



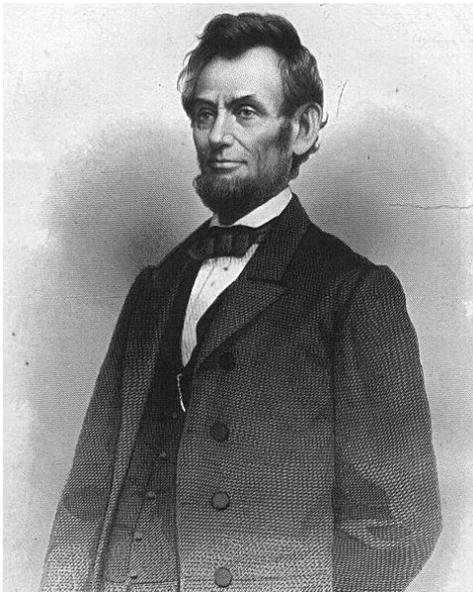
American Heritage School News

November & December 2009

Message From the Principal

“No generation can bequeath to its successors what it has not got.”ⁱ

In his First Inaugural Address to a nation on the brink of civil war – arguably one of the most desperate moments in America’s constitutional history – President Lincoln proposed to his “dissatisfied fellow countrymen” a solution that carried the power to save homes, hearts, and a half-million lives:



Intelligence, patriotism, Christianity, and a firm reliance on Him, who has never yet forsaken this favored land, are still competent to adjust, in the best way, all our present difficulty.... We are not enemies, but friends. We must not be enemies. Though passion may have strained, it must not break our bonds of affection. The mystic chords of memory, stretching from every battle-field, and patriot grave, to every living heart and hearthstone, all over this broad land, will yet swell the chorus of the Union, when again touched, as surely they will be, by the better angels of our nature.ⁱⁱ

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Union with Unity

There is something about the Thanksgiving and Christmas seasons that causes me to reflect upon the relationship between the eternal principles of “union” and “unity”. Maybe it is the physical gathering of families, or the focus on relationships, or the setting aside of differences in celebration of our common heritage and blessings. In any case, it is a season when “the better angels of our nature” seem to find voices through our focus on the two great commandments to love God and love our neighbor.

At American Heritage School we employ in our curriculum “Seven Principles of America’s Christian History, Government and Education.”ⁱⁱⁱ The seventh principle reads as follows:

Internal agreement or unity, which is invisible, produces a voluntary external union, which is visible in the spheres of government, economics, and home and community life. Before two or more individuals can act effectively together, they must first be united in spirit, in their purposes, and in their convictions.^{iv}

This seventh principle is a culminating principle of the first six and is also sometimes referred to as “The Christian Principle of Union with Unity.”

Occasionally I have participated in earnest and thoughtful discussions with faculty and students about the order of “union” and “unity” in this seventh principle. The question of “which comes first: external union or internal unity?” is generally answered by a careful reasoning through the seventh principle, which suggests that internal unity comes first, followed by external union.

And then I came across Abraham Lincoln’s letter to Horace Greeley.

Written from the White House during the heart of the Civil War, Lincoln was responding to Horace Greeley, editor of the influential *New York Tribune* and also a friend of Lincoln’s. Greeley had just published in the *Tribune* a scathing rebuke^v of President Lincoln for not focusing enough on emancipation of the southern slaves.

Lincoln could have easily and swiftly replied that a draft of the Emancipation Proclamation already lay in his desk drawer. But Lincoln’s response, true to his undeviating focus on principles, revealed instead his concentration on preserving the Union – and his view that, under the circumstances, external union must come first. Internal national unity on issues such as slavery (as critical as it was) was a secondary consideration:



Horace Greeley, 1811-1872, owner and editor of the *New York Tribune*. Greeley was a friend and harsh critic of Lincoln during the Civil War years.

*Executive Mansion,
Washington, August 22, 1862.*

*Hon. Horace Greeley:
Dear Sir.*

I have just read yours of the 19th addressed to myself through the New-York Tribune. If there be in it any statements, or assumptions of fact, which I may know to be erroneous, I do not, now and here, controvert them. If there be in it any inferences which I may believe to be falsely drawn, I do not now and here, argue against them. If there be perceptible in it an impatient and dictatorial tone, I waive it in deference to an old friend, whose heart I have always supposed to be right.

As to the policy I "seem to be pursuing" as you say, I have not meant to leave any one in doubt.

I would save the Union. I would save it the shortest way under the Constitution. The sooner the national authority can be restored; the nearer the Union will be "the Union as it was." If there be those who would not save the Union, unless they could at the same time save slavery, I do not agree

with them. If there be those who would not save the Union unless they could at the same time destroy slavery, I do not agree with them.

My paramount object in this struggle is to save the Union, and is not either to save or to destroy slavery. If I could save the Union without freeing any slave I would do it, and if I could save it by freeing all the slaves I would do it; and if I could save it by freeing some and leaving others alone I would also do that. What I do about slavery, and the colored race, I do because I believe it helps to save the Union; and what I forbear, I forbear because I do not believe it would help to save the Union. I shall do less whenever I shall believe what I am doing hurts the cause, and I shall do more whenever I shall believe doing more will help the cause. I shall try to correct errors when shown to be errors; and I shall adopt new views so fast as they shall appear to be true views.

I have here stated my purpose according to my view of official duty; and I intend no modification of my oft-expressed personal wish that all men everywhere could be free.

*Yours,
A. Lincoln.^{vi}*

I have often wondered whether this letter was merely a statement of Lincoln's "view of official duty" as he put it – or whether in fact it was something more. I am moved by this letter on multiple levels every time I read it.

Quite aside from Lincoln's humble and magnanimous waiver of offense "*in deference to an old friend, whose heart I have always supposed to be right,*" it seems that Lincoln was saying "union first; unity second" – or maybe better summarized, "union first; unity in God's time." By his undeviating focus on preserving the Union, Lincoln was not compromising or abandoning his "*oft-expressed personal wish that all men everywhere could be free*" – rather, he seemed to be saying that all men everywhere *cannot* be free if we do not first preserve the Union that is

destined to play such an important role in our ultimate ability to achieve freedom. Lincoln seemed to be saying that the preservation of the Union, which guaranteed the freedom of conscience – "the most sacred of all property"^{vii} – might even require the temporary abeyance of personal wishes and lesser order personal property rights, even to the extent that physical bondage might continue if only the Union could be preserved.

