes, feedback, and friendship.

Our beloved Mrs. Neddo (Trudy) retires after 24 years at AHS.
HDE PARTICIPATION INCREASES

Direct participation in The Family School homeschool curriculum and Online School (Grades 7–12) courses grew to include approximately 931 children participating in approximately 5,194 courses during 2012–2013. This represents 873 children from 368 families participating in the Family School (average of 2.4 participating children per family), and approximately 58 students from 50 families taking courses in the Online School.

HDE ACCREDITATION AND FUTURE OUTLOOK

During March, 2013, accreditors from the Northwest Association of Independent Schools examined the HDE Program as part of the larger school accreditation visit. The visiting team members praised the innovative nature of the program, the program’s solid financial model, the quality of the curriculum, and the overall positive experience of the students and families involved. Primary recommendations included extending even more student services to enrolled families (e.g. increased academic counseling, and online library access), innovating the learning management system, and ensuring consistency of interactivity among students and faculty.

These and other improvements are already in process, including growing the Online School to include additional courses, a new Learning Management System, an e-Book version of the curriculum, and enhanced web-design and functionality.

931 children in 48 states and 23 countries, taking 5,194 courses, benefited from American Heritage School’s Home & Distance Education Program in 2012–2013.

“My dad always taught me that everything we do, we choose it. We choose our attitude, our clothes, our friends—we choose it all. The Lord gave us agency, and it is such a blessing in our lives. I don’t want to live in my past, but I do want to use my past to help me with my future. Today I choose to let my windshield in my life stay bigger than my rearview mirror.”

Angie McKee, Nashville Tennessee, AHS Distance Education, Class of 2013
Many special guests visited AHS in 2012–2013 to participate in classes or events, including former General Relief Society President Julie Beck (commencement speaker), acclaimed vocal artists Jenny Oaks Baker, Dallyn Vail Bayles, and Peter Breinholt (featured guests for orchestra events), speakers and performers Jenny Phillips, Hank Smith, and Ron McMillan (Latter-day Learning Conference presenters), and cellist Steven Sharp Nelson (Lyceum Music Festival and recording guest). Accomplished guests like these aided our mission of demonstrating that Christian character really matters—in all aspects of life.

American Heritage School is a place of learning for the entire family. In addition to the Latter-day Learning homeschool program, the AHS Family Education Center also sponsors numerous community-available education opportunities throughout the year at the school, including the annual Foundations Training intended to convey critical relationship, parenting, and family education skills to parents seeking to improve their homes and families “by study and also by faith” (D&C 109:7).

In September of 2009, American Heritage School received federal government approval to admit foreign students (F visa-holders). Students promptly applied and were admitted from South Korea, Venezuela, and Hong Kong, with many more on the waiting list. Since then, the international presence at American Heritage School has grown to include more students from those countries as well as from Canada, China, India, Mexico, Japan, Korea, France, and Germany. Attracted to AHS by a common belief that honor and faith must be preserved in the classroom experience, international students comprise approximately 15% of the high school population at the school, and add an important and beautiful cultural diversity to the American Heritage School community.

In 2013 the Utah Chapter of the Freedoms Foundation at Valley Forge awarded to American Heritage School the 2013 National George Washington Medal of Honor.
OUR MISSION

American Heritage School exists for the purpose of serving parents in assisting in developing the minds, the hearts, and the bodies of students in order that they may:
1. Be useful in the hands of the Lord in building the kingdom of God on earth;
2. Increase faith in and knowledge of the Plan of Salvation;
3. Develop a love, understanding, and appreciation for America and the founding fathers;
4. Develop the basic academic knowledge and skills necessary to be able to make self-education a life-long pursuit;
5. Learn to reason and discern between right and wrong, truth and error;
6. Develop character and self-discipline of mind and body; and
7. Conduct themselves in all aspects of life as Christians.

All activities, teaching, governance, and administration are to be accomplished in light of the above objectives and in so far as possible in harmony with revealed principles of the restored gospel of Jesus Christ and laws of the land. All teachers, staff, administrators, and trustees shall strive to be living examples of the values, principles, and skills taught at the school.

SERVICE LEARNING

Each year around Christmas time, American Heritage School students earn money to purchase and donate hundreds of teddy bears to homeless children who come to the Ogden Rescue Mission. In December of 2012, students from kindergarten to 12th grade donated nearly 600 teddy bears. In January of 2013, high school students and parents made the annual week-long trip to Mexico to serve and learn with Latin American students on the campus of Benemerito, an LDS-owned high school (recently closed and renovated for a Missionary Training Center). Other service on the home-front included special recognition programs for U.S. military Veterans conducted at the school, a senior service day mending fences at Deseret Land and Livestock in Vernon, Utah, and a Service Day at the Deseret Industries, American Fork Hospital, and in the libraries, hallways, and classrooms across campus. In May and June of 2013, approximately 150 students attended enrichment travel tours, including the America’s Providential Heritage tour to Washington, D.C.; the True to the Faith: Heroes of Courage and Covenant choir tour to Nauvoo, Illinois; and the Shakespeare tour to Cedar City, Utah.
Humility

Charity

Courage

Faith

Self-Goodness

Virtue

Industriousness
“I have learned many lessons while at American Heritage, but there is one lesson that I hold very close to my heart. That lesson is the lesson of God’s love for me, and knowing He has a divine plan for me. I know who I am, and I know God’s love for me. I know that I am a witness of Him, and an example to the world. I am a light, and I will share it with everyone around me. I have also learned that our history really matters. It is who we are. We need to protect what our Founding Fathers died for. We need to keep our morals strong, and our standards high, and God will guide us and show us what we need to do.”

Emily Roberts, Class of 2013
“Now that I am to go out into the world, I shall hold my head up high, facing heavenward, and declare that I am ready for whatever the world may throw at me, because of the rock upon which I am built, ‘which is a sure foundation, a foundation whereon if men build they cannot fall’ (Helaman 5:12).”

Trustin Chun, Class of 2013

OUR VISION

American Heritage School’s vision is to become an effective educational resource for parents worldwide in assisting children and families to maximize their divine potential.

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