

American Heritage School

Home of the Patriots

William R. Laurie, M. Ed.
President/Founder

Douglas R. Laurie, M. Ed., D.C.
Vice President



Patricia A. Butts, M.A.
High School Principal

Kelly Bennett, M.S. Ed.
Director of Guidance

12200 W. Broward Blvd. • Plantation, Florida 33325
Phone: 954-472-0022 • Fax: 954-472-0616
www.ahschool.com

School Profile 2008 – 2009 For Prospective Families

Highlights of School Recognitions (2007-2008)

- Number one private school in math competitions in the state, second year in a row
- Third and fourth place winners at the Intel International Science Fair
- Number one school in Broward County in science competitions
- Four competitors (Fourth and eleventh place winners) in the nation at the National History Day competition
- Seven Gold Winners (Levels 3 & 4) at the National Spanish Exam
- Fourteen years of State Selected One-Act Plays and District Champion One-Act Plays
- Two All State Orchestra recognitions, and ten All County Orchestra recognitions
- Three competitors at the National K-12 Ceramic Exhibition juried competition
- *Student Volunteer of the Year* granted by Volunteer Broward
- National winner at the Eighteenth Annual Peace Education Awards
- National Champions in Baseball
- State Champions in Baseball, Girls Golf, Softball, Boys Soccer, Girls Tennis
- Voted the #7 high school athletic program in the nation by *Sports Illustrated*

The School

American Heritage School is an independent, nonsectarian, and co-educational day school for grades Pre-K through 12 with approximately 2,400 students. The high school, grades 9 through 12, has a student population of 945 students. The school was founded in 1971 to serve the fast-developing residential communities west of Fort Lauderdale, Florida. The wooded 40-acre campus and colonial style complex includes a multimillion dollar fine arts facility/auditorium, sports fields, Olympic size pool, and quiet courtyard areas. Our library is a 10,000 square foot state-of-the-art structure housing 4 interactive classrooms, 150 computers, and 40,000 volumes of books and reference materials. American Heritage offers financial aid, scholarships, and faculty tuition benefits to approximately 21% of the student body for tuition expenses.

The college preparatory curriculum at American Heritage serves students of bright average to gifted intelligence and aims to develop critical thinking skills, problem solving abilities, and lifelong learning. We believe that our students should develop aspects of themselves in addition to academics. There are over 30 student clubs and organizations, and multiple service opportunities on and off campus.

What makes our school unique

Our campus resembles a small college in size and design. Departments are housed in separate buildings and students are expected to navigate independently 40 acres for classes, sports and fine arts events. An independent work hour is part of the daily schedule so that students can learn to manage their time, commitments, and priorities. Our student to faculty ratio is 15:1.

Faculty

The students at American Heritage are served by 130 instructors, counselors, and administrators. Fifty-one percent hold Masters or Doctoral degrees. Our teachers actively seek out both school-year and summer workshops from which they return with creative ideas. Teachers of AP courses keep up-to-date by attending workshops in their field; in fact, we have AP readers on our staff. Our faculty are considered professional, competent, and caring by our students and their parents. Former professional actors, practicing physicians and attorneys bring resources uncommon to many high schools. Faculty turnover is minimal.

Accreditation and Membership

National Council for Private Schools
Broward County Non-Public School Association
Southern Association of Colleges and Schools
The College Board

National Assoc. of College Admissions Counselors
Florida Association of Academic Non-Public Schools
Association of Independent Schools of Florida including
the Commission on International and Trans-Regional Accreditation

Curriculum/Course Offerings

In addition to the standard college preparatory curriculum, we offer
18 Advanced Placement courses and 83 honors courses.

English Department

Advanced Placement: English Lang. & Comp., English Lit. & Comp. College Preparatory: English I*, English II*, English III*, English IV*, Journalism, Newspaper*, Yearbook*, Mythology, Science Fiction, Creative Writing, Literary Magazine*, College Writing*, Contemporary Fiction*, Women's Literature*, Argument & Debate Honors

* Honors sections also available

Foreign Language Department

Advanced Placement: Spanish Language, French Language. College Preparatory: Mandarin Chinese I Honors, II Honors, III Honors, Spanish I, Spanish II, Spanish III Honors, Spanish IV Honors, Spanish V Honors, French I, French II, French III Honors, French IV Honors, French V Honors

Social Studies Department

Advanced Placement: World History, American History, American Government, Macro Economics, Psychology. College Preparatory: Honors Human Geography, World Geography*, World History*, American History*, American Government*, Economics*, Sociology*, Psychology*

* Honors sections also available

Law Studies Honors Program: (Requirements: high English grades; approval through interview)
(All courses are Honors level) Business Law, Trial Advocacy, Moot Court/Mock Trial, Constitutional Law, Criminal Law, Contemporary Issues in Law, Evidence, Homicide, Family Law, International Law, Law Internship