We are all faced from time to time with the dilemma of what seems to be competing principles – and making a decision is not always as simple as doing "the principled thing." How could Lincoln have been so confident of his position and his ordering of principles?

He was confident because he was *not* simply taking a position based upon his view of official duty. He was taking a position based upon his view of personal responsibility to God. To Lincoln, *agency* meant more than freedom to choose. He was a Christian and a lawyer. To him, "agency" meant that he was *bound* as an agent of "Him who has never yet forsaken this land"^{viii} – to seek the will of Providence, especially in times of conflict and confusion. Lincoln explicitly stated this sentiment on multiple occasions. Once, he even stated that "I have always taken counsel of Him, and referred to Him my plans, and have never adopted a course of proceeding without being assured, as far as I could be, of His approbation."^{ix}



The bible containing the U.S. Supreme Court seal on the inside back cover attesting that it was used by President Lincoln during his first oath of office, March 4, 1861

I look forward to meeting Lincoln some day. He spoke the language of liberty like no other president

in our nation’s history. He also sought the Author of Liberty – even to the point that his last words in Ford’s Theatre, recalled by his wife, Mary Todd Lincoln, were of visiting the Holy Land “to see those places hallowed by the footprints of the Saviour.”^x



“With malice toward none; with charity for all; With firmness in the right, as God gives us to see the right.” The “Lincoln Window” is one of 19 stained glass windows at the New York Avenue Presbyterian Church in Washington D.C. where Lincoln regularly worshipped during the Civil War.

Thank you students and families for preserving the union of American Heritage School and the great spirit of unity that has developed here through our years together. May we continue to access the “better angels of our nature” in seeking Christ and his will for our homes, our classrooms, and our nation.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Sincerely,

Grant Beckwith

ⁱ C.S. Lewis, *God in the Dock*, p. 116.
ⁱⁱ Abraham Lincoln, *First Inaugural Address*, March 4, 1861.
ⁱⁱⁱ Foundation for American Christian Education
^{iv} *Id.*
^v Horace Greeley, *New York Tribune* Editorial, August 19, 1862, entitled “The Prayer of Twenty Millions” in which Greeley

expressed disappointment with “the policy you seem to be pursuing with regard to the slaves of Rebels” and at one point stated that “On the face of this wide earth, Mr. President, there is not one disinterested, determined, intelligent champion of the Union cause who does not feel that all attempts to put down the Rebellion and at the same time uphold its inciting cause [slavery] are preposterous and futile. . . .”

^{vi} Abraham Lincoln, Letter to Horace Greeley, August 22, 1862.
^{vii} Thomas Jefferson stated that “Conscience is the Most Sacred of All Property” – a statement which has become the fourth principle of “The Seven Principles of America’s Christian History, Education and Government.”
^{viii} Abraham Lincoln, *First Inaugural Address*, March 4, 1861.
^{ix} Abraham Lincoln, Peter Marshall and David Manuel, *The Glory of America*, 11.29, reprinted in *America’s God and Country, Encyclopedia of Quotations*, p. 391.
^x A. Lincoln, April 14, 1865, Ford’s Theater, his last words, Miner, *Lincoln*, p. 52, Peter Marshall and David Manuel, *The Glory of America*, 4.14, reprinted in *America’s God and Country, Encyclopedia of Quotations*, p. 391.

Message From the Board

The following message was prepared by AHS Board Member Nathan Welch. Nathan and his wife Lori have 5 children, four of whom attend American Heritage School from grades 4 through 11. Nathan has been a board member since 2007.



Lori and I have been filled with deep gratitude this year for the tremendous impact American Heritage has had upon our entire family. It has been a very difficult year for many, and like some of you we were uncertain about whether we would have the ability to

continue at the school this year. The prospect was difficult to bear. We learned more deeply about faith and sacrifice and have witnessed the mercy of a Father who loves us all dearly. We are thankful for challenging experiences that provide a foundation for appreciation of things that matter most.

We have had wonderful experiences throughout more than seven years of participation at American Heritage and have always appreciated the conscientious efforts by administration and faculty to preserve the principles and to maintain the mission that guide the school, but this year has been especially

meaningful as we have witnessed more than ever the evidence of fruit produced by seeds that were planted, cultivated and nourished early on in the hearts and minds of our children.



AHS High School Chamber Singers prepare for the American Heritage School 40th Anniversary Celebration and Building Dedication, September 17, 2009

We were originally attracted to American Heritage due to our exposure to various writings of the early prophets and the founders of the school and from a sense that traditional education had drifted ominously from its Christian moorings. We were initially driven to join this caring community because of a desire that our children have the best opportunity possible to be brought up “in light and truth” and to have them not merely superficially appreciate but to profoundly comprehend and to deeply cherish the sacred principles of liberty.

We wanted our children to thrive in an environment where teachers would be qualified and encouraged to teach by the spirit, capable of infusing within the souls of the children an abiding love and testimony of truth and a desire to be humble instruments in the hands of our Father.

We were excited when the announcement was made to expand the facilities to include high school. Yet, like many parents at that critical juncture, we experienced significant reservations and anxious trepidation over the prospects of participating in an untested program that appeared it might lack important curricular, extra-curricular, and social opportunities we perceived as necessary to establish a balanced and complete educational experience. Although improvements need to and will continue to

be made, we are so thankful we decided to “stick it out” long enough to really witness the blossoming of buds that barely began to appear by the time our children reached high school age. Thanks to the diligence and generosity of administrators and donors that made it possible and to a wonderfully capable and caring contingent of teachers!

For us, high school has been a resounding success in all of the ways that matter most. The strides in learning and becoming that can be made in this environment, at this age, following the critical foundation laid in earlier years, are enormous. Our children of all ages regularly express their love for their teachers and their excitement about learning. They have been trained to desire, to recognize, to receive, and to value what matters most – light and truth, the spirit of Christ. They have been blessed with a true foundation of liberty, for “where the spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty,” and “the truth shall set (and keep) [them] free.” As parents, we cannot ask for a greater blessing with more important eternal implications.



AHS opening flag ceremony, first day of school 2008

As we have contemplated the blessings of American Heritage in our family and discussed them with friends, we have realized this school is much more than a place for our children to receive the highest quality education. It represents to us something even greater than a “school.” We believe it has become and will increasingly manifest itself as a critical community support structure composed of caring individuals and families striving diligently to assist and strengthen each other in our opportunity and our obligation to establish Zion and to prepare for the

return of Jesus Christ. In the days ahead, we will increasingly rely upon each other and the powerful relationships we forge from our associations in this effort. We will find solace through our common understanding of and our shared commitment to the principles of the gospel, which are the principles of liberty.

