



American Heritage School News

September 2006

Message From the Director

“No culture can survive that is ignorant of its own traditions.”ⁱ

Last month on my way to work, I heard a national radio broadcast highlighting the mindset of the average 18-year-old student entering college this fall.ⁱⁱ Born in 1988, this class of 2010 grew up viewing the world through a computer screen and surfing the Internet as they learned to read. Following are a few notable “mindset” characteristics of this year’s entering freshman class:

- The Soviet Union has never existed and is “about as scary as the student union”.
- They have known only two presidents.
- There has always been only one Germany.
- They have rarely mailed anything using a stamp.
- They are wireless, yet always connected.
- They have always been able to watch wars and revolutions live on television.
- They have always had access to their own credit cards.
- They have never put their money in a “Savings & Loan.”
- Bad behavior has always been the most popular subject for amateur videos.
- They grew up with virtual pets to feed, water, and play games with, lest they die.
- Professional athletes have always competed in the Olympics.
- Non-denominational mega-churches have always been the fastest growing religious organizations in the U.S.
- Brides have always worn white for a first, second, or third wedding.
- Television stations have never concluded the broadcast day with the national anthem.ⁱⁱⁱ

Courses taught by college professors to the class of 2010 will be important capstones in these students’ formal educational pyramid. But in the words of one former U.S. Secretary of Education, it is not our

nation’s colleges, but rather our nation’s elementary schools, that are most responsible for the safekeeping of our national heritage and future:

Elementary schools hold the responsibility of transmitting to each new generation what may be called our ‘common culture’ – the things that bind Americans together as one people. In its highest form, this common culture is the sum of our intellectual inheritance, our legacy from all the ages that have gone before us... Our system of education is like a pyramid. Success at each level—high school, college, and beyond—depends on earlier preparation. Mediocrity at any stage will diminish possibilities for the next. A cracked foundation threatens the whole.^{iv}

What is the “common culture” that we are conveying to our children? Does the mindset of the average entrance-level college student say anything about the degree to which we as a people have discharged our obligation to convey the “sum of our intellectual inheritance” or the “legacy from all the ages that have gone before us”?

In one of the great military conflicts described in the Book of Mormon, the enemy fought with more strength and courage than it ever had in recorded history: “Yea, never had the Lamanites been known to fight with such exceedingly great strength and courage, no, not even from the beginning.”^v

And yet, the Lord’s people prevailed based upon a simple but supremely powerful principle: they were “inspired by a better cause.”^{vi}

No culture can survive that is ignorant of its own traditions. Our culture – our Christian, American culture – has for centuries been guided and preserved by people who were inspired by a better cause: Luther and the Reformation, Washington and the Revolution, Joseph and the Restoration, and Lincoln and the Union, to name a few.

The Nephites of ancient America were no different: “for they were not fighting for monarchy nor power but they were fighting for their homes and their liberties, their wives and their children, and their all, yea, for their rites of worship and their church.”^{vii} And, most importantly, “they were doing that which they felt was the duty which they owed to their God.”^{viii}

May we and our children be so inspired by a better cause – for our God, for our families, and for our country.

Sincerely,

--Grant Beckwith

ⁱ William J. Bennett, “*The Educated Child: A Parent’s Guide from Preschool through Eighth Grade*” Simon & Schuster, 1999 p. 11 [“The Educated Child”]

ⁱⁱ Beloit College, *Mindset List for the Class of 2010*, Beloit, WI, 2006 (NPR Broadcast, *Morning Edition*, August 29, 2006).

ⁱⁱⁱ *Id.*

^{iv} The Educated Child, *supra*, at p. 11-12

^v Alma 43:43

^{vi} Alma 43:45

^{vii} *Id.*

^{viii} Alma 43:46.

Student Submissions

Reflections on “God’s Principle of Individuality”
(By Mrs. Geslison’s 6th Grade Class)

The following statements were the collective work-product of 6th Grade students working together to formulate their own working definition of God’s Principle of Individuality, the first of the “Seven Principles of American Christian Education”:

God loves us because we are His children.