Science Department

Advanced Placement: Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Environment. College Preparatory: Physical Science, Biology*, Chemistry*, Physics*, Honors Research I, Honors Research II, Environment, Marine Biology*, Health/Nutrition

* Honors sections available

Medical Professions Honors Program: (Requirements: advanced math & science, high reading comprehension, and interview)
(All courses are Honors level) Medical Terminology, Sports Medicine, Anatomy & Physiology, Pathology, Forensic Science, Microbiology, Organic Chemistry, Medical Internship

Mathematics Department

Advanced Placement: Calculus AB, Calculus BC, Statistics. College Preparatory: Algebra I*, Geometry*, Algebra II*, Pre-Calculus*, Analysis of Functions, Calculus*, Differential Eq. and Multi-Variable Calculus Honors

* Honors sections also available

Honors Engineering Program: Intro to Engineering Design, Principles of Engineering, Digital Electronics, Engineering Design & Development, Engineering Internship

Fine Arts Department

Visual Art: Intro to Visual Concepts; Drawing I & II; Ceramics I, II, III, IV (Honors); Painting I, II, III; Photography I, II, III, IV (Honors); Computer Graphics; Graphic Design; Sculpture I, & II; Architectural Design I – IV; Art Portfolio Honors; AP Art History

Theater: Intro to Drama; Acting I, II, III, IV - VII Honors; Intro to Technical Theater; Stagecraft I & II; Stage Make-up I & II; Sound & Lighting Design I & II; Musical Theater; Theater Business/Management I & II; Playwriting*, Movement/Voice for the Actor*

Music: Mixed Chorus I - IV; Women's Chorus I - IV; Honors A Capella Chorus; Music Theory*; Percussion Ensemble*; Classical Guitar I - VIII; Piano I - IV; Orchestra I - IV (Honors available); Music Technology; AP Music Theory

Band: Beginning Band; Advanced Band; Colourguard

Dance: Dance Techniques I - VI; Company Dance Honors

Computer Department

Advanced Placement: AP Computer Science. College Preparatory: Office Suite*; iLife Suite*; Multimedia Production*; Production/Broadcasting*; Layout Design; E-Commerce; 2-D Animation; Web Page Design

* Honors sections also available

Graduation Requirements

There are 2 semesters per year and credits are granted each semester. In addition, all students are required to complete 120 hours of community service. All classes are 49 minutes long and meet 5 times a week.

To graduate, a student must have earned a total of 24 credits (Carnegie units). The graduation requirements are:

English	4 credits
Foreign Language	2 credits (3 recommended)
Social Studies	3 credits, including World History, American History, Economics, American Government (4 recommended)
Science	3 credits, including Biology (4 recommended)
Math	4 credits
Fine Arts	.5 credit
Personal Fitness	.5 credit
Additional courses of student's choice to total	7 credits 24 credits

Community Collaborations

Our students participate in enrichment and leadership programs offered in Broward County, including the National Conference for Community and Justice, Leadership Broward, Volunteer Broward, Boys and Girls Clubs, Silver Knights, and the Institute for Math and Computer Science. Nationally, our students have participated in Hugh O'Brian Youth Foundation, Freedoms Foundation, Presidential Classroom, and National Leadership Forums.

In addition, American Heritage School is home to two nonprofit organizations: Mosaic Theatre, an organization committed to promoting the dramatic arts where students are able to work alongside professional actors, and the Center for the Arts Scholarship Foundation, a fund raising organization which awards scholarships to talented students in the arts. In addition, our students participate annually in competitions in speech, science, foreign language, social studies, theater, visual art, music, math and community service.

Athletics

American Heritage offers a comprehensive competitive sports program for boys and girls. Thirteen boys varsity sports and 12 girls varsity sports are offered, and a "no cut" policy allows every student who wants to participate an opportunity to play on the Patriot team of his or her choice. Our coaches provide a high quality level of instruction in all sports. Sportsmanship, teamwork, recognition of effort, thorough training and preparation are goals we work for every day. Awards evenings are held for athletes and parents at the conclusion of each season.

Fine Arts

Our Fine Arts Department is an international, national, state, regional and district champion department. We welcome students from the most gifted artist to the beginner and, through our low student-teacher ratio, each person will develop at his/her level. We offer a complete fine arts curriculum in all disciplines.

We, as a teaching body, give all students numerous opportunities to display their talent both on campus and across the state, nation, and world. In fact, we host the Regional Scholastic Juried Art Show each year which is open to all schools in Broward and Dade Counties. We insist that a student be a well-rounded talent, not only by teaching performance techniques, but also by employing a complete historical foundation in all disciplines of study.