In these days of increasing confusion, when many basic truths are no longer held to be “self-evident,” the very foundation of our liberty is in jeopardy. It is imperative we, as a community, understand thoroughly the principles upon which our liberty rests and by which it is preserved.

Despite the storm clouds gathering about us, we can rest assured that if we dedicate ourselves to doing what is necessary individually and collectively to maintain the spirit of the Lord in our midst, we will always have liberty. We are so fortunate to be able to participate in education that includes as its primary foundation the Author of our liberty and the Mediator of the covenant that assures that liberty, if we will but do our part. Let us commit to more fully understand and to live the sacred principles of liberty in all aspects of our lives.



AHS High School students and teachers gather in Provo Canyon for the first annual “Uplifting Media Project”

We cannot adequately express our deep love and sincere appreciation for those who have sacrificed so much that we may have the privilege of being beneficiaries of not only an American heritage, but also of an American Heritage. We owe a debt of gratitude and feel a deep obligation to perpetuate this heritage for future generations. We look forward to a future filled with miraculous events and to being

active participants with you in the greatest dispensation in the history of the world. We were all born for these times, and we will be sustained through these times if we will remember and honor the One True Source of our liberty.

Student Submissions

“What American Heritage School Means to Me”
(By Elisa Huhem, 8th Grade)

The following essay won a First Place prize in the American Heritage School 40th Anniversary Essay Contest, 7th-12th Grade Division.



Education is primarily a spiritual matter. We have been advised to seek learning “by study and also by faith” (D&C 109:14). With this in mind, it is no wonder that American Heritage School stands as a beacon of light and truth; an institution that portrays a Christian-based type of education; a place where we are taught to “reason and discern between right and wrong, truth and error” and where we are encouraged “to conduct ourselves in all aspects of our lives as Christians” (AHS Mission Statement).

We live at a time when true values are in extinction and when permissiveness is allowed to the point of diluting the real worth of a soul. Society has reached a plateau where being an ordinary human being is the standard; “excellence” has almost disappeared as a quest. As a young generation we are confronted with confusion, mixed messages of what is right and what is wrong. With this type of environment, it becomes clear that the creation and preservation of American Heritage School as a center of true education is a tangible proof of how divine intervention has permitted us to have access to a finer type of education, the kind of education that can make spiritual and intellectual learning a perfect combination and a well-rounded learning experience.

God loves his Children, He loves us all, and He loves me. He intended for me to become not less than the crowning glory of his creation. The glory of God is intelligence, and God in his infinite wisdom desires of me to achieve excellence and to increase in

knowledge and wisdom. My Father in Heaven wishes me to develop the kind of attributes that are the signature of his Character, and this is when I began to understand why the virtues displayed at the portals of our school are guiding post for us to see on a daily basis. I can see now how virtue, courage, and humility lead me to “become useful in the hands of the Lord” (AHS Mission Statement) by cultivating a Christ-like character.



AHS Student Government members help custodians clean up and get the campus ready for winter. A.H.S. has come to stand for “Always Honor & Serve”

Like the virtues displayed over our portals, our school is filled with symbolism that leads us to make learning a constant experience. One of those symbols is found in the words of our school song: “Children of Liberty, learn from the past!” Listening to these words brings to me a gentle reminder that as a citizen of this nation, I am a child of Liberty. I am part of a family that represents freedom. I am a link that

seeks to preserve values that were instituted by our Founding Fathers. I am a carrier of a torch and a beneficiary of a legacy that must be passed on. This message gives me purpose and plants in me the desire to increase in faith and knowledge so I can be a tangible extension of a heritage that must to be preserved.

Finally, I cannot end without mentioning the recent learning that I have gone through by watching the expansion of our campus during the year 2008. All the stages of the construction process became a constant reminder to me that learning is a journey that takes time and a life-long pursuit. Every brick added meant a stepping stone of beautification; an invitation to make myself better. My hope is that as the years ahead unfold, I and those who will follow after me “will strive to be living examples of the values, principles, and skills taught at the school” (AHS Mission Statement).

Calendar at a Glance

December

- 2 Parent Organization Meeting 8:30 a.m.
- 2 Lyceum Jr. Strings, Chamber Orchestra, and Ensemble Fall Concert, 6:00 p.m.
- 3 4th-11th Grade Christmas Choir Concert 7:00 p.m.
- 4 AHS Youth Chorus Performing at the Lehi City Interfaith Christmas Celebration, 6:30 p.m.
- 8 Practice ACT (unofficial) (9th-11th) 8:10 a.m.-11:40 a.m.
- 10 A.M. Kindergarten Devotional 8:40 a.m.
- 10 P.M. Kindergarten Devotional 2:00 p.m.
- 10 Winter Formal 7:00-10:00 p.m. (14 and up)
- 11 Teacher In-Service, No School (K-11th)**
- 15 AHS Youth Chorus Christmas Concert Alpine Tabernacle 7:00 p.m.
- 17 “An American Heritage Christmas” with Michael Ballam, AHS Benefit Concert, 7:00 p.m.
- 18 All School Christmas Sing 8:40 a.m.
- 18 All Kindergarten attend A.M. 8:30-11:30 a.m.
- 18 Teddy Bear Service Project 10:00 a.m.
- 18 School Ends 12:05 p.m. (1st-11th)

21-Jan 1 Christmas Holiday, No School

January

- 4 School resumes
- 6 Back to School Assembly (K-6th)
- 7 Back to School Assembly (7th -11th)
- 7 Ballroom Dance Showcase 2:00 & 7:00 p.m.
- 7 Second Term Ends
- 8 Trail of Dreams, High School Musical 7:00 p.m.
- 8 Teacher In-Service, No School (K-11th)**
- 12 All-School Geography Bee, 8:40 a.m.
- 13 Required All-Parent Meeting 7:00-8:00 p.m.**
- 15 Teacher In-Service, No School (K-6th), Early out for (7th-11th) 2:00 p.m.**
- 18 Civil Rights Day, No School**
- 20 First Grade Devotional-Sivert 8:40 a.m.
- 21 First Grade Devotional-Soderstrom 8:40 a.m.
- 22 First Grade Devotional-McNamara 8:40 a.m.
- 22 Priority Registration Due for Current Patrons
- 27-28 High School Science Fair (Required 9th-11th)
- 28 All Kinder attend PM 12:00-3:00 p.m.
- 28 Dance Festival K-11th 1:30-3:00 p.m.
- 29 Teacher In-Service, No School (K-6th), Early out for (7th-11th) 2:00 p.m.**

AHS to Receive NAAS Accreditation

We are pleased to announce that American Heritage School recently hosted a successful site visit with representatives of the Utah State Office of Education (USOE) and the Northwest Association of Accredited Schools (NAAS). The visiting team, which included the USOE director of accreditation and NAAS Utah Chair, Georgia Loutensock, was very impressed with our School.