He created us equal but different at the same time.

We should celebrate the fact that we are all individuals by accepting one another, showing respect, and encouraging each other.

We should not compare ourselves to others.

We each have different talents so we can fulfill our personal missions as Christ fulfilled His.

Christ loves us so much that He atoned for our sins and gave His life for each one of us.

Reflections on “Why I Chose to be Educated at American Heritage School”
(By Meagan Hilmo, 7th Grade)

I chose to stay at American Heritage School instead of a junior high school because of the spirit that dwells here and how everybody treats each other equally. I am very grateful for the chance to learn about Jesus Christ as well as math, science and history. I am also grateful for the spirit of sacrifice that this school represents.

Reflections on “Why I Chose to be Educated at American Heritage School”
(By Jacob Smart, 7th Grade)

This is my seventh year at American Heritage. My brothers and sisters have been attending school here for the past ten years. One of the things that is so great about this school is that I get educated spiritually as well as instructed in subjects like literature, writing, math, science, etc. ...and it is good to be well-rounded.

Reflections on “Why I Chose to be Educated at American Heritage School”
(By Allyson LeFebvre, 7th Grade)

I truly desire to be around others that make me feel the Spirit everywhere I go. I noticed that my cousins who went here were maturing faster and became more pleasant. I knew that it would help me in my personal life if I had devotionals, sang hymns, and learned about God more than only on Sundays. I am very grateful that I made this decision.

Reflections on “Why I Chose to be Educated at American Heritage School”
(By Austin Hendrickson, 7th Grade)

When you walk into American Heritage you can feel the Holy Ghost testify that this is a place where you can get a good education. At American Heritage no one swears and everyone is dressed nicely so that the

Spirit can be with all of us. I have been blessed to go to American Heritage School.

Reflections on "Why I Chose to be Educated at American Heritage School"
(By Karissa Kenney, 7th Grade)

I like coming to American Heritage because I love learning about the gospel. I also like coming here because of the uniforms which help us to be modest.

Reflections on "My Educational Goals for this School Year"
(By Lillyanne White, 7th Grade)

I want to read the whole Book of Mormon so I can have a better understanding of it. I want to hand in all my homework on time. I also want to become more like Jesus Christ this year.

Reflections on "My Educational Goals for this School Year"
(By Jordan Morse, 7th Grade)

Another goal is to gain as much knowledge as possible this year because Mr. Beckwith says, "Knowledge is power."

Uniform Policy Changes for 2006/2007

A reminder that beginning Friday, September 8, and effective for the remainder of the 2006/2007 school year, the following uniform policy changes will take effect. These changes apply only to the Friday dress uniform (not the general Monday-Thursday uniform). There are 19 in-class Fridays on the 2006/2007 calendar not including special events.

Boys. The dress uniform for boys will be modified to require a white button-shirt and a solid navy tie. Our uniform supplier (Dennis Uniform) carries a navy-blue tie and a navy-blue clip-on tie for under \$10 and also carries white button-shirts for all grades K-8. We recommend the clip-on tie for grades K-5 so that it may be easily removed at recess time.

Girls. The dress uniform for girls will be modified to exclude white knee-high socks (black or navy tights are the two remaining options).

We remind all parents that pants for boys must be purchased from Dennis Uniform. Also, if a sweater for either boys or girls is desired for use in School, it must be purchased from Dennis Uniform.

Forgotten Lunch Program



Attention parents:

We have had many students participate in our forgotten lunch program so far this year and in order for us to continue we will need those that use the

program to remember it will only work if items are replenished on an as-used basis. Thank you.