Grades 11-12 Guidance Counselors/College Advisors

A - Gn: Beth Taubman
954-472-0022 ext. 3028
btaubman@ahschool.com

Go - O: Elise Ackerman
954-472-0022 ext. 3020
eackerman@ahschool.com

P - Z: Sharon Bikoundou
954-472-0022 ext. 3055
sbikoundou@ahschool.com

Grade 10 Guidance Counselor
Nicole Wilson
954-472-0022 ext. 3411
nwilson@ahschool.com

Grade 9 Guidance Counselor
Kari Topel
954-472-0022 ext. 3200
ktopel@ahschool.com

Jr High Guidance Counselor
Melissa Becerra
954-472-0022 ext. 3199
mbecerra@ahschool.com

Director of Guidance
Kelly Bennett
954-472-0022 ext. 3094
kbennett@ahschool.com

Director of College Planning
Luciana Mandal
954-472-0022 ext. 3077
lmandal@ahschool.com

Academy Guidance Director
Steve Robin
954-472-0022 ext. 3084
srobin@ahschool.com

Class of 2008 Total students: 213

National Merit Semi-Finalists: 9
National Achievement Scholar: 1

National Merit Commended Scholars: 21

National Hispanic Scholars: 10

SAT score distribution at the end of junior year

	CR - Critical Reading	M - Math	Total - CR & M only	WR - Writing
Top 5%	788	786	1574	769
Top 10%	756	760	1516	741
Top 20%	740	724	1464	708
Median	570	590	1160	560

High School Ethnic/International Diversity

Caucasian (non-Hispanic)....	48%
Hispanic	23%
African-American.....	15%
Native American.....	4%
Asian-American.....	5%
Other.....	5%
Foreign Born.....	33%

WEIGHTING OF CLASSES

	<u>Grade</u>	<u>College Prep</u>	<u>Honors</u>	<u>AP</u>
A+	97-100	4.67	5.67	6.67
A	93-96	4.33	5.33	6.33
A-	90-92	4	5	6
B+	87-89	3.67	4.67	5.67
B	83-86	3.33	4.33	5.33
B-	80-82	3	4	5
C+	77-79	2.67	3.67	4.67
C	73-76	2.33	3.33	4.33
C-	70-72	2	3	4
D+	67-69	1.67	2.67	3.67
D	63-66	1.33	2.33	3.33
D-	60-62	1	2	3
F	0-59	0	0	0
WP	withdrawn with passing grade			
WF	withdrawn with failing grade			

Class of 2008

100% of our graduates were accepted to 4-year colleges.

Some of the out-of-state schools that have accepted our recent graduates:

Babson College (MA)	Illinois Wesleyan University (IL)	United States Military Academy (NY)
Berklee College of Music (MA)	Loyola University (IL)	United States Naval Academy (MD)
Boston College (MA)	Macalester College (MN)	University of California at Berkeley (CA)
Boston University (MA)	Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MA)	University of California, Los Angeles (CA)
Bowdoin College (ME)	New York University (NY)	University of Chicago (IL)
Brigham Young University (UT)	Northwestern University (IL)	University of Colorado at Boulder (CO)
Brown University (RI)	Otterbein College (OH)	University of Illinois-Urbana (IL)
Bucknell University (PA)	Parsons School of Design (NY)	University of Maryland (MD)
Case Western Reserve University (OH)	Penn State University (PA)	University of Michigan (MI)
Clemson University (SC)	Pratt Institute (NY)	University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill (NC)
Colgate University (NY)	Princeton University (NJ)	University of Pennsylvania (PA)
Columbia University (NY)	Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (NY)	University of Pittsburgh (PA)
Cornell University (NY)	Rice University (TX)	University of Richmond (VA)
Dartmouth College (NH)	Rochester Institute of Technology (NY)	University of Southern California (CA)
Davidson College (NC)	Savannah College of Art & Design (GA)	University of Texas at Austin (TX)
Duke University (NC)	School of the Art Institute of Chicago (IL)	University of Virginia (VA)
Emerson College (MA)	Stanford University (CA)	University of Washington (WA)
Emory University (GA)	SUNY-Binghamton (NY)	Vanderbilt University (TN)
Fordham University (NY)	SUNY-Purchase (NY)	Villanova University (PA)
Furman University (SC)	Syracuse University (NY)	Wake Forest University (NC)
George Washington University (DC)	Tufts University (MA)	Wellesley College (MA)
Georgetown University (DC)	Tulane University (LA)	Yale University (CT)
Georgia Institute of Technology (GA)	United States Air Force Academy (CO)	
Grinnell College (IA)	United States Coast Guard Academy (CT)	
Harvard College (MA)		
Ithaca College (NY)		