We met or exceeded all major standards, and have been approved by the Utah NAAS state board to be recommended for provisional NAAS accreditation by the regional commission. AHS accreditation through NAAS will be effective once the regional commission meets in early December, and accreditation will be retroactive to include the full 2009/2010 academic year and forward.



Accreditation does NOT require AHS to compromise its mission, philosophy, curriculum, or methodologies in any way whatsoever (we would abandon accreditation if

that ever became the case). On the contrary, accreditation is a benefit to all students at AHS, who now have immediate transferability of credit to public and private K-12 schools statewide and nationally. AHS students are now treated identically with public school students as they are evaluated for admissions by colleges and universities. In addition, AHS teachers will receive accredited hours for purposes of Utah State Licensure if that is something that is important to them.

NAAS accreditation does not replace the accreditation we seek through PNAIS, but provides for all intents and purposes full accreditation benefits for us until the PNAIS process is complete. By the conclusion of the next school year, we expect to be dually accredited by both PNAIS and NAAS. Congratulations to everyone involved in our accreditation efforts! It has been a tremendous amount of work that will benefit our students in many ways.



AHS Admitted to Regional Science & Engineering Fair

We are pleased to announce that American Heritage School has been admitted directly to the regional Central Utah Science & Engineering Fair to be held at Brigham Young University, March 22-25. All American Heritage high school students are diligently working on their individual and team-based science fair projects. The top three team or individual projects will compete at BYU. For more information, see the following link. Good luck students!

<http://cusef.byu.edu>

National Geographic Bee Coming Up!

The National Geographic Bee, AHS Qualifying School Geography Bees and Exams for 4th-8th Grade students will be held January 12. Classroom geography bees will be held December 15, 16, and 17. The winners of the classroom bees will advance to the AHS All-School Geography Bee to be held Tuesday, January 12, 2010 at 8:40 am in the auditorium. The AHS All-School Geography Bee winner will take a qualifying exam, administered by Mr. Miller, to determine if he/she qualifies to advance to the State Tournament for the National Geographic Bee. For more information and study materials, see the following links:

<http://nationalgeographic.com/geographybee>

<http://nationalgeographic.com/geobee>

AHS Students Declare the “Hand of God” at American Fork Arts Council Speech Contest



Michael Morris, 11th Grade, Won \$500 for his first-place performance at the American Fork Arts Council “America Our Country” Speech Contest

Congratulations to the following AHS students who participated in the “American Our Country” Veterans Day Speech Contest sponsored by the American Fork Arts Council:

Jacob Kleinman, Jacob Frazier, Christopher Holmstead, Steven Duncan, Michael Morris, Daniel Rose, Katie Nazer, Kelsey Crawford, Alex Lant, Brittani Bills, Lacey Monson, Nichole Klingler, Matthew Brown, Daisha VanDerWatt, and Zachary Veach.

All of these participants represented our school in a fine manner and expressed their patriotic feelings with dignity, respect, and confidence. “But most of all,” said their AHS Debate & Speech instructor Laura Scholl, “I was impressed by their boldness in declaring the providential hand of God in the guiding of our Founding Fathers. Their testimonies of the gospel of Jesus Christ are undoubtedly written upon their hearts.”

Congratulations to Michael Morris who earned the first place prize of \$500 of scholarship money. He presented his winning speech two more times (at the Apollo and at the Library Rotunda). Nichole Klinger, Christopher Holmstead, and Zachary Veach all earned honorable mentions with a cash award of \$150 each.

40th Anniversary Essay Contest Winners

We are celebrating American Heritage School’s 40th Anniversary this year – all year long! Recently, we held an essay contest with prizes for students and adults in various categories. The theme was “What does American Heritage School stand for, and what does it mean to you?” Congratulations to the following winners in each category as follows:

Adult Division:

1st Place – Melonie Cannon

2nd Place – Nicole Lee

3rd Place (tie) – Lauri Updike and Charlene Knight

Grade 7-12 Division:

1st Place – Elisa Huhem (8th Grade)

2nd Place – Michelle Morris (9th Grade)

3rd Place (tie) – Austin Hill (11th Grade) and McKenzie Hill (8th Grade)

Grade K-3 Division:

1st Place – Emily Anderson (2nd Grade)

2nd Place – Caleb Brown (3rd Grade)

3rd Place – Emily Carr (2nd Grade)

Winning essays will be featured in newsletters and at special events throughout the remainder of the year!



Spelling Bee Winners

Congratulations to our AHS all-school Spelling Bee winners. Samantha Frazier, winner of our Senior Bee, will advance to the Scripps-Daily Herald Utah County Regional Spelling Bee!

AHS Senior Bee (All-School) Winners

1st – Samantha Frazier (7th Grade, Mrs. Scanland)

2nd – Caleb Uhl (4th Grade, Mrs. Knight)

3rd – Kaiden Nunes (8th Grade, Mrs. Yamada)

AHS Junior Bee Winners

1st – Ethan Morrill (2nd Grade, Mrs. Carver)

2nd – Emily Anderson (2nd Grade, Mrs. Bingham)

3rd – Sydney Harlan (3rd Grade, Mrs. McIntyre)

***“Come – Let Us Worship the King”
4th-11th Grade Christmas Choir Concert***

Join our annual student Christmas Choir concert, “Come Let Us Worship the King” 4th-11th Grade Christmas Choir Concert, Thursday, Dec. 3, 7:00 p.m., free admission, directed by Cheri Hancock and Rob Swenson, and including the premiere of a specially arranged Christmas choral work to be performed by angels of all ages! See the following link for a flyer:

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

American Heritage Youth Chorus to Perform at Interfaith Christmas Celebration

The American Heritage Concert Choir is performing at the Lehi City Interfaith Christmas Celebration on Friday, December 4th, to be held at the LDS chapel on 200 N. Center Street in Lehi. Concert Choir members should arrive no later than 5:00 p.m. and the performance will begin at 6:00 p.m.