Calendar at a Glance

Sept 8	Family Lecture Series
Sept 15	Teacher In-Service-No School
Sept 18	Constitution Assembly 8:40-9:30 3 rd -8 th
Sept 19	Eye Screening 9:00 a.m.
Sept 22	Mid-Term
Sept 26-28	Book Fair Tue.12-3 p.m. Wed & Thurs 8-8 p.m.
Sept 27	Parent Teacher Conference 4:00–8:00p.m.
Sept 28	Parent Teacher Conference 4:00-8:00p.m.
Sept 29	Teacher In-Service-No School
Oct 6	Picture Day—Cory Adams
Oct 12	U. E. A. - No School
Oct 13	U. E. A. - No School
Oct 16	U. E. A. - No School
Oct 19	Sixth Grade Devotional 2:00 p.m.
Oct 20	Sixth Grade Devotional 8:40 p.m.
Oct 20	Fall Festival 6:00 p.m.
Oct 27	First Term Ends

Eye Screening

On September 19, beginning at 9:00 a.m., the School will conduct eye screening for all students in the School. No preparation or attendance is required by parents. If in the course of testing it is determined that a student may need corrective lenses or other professional attention, parents will receive a note with details concerning the eye exam results. *No follow-up communication will occur with parents of students whose eye exam results were satisfactory.*

Immunization Requirements **Seventh Grade Entry 2006-2007**

A reminder that in order to attend the Seventh grade, a student must have proof of receiving the following immunizations:

- 3 Hepatitis B
- 1 Tetanus/Diphtheria (Td) booster
- 1 Varicella (chicken pox)
 - Previous history of chickenpox is OK; parent must sign verification statement on school immunization record.
 - If student is already 13 years old, 2 doses are required

This is in addition to their immunizations, which should have already been completed (i.e. MMR, Polio).

New adolescent Td/Pertussis (tdap) vaccines can be given to satisfy the Td requirement.

Emergency Preparedness

Congratulations to those who have brought your child's "comfort kit" to school. We would like to thank Michelle and Steve Jorgensen for their work to review the comfort kits that have been brought to school. Currently 65% of the students have a comfort kit at school. Thank you for your continued support in this important effort. For those who have not brought a comfort kit to school yet, please have them brought to school by the Thursday, the 14th of September.

Positions Available

Custodial Position Available



Part time custodial positions are available at the school! A tuition scholarship combined with an hourly rate is offered as compensation. For those who are interested, please contact Leslie Clark at the front office

for application and to set up and interview.

Fall Festival

The Fall Festival is coming – mark your calendars for Friday, October 20, at 6:00 p.m.! Year after year this is one of the best attended and most exciting events conducted at the School. We need everyone's help to make this year's festival a successful fundraiser and a fun night for all! See Leslie Clark in the front office to sign up to help with the Fall Festival! Also, if you're interested in making a business donation, or requesting a business donation from someone you know, please get a formal charitable contribution letter and copy of the School DVD for the potential donor.

Family Lecture Series

Please join us for an evening with Elder Hartman Rector Jr. for the first in the 2006/2007 Family Lecture Series, this Friday, September 8, 2006, at 7:30 p.m. See the flyer below (attached) for more information.


AMERICAN HERITAGE
SCHOOL & FAMILY EDUCATION CENTER

FAMILY LECTURE SERIES

WITH



ELDER HARTMAN RECTOR, JR.

"Living the Commandments"

Born and raised in Missouri, Hartman Rector, Jr., joined the Church in 1952. In 1968 he was called as a member of the Quorum of the Seventy. He has twice served as a mission president in the Alabama-Florida and California San Diego Missions. A former naval aviator, he spent twenty-six years in the U.S. Navy and the Naval Reserve, where he is a captain. He is married to Constance Kirk Daniel Rector, and they have nine children.

Date:	Friday, September 8, 2006
Time:	7:30 pm-9:00 pm <i>please be seated by 7:25 pm</i>
Place:	American Heritage School 736 N. 1100 E. American Fork <i>directly east of Mt. Timpanogos Temple</i>
Who:	All are welcome - ages 14 and up
Cost:	Free
Info:	mpatch@ahsmail.com or 642-0055

The Family Lecture Series is offered the second Friday of each month during the school year and is free and open to the public. Our next lecture is Friday November 10, 2006