In addition to performances by a number of local choirs, there will be a crèche exhibit and other family oriented activities. Invite your friends and neighbors to join us for this exciting event!

Choir members need to be in their full performance attire for this event. Any additional questions about

concert attire: please contact Laurie Patterson (Concert Choir girls - 801-636-7135) or Keri Heath (Concert Choir boys - 801-763-9202) or Rob Swenson, Director, rsvenson@ahsmail.com, (801) 372-9465.

***“An American Heritage Christmas”
Annual AHS Benefit Concert Featuring
Michael Ballam, David Warner***

Don't miss our annual Christmas benefit concert “An American Heritage Christmas” featuring Michael Ballam, the American Heritage Lyceum Philharmonic, and the Combined American Heritage Festival Choirs, Thursday, Dec. 17, 7:30 p.m., directed by Kayson Brown and Rob Swenson and narrated by David Warner, Music and Cultural Arts Director for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Online ticket ordering, including video clips of last year's performance and more information, can be found at the following link:

<http://american-heritage.org/Ballam%20Concert/Ballam.htm>

***“Price of Freedom” Veteran’s Day Pageant
Draws Over 1,100 Guests; Impacts
Hearts of Students and Guests Alike***



On Saturday, Nov 7th, American Heritage School honored veterans in a multimedia concert event. Composer Rob Gardner and Music Director Kayson Brown worked with professional singers and the American Heritage Lyceum Philharmonic to present the story of four young WWII soldiers who fought for our freedom. The moving portrayal featured archive footage of WWII combined with moving music and included a special tribute to Utah Veterans. Following the performance, we received a flood of calls and requests for a repeat performance and look forward to putting it on again next year, and on multiple nights! See the following link for a video trailer of the event.

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

Selected AHS Youth Chorus Members to Perform with Mormon Tabernacle Choir

Congratulations to Chelsea Heaton (10th Grade), Chloe Johnson (9th Grade), Marianne Sorensen (10th Grade), and Linnea Miner (8th Grade), who have been invited by Dr. Mack Wilberg 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 rswenson@ahsmaail.com if you are still interested in auditioning (especially young men with changed voices) – we need you!

AHS Annual Fund Goal: Please Help Our Teachers!

Did you know that most teachers at AHS make less than they could earn elsewhere? They come because they are drawn by our mission and spirit. The School has made strides forward in our teacher compensation over the last few years; however, we are still in great need of help from each family in our school community.



AHS Teacher Bryce Taylor with 4th Grade students

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. Beginning in January 2010, we will be asking for the help of dedicated and grateful parents and grandparents to assist us in meeting our Annual Fund goal on a

class-by-class basis. With over 25 core classrooms at AHS, we hope to meet our annual fund goal of \$300K for our teachers by raising \$10K in each class.

Raising tuition is always a last resort – and we have always set tuition rates at approximately half of the "true" cost of a seat at AHS to keep the school as affordable as possible. It is only through donations that we are able to keep our tuition so affordable. But we need your help to continue this generous "sacrifice" model of operating! 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 drink from wells that we have not dug and **sacrifice consecrates our efforts!**

Foreign Exchange Host Opportunities for American Heritage School Families

Students from Asia, Latin America, and Europe have expressed interest in attending the American Heritage School, which recently was approved to admit international students. Most international students need a host family and are willing to pay a generous monthly compensation to cover meals, lodging, and transportation to and from the school. If your family is interested in hosting an international student, please contact Assistant Principal Leland Anderson, landerson@ahsmaail.com or 801-642-0055 x.307, who can help you become a host for an international student attending American Heritage School.

Foreign Language Learning Software Available to 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.

To obtain a license, please contact Assistant principal Leland Anderson at landerson@ahsmail.com or 801-642-0055 x307.

AHS Senior Class Trip to Jerusalem; Parents and Students Invited

Calling all travelers! We are pleased to announce that the AHS Senior Class Trip has been confirmed for Jerusalem in May 2010. Since we anticipate room on the tour for more than just our senior class and their families, we are extending an open invitation to any families in the school community who are interested in participating.



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

Please see the attached 8-day itinerary. **If you are interested in joining this tour, please note that a \$250/person non-refundable deposit is due in the front office not later than December 10, 2009, payable to “Fun for Less Tours”.** The remainder of the \$2,995 cost will be due in installments on Feb. 1 and Mar. 1. A packet of information, including a contract and more travel details, will be provided to those who make their deposit by December 10. If you desire to participate, but have questions or would like to discuss alternative arrangements, please visit with Mr. Beckwith.

The 8-day tour, including 6 days in country, begins 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.

In addition, high school course credit will be awarded to any student that participates in both the tour and a seminar to be offered on selected days after school throughout the third and fourth terms.

The Holy Land tour itinerary and tour guide information are attached. Dr. Richard Holzapfel is a professor of religion at Brigham Young University, taught at the BYU Jerusalem Center from 1997 to 1998, and was strongly recommended to us as a tour guide who could give our students and parents a truly powerful experience. He is also graciously donating his time, which significantly reduces the price of the tour. Questions or comments? Please e-mail Mr. Beckwith directly, gbeckwith@ahsmail.com.

Fall Festival Success: Families Unify, Give for AHS Elementary School

This year’s Fall Festival held on October 9 was a tremendous success! The Parent Organization did a truly outstanding job with the event, and raised enough for a new play toy system to be added to the vacant “circle” on the east side of the school. Great work everyone!

Homeschool & Distance Learning Courses

Out of a desire to make the wonderful educational opportunities at American Heritage School more widely available, we will be expanding our resources to include online courses via the World Wide Web. These courses will be tailored to both the elementary and secondary levels and will be offered in the following formats, beginning in September 2010:

Live Course. Teachers and student groups will meet together online to research subject matter, reason principles, relate understanding, and record learning. Students will also have the opportunity of meeting with their instructor during weekly one-on-one mentoring sessions.

Consulted Course. Curricular materials and recorded classes will guide the students through the course at their own pace. Students may elect to meet online with the instructor for 20-minute weekly mentoring sessions, but these will not be required.

Independent Study Course. American Heritage School's copyrighted online or print curricula (materials that are not licensed to share or re-sell) will be provided for family use with some teacher-graded assignments and computer-generated feedback.

In fact, American Heritage School is currently hosting an online history course (World History from 1600, taught by Mr. Nick Gentile) and is launching two more courses beginning January 25, 2010:

Title: *Literature: Novels & Short Stories*

Grade Levels: 7-12

Instructor: Laura Scholl

Consulted, or Independent Study format (See above)

Tuition: \$120, \$100

Credits: .5

Required Texts:

The Pearl by John Steinbeck

Frankenstein by Mary Shelley

Much Ado About Nothing by Shakespeare

Title: *SAXON Math*

Grade Levels: All Grade Levels, Kindergarten through Calculus

Instructor: David Goff

Consulted format (See above)

Cost: \$120; Credits: .5 – 1.0 (depending)

Required Texts:

SAXON Math appropriate to the grade level. (\$31 - \$72)

Students needing to purchase required texts may purchase from American Heritage School for retail prices. Texts may also be acquired through independent resellers. Registration is now open and enrollment is limited! To register your students for these new courses and purchase texts, please contact Assistant Principal Leland Anderson, landerson@ahsmail.com, or 801-642-0055 x 307.



"Care Cards" created by AHS art students and mailed to soldiers in Iraq and Afghanistan with personal artwork and letters of encouragement on the back

Lunch Options

Please note that lunch options, including the pizza Monday order forms, are located on the School's Edline site.

<http://american-heritage.org/pdf/Pizza/DECEMBER-2009.pdf>

Farewell to Our Beloved Teachers

We bid a fond farewell to Mrs. Scanland (7th Grade), who will be leaving us on December 18, and Mr. Carman (9th Grade), whose last day at AHS was November 20. We love both of these teachers dearly and hope to see them around the campus in the future!



Welcome Teachers & Staff

Amy Nelson, High School Spanish. Mrs. Nelson comes to American Heritage School with a degree from BYU in Spanish Literature (emphasis in teaching) and a minor in Theatre. Her experience includes teaching Spanish at the MTC and also over the last three years to her three boys at home. Having served a Spanish-speaking mission in California, Mrs. Nelson says, "I loved the language, culture and people so much that I came home and changed my major from theater to Spanish. I knew that Spanish was and is to be an important part of my life." Amy and her husband live in American Fork. "We love reading books in Spanish, watching movies in Spanish and even telling jokes in Spanish. My husband tells his friends and colleagues that he is really married to a Hispanic woman!" Welcome, Mrs. Nelson!

Janet Peterson, High School Choir Accompanist. Mrs. Peterson comes to American Heritage School's music program with a deep skill set in piano accompaniment and music instruction. In addition to piano, Mrs. Peterson has taught harp for many years and runs a successful and popular harp instruction program. Mrs. Peterson has been a parent at the school (Evan, currently in 9th Grade) for three years. Welcome, Mrs. Peterson!

Regan Gull, Girls Basketball Coach. Ms. Gull, currently in her second year at BYU, comes to American Heritage School having played basketball for four years at Orem High School (state champions during her sophomore and junior years), including numerous basketball camps and speed camps to hone her skills and understanding of the game. "Team athletics have had an amazing impact on my life and I would love to show the girls at American Heritage what a blessing basketball can be in their lives as well." Welcome, Ms. Gull!

Positions Available

Technology Manager (FT): Seeking a full time Technology Manager with skills and experience sufficient to support all aspects of the school's technology needs. Significant experience with computer hardware, software, internet applications, and audio/visual equipment and systems is required for the position. Experience with networking, graphic

design, programming, and web design, is helpful but not necessary. Must have excellent interpersonal skills and an enduring love of youth, teachers, and the Restored Gospel. Competitive salary and benefits. Position open immediately.

Middle School Core Teacher (FT) (posted 11/30/09) (Grade 7 English/History/Literature): Minimum two-years' experience, preferably in formal middle or high school setting, bachelors degree or higher preferred. Must have an enduring love of youth, love of teaching, and love of the Restored Gospel. Ability to teach English (including writing and grammar), Literature, and History (U.S. and World History) strongly preferred. Competitive salary based upon experience. Health and retirement benefits available (FT only). Position available immediately (beginning January 4, 2010). Applications are being accepted through April 15, 2010.



High School Core Teacher (FT) Grades 9, 12, English/Literature/History combined "core" position. Minimum two-years' experience, preferably in formal middle or high school setting, bachelors degree or higher preferred. Must have an enduring love of youth, love of teaching, and love of the Restored Gospel. Ability to teach English (including writing and grammar), Literature, and History (U.S. and World History) strongly preferred. Competitive salary based upon experience. Health and retirement benefits available. Position for 2010-2011 school year. Applications are being accepted through April 15, 2010.

Online Teachers (PT) (All subjects) Two (2) or more years teaching experience in the pertinent age group

and subject matter preferred, though strong candidates with less experience are also invited to apply. Successful candidates will demonstrate an enduring love and understanding of students, teaching and assessing, and the Restored Gospel; proficiency with Word, PowerPoint, and internet browsers; strong organizational, written, oral, and interpersonal communication skills; and a bachelors or masters degree (preferred). Must have access to personal high speed internet and a long distance phone plan and a flexible day-time work schedule. Positions open through April 15, 2010.

After-School Preparatory Choir Director (PT/hourly): Minimum two-years experience, preferably in elementary music education. Must have an enduring love of youth, love of teaching and love of the Restored Gospel. Will direct the non-auditioned Preparatory Choir of the after-school American Heritage Youth Chorus, consisting of children ages 8-12. Will also assist with the auditioned Concert Choir (ages 8-18). Must have choral directing experience and knowledge of vocal pedagogy for young voices. Bachelors degree in music and experience/certification in the Kodaly method preferred.

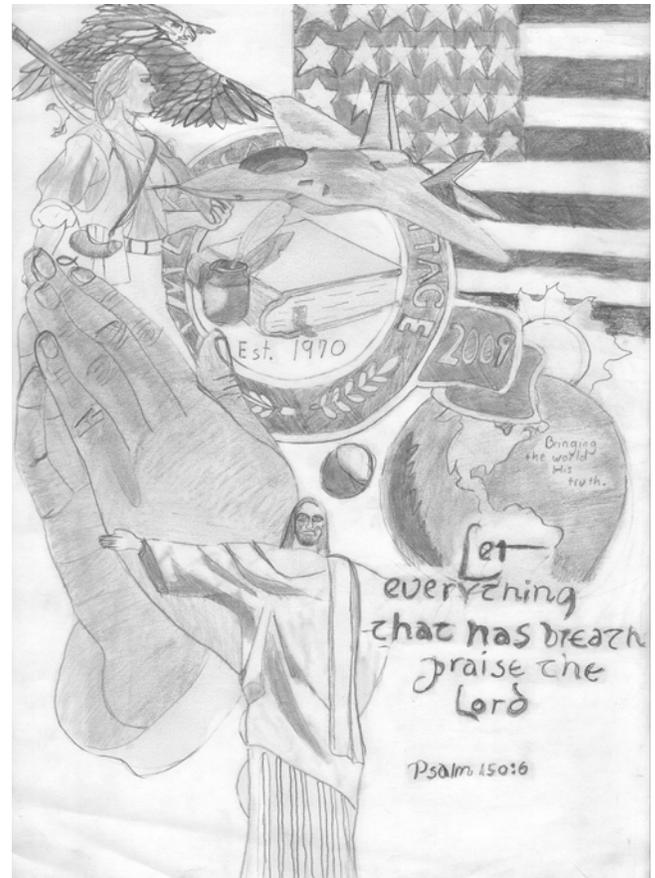
See the “Opportunities” page of our website for more details. american-heritage.org/Opportunities.htm

Annual Performance Surveys **Tell Us How We Are Doing!**

The annual American Heritage School Performance Surveys are now available online (home page, scroll down to “For Parents” section). We value your input! Tell us how you feel about individual teachers, administrators, academics, programs, facilities, events, and more. Surveys are entirely anonymous and are used in evaluating programs, personnel, and offerings for the current and upcoming year. This round of surveys closes on Friday, December 18. We will conduct another round of surveys in March/April. Please take some time to help us with this very important feedback process.

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

(scroll down to “Annual Performance Surveys” on left under “For Parents”)



“Let everything that has breath praise the Lord”
By Andrei Tian, 9th Grade

American Founding Books for Sale

Thanks to a generous donation, American Heritage School has been given hundreds of copies of the following popular titles dealing with the American Founding. American Heritage School is selling these books as a fundraiser for less than their retail value:

The Making of America - \$25

The 5000 Year Leap - \$15

The Real George Washington: The True Story of America's Most Indispensable Man - \$20

The 5,000 Year Leap has been a New-York Times Best Seller in the past month. These titles can inspire lives and would make great Christmas presents for families and neighbors! Contact Shari Wheeler in the front office for assistance with purchasing. Get yours while copies last!

AHS Honor Roll - First Term

American Heritage School posts the Honor Roll each term for grades 4 and higher. Students qualify for the Honor Roll through exemplary performance in either academics (minimum 3.70 grade point average) or self-government (highest self-government grade of "Outstanding" in all classes). A student receives an "Outstanding" self-government grade who demonstrates exceptional respect, effort, and work ethic; makes significant or frequent contributions to the class; and completes and submits all in-class and homework assignments on time during the term (unless otherwise excused by the instructor).

Anderson, Britnie	Frazier, Grant	Jones, Noah	Peterson, Evan
Anderson, Brody	Frazier, Jacob	Jorgensen, Jens	Pierce, Aubrey
Anderson, Taylor	Glathar, Sabrina	Jorgensen, Josh	Raubenheimer, Carlynn
Bailey, Bethany	Graff, Bryce	Klingler, Nichole	Raubenheimer, Tanlen
Bailey, Brayden	Griffith, Nathan	Lant, Alex	Rickenbach, Isaac
Beifuss, Isabel	Gunther, Kaitlyn	Lee, Ho Seok	Riley, Cameron
Bell, Tyler	Gurney, Jessica	Lee, Woo Seok	Riley, Charissa
Benson, Mitchell	Hales, Christopher	Lofgreen, Carsyn	Roberts, Brittney
Bigelow, Catherine	Hales, Clarissa	Lofgreen, Kaytlyn	Roberts, Emily
Bigelow, Rachel	Hall, Lauren	Martin, Nicholas	Rose, Daniel
Bills, Brittani	Hall, Miranda	Mason, Kenna	Rose, Joseph
Bleyl, Kennedi	Harbaugh, Azure	Mathews, Ella	Roskelley, Porter
Bogges, Ian	Harrison, Parker	Maynez, Cygni	Sessions, Amber
Bogges, Jesse	Hart, Spencer	McGhie, Brenden	Sessions, Andrew
Boyle, Amy	Hastings, Allan	McGhie, Keegan	Sheets, Adam
Breaux, Rachael	Heaton, Chelsea	McGuire, Lindsey	Smith, Madison
Brooks, Sara	Heras, Erik	McGuire, Stephanie	Sorensen, Michael
Brown, Mckenna	Hill, Austin	McMillan, Benjamin	Sutton, Gabrielle
Bushman, Adam	Hill, McKenzie	McNamara, Paige	Sutton, Olivia
Bushman, Benjamin	Hilton, Ivonne	Miner, Linnea	Tolman, Hannah
Bushman, Nicole	Hilton, Sarah	Miner, Natalie	Tovey, Emma
Bybee, Klaesara	Holmes, Megan	Monson, Lacey	Tulley, Robert
Bybee, Taeven	Holmstead, Christopher	Monson, Rosie	Uhl, Caleb
Carlson, Kelsey	Holmstead, Joseph	Morris, Michael	Valverde, Dylana
Casale, Blake	Holmstead, Nathan	Morris, Michelle	Van Bloem, Eliza
Chan, Cynthia	Huhem, Natasha	Mulvey, Lauren	Van Der Watt, Ariane
Chinchay, Savannah	James, Harrison	Munoz, Samuel	Vanderbeek, James
Chipman, Amanda	Jensen, Andrea	Nazer, Katherine	Veach, Zachary
Chipman, Clarissa	Jensen, Sarah	Neal, Savannah	Wade, Harrison
Crawford, Kelsey	Jespersen, Ethan	Ng, Matthew	Wade, Hayden
Crawford, Magdalene	Johnson, Brenna	Nielson, Amanda	Webb, Jack
Crawford, Rebekah	Johnson, Chloe	Nunes, Jared	Webb, Olivia
Davies, Hannah	Johnson, Lauren	Nunes, Kaiden	White, Lillyanne
DeSpain, Dorie	Johnson, Madison	Ostler, Hannah	White, McKaylla
DeSpain, Whitney	Johnson, Walker	Otteson, Rachel	Woodmansee, Alex
Duncan, Misha	Jones, Aryn	Pack, David	Young, Sidney
Duncan, Steven	Jones, Daniel	Peterson, Ethan	



Teddy Bears *for* Christmas



Each December, American Heritage School holds its annual Teddy Bears for Christmas Service Project for the Ogden Rescue Mission. To prepare for this event we ask that every able student bring:

- A new teddy bear (teddy bears only please)
- Size – The bear needs to be small (under 24 inches) so it can easily be carried by a homeless child.
- Bring your bear on or after Monday, November 30, 2009.
- Parents may join us on Friday, December 18th at 8:40 a.m. for our all-school Christmas Sing, followed by a devotional (at approximately 10 a.m.) presented by Mrs. Updike and a “hugging” line send-off for each bear. (Bring a camera)
- In keeping with the spirit of sacrifice associated with this very special project, we ask that every child try to earn their own money for the bear they will donate.

Thank you for your generosity!

Merry Christmas!



AMERICAN HERITAGE SCHOOL
FAMILY EDUCATION CENTER

Proudly Presents

Understanding Our Times

A Monthly Colloquia Series starting on December 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>



*Come, Let us Worship
the King!*

American Heritage School Annual Christmas Concert

Featuring

American Heritage 4th - 11th Grade Choirs

Thursday, December 3rd, 2009

7:00 p.m.

Directed by Cheri Hancock & Rob Swenson

Free Admission ~ All Ages Welcome

an
American Heritage
CHRISTMAS

a benefit concert featuring

**MICHAEL
BALLAM**

and the

AMERICAN HERITAGE
LYCEUM PHILHARMONIC
&
COMBINED AMERICAN HERITAGE
FESTIVAL CHOIRS

THURS, DEC 17
7:30 P.M.

AT AMERICAN HERITAGE SCHOOL



Ages 8 and up. Purchase tickets online or by phone.
\$15 in advance, \$20 at the door.

www.american-heritage.org • 801.642.0055



ISRAEL

8-day tour • May 20-27, 2010

LDS WORLD
Tours
a division of Fun For Less Tours

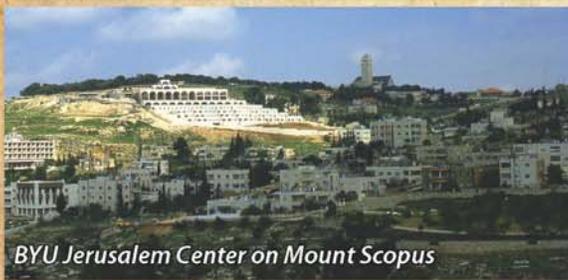
Richard Holzapfel's "In the Footsteps of Jesus Tour"



Jerusalem, Israel



Sea of Galilee



BYU Jerusalem Center on Mount Scopus



Garden Tomb - Jerusalem, Israel

Itinerary (subject to change as per Dr. Holzapfel)

Day 1: May 20 (Thursday)

• Fly to Israel

Day 2: May 21 (Friday)

Arrive in Tel Aviv and drive to Galilee to our hotel located near the Sea of Galilee.

Day 3: May 22 (Saturday)

Today we will tour the Sea of Galilee area: Tabgha, Capernaum, Bethsaida, Mount of Beatitudes and Korazim.

Day 4: May 23 (Sunday)

On the way to Jerusalem we will visit Nazareth Village, see Mount Tabor, and drive through the Jordan Valley to see the Dead Sea and Qumran. Over night in Jerusalem for 3 nights.

Day 5: May 24 (Monday)

Tour Hezekiah's Tunnel, St. Anne's, Old City, and BYU Jerusalem Center.

Day 6: May 25 (Tuesday)

Visit Bethlehem, Ein Kerem, Model City, Temple Mount, Davidson Center and Western Wall.

Day 7: May 26 (Wednesday)

Today we will visit Mount of Olives, Gethsamane, Upper Room, St. Peters, Garden Tomb. Later that evening we will travel to the Tel Aviv airport.

Day 8: May 27 (Thursday)

Arrive in USA.

Our Package Price

\$2,995*

*Per person cash discount price based on double occupancy.

Includes: Breakfasts and dinners (except last night) guides, bus driver, bus, luggage handling, booking fees, entrance fees, flights and hotels.

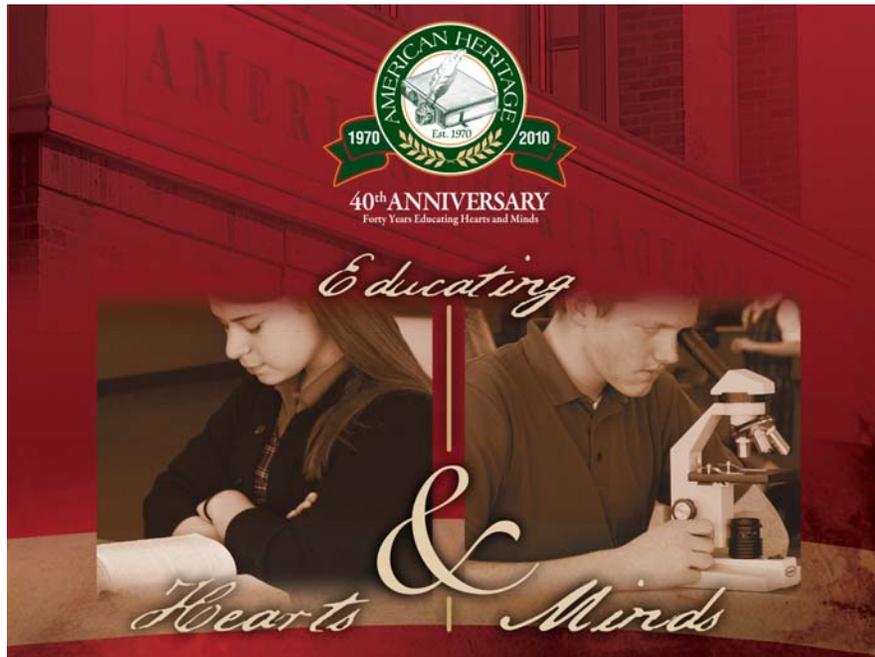
Does not include: Tips (bring approx. \$60 per passenger) and no lunches (bring snacks from USA)

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;
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 insofar 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.



VISION STATEMENT

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