

# 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

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Director of Guidance

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## School Profile 2009 – 2010 For Prospective Families

### Highlights of School Recognitions (2008-2009)

- Number one private school in state Mock Trial competitions
- Number one private school in state math competitions, third year in a row
- Second and fourth place winners at the Intel International Science Fair
- Number one school in Broward County in science competitions
- Fastest growing debate program in the district yielding 120 trophies and awards
- Nine competitors at nationally known debate competitions
- Four All-Florida awards from the Florida Scholastic Press Association for *Patriot Post* newspaper
- Winner of Bentley University's Tomorrow25 International Leadership Competition
- Three American Vision nominees and 29 Gold Key awards at Regional Scholastic Art Competition
- Fifteen years of State Selected One-Act Plays
- Thirteen years of State Selected Theater Technical Achievement
- Seventy Superior Ratings in Guitar
- Voted the #7 high school athletic program in the nation by *Sports Illustrated* (2008)
- State Champions in Girls Golf, Girls Tennis, Girls Soccer, and Softball
- Individual State Champions in Girls Golf and Swimming (Butterfly, 200m Freestyle)

### 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 958 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 132 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  
Southern Association of Colleges and Schools  
The College Board

National Assoc. of College Admissions Counselors  
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  
22 Advanced Placement courses and 78 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\*, Creative Writing, Literary Magazine\*, College Writing\*, Argument & Debate\*, Competitive Debate, Writing & Reading Poetry, Contemporary Dramatic Literature

\* Honors sections also available

### Foreign Language Department

Advanced Placement: Spanish Language, French Language, Chinese 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: Human Geography, World History, American History, European History, American Government, Macro Economics, Psychology. College Preparatory: Honors Human Geography, World Geography\*, World History\*, American History\*, American Government\*, Economics\*, Sociology\*, Psychology\*, Honors Public Policy Forum

\* Honors sections also available

**Law Studies Honors Program:** (Requirements: high English grades; approval through interview)  
(All courses are Honors level) Business Law, Trial Advocacy, Mock Trial, Advanced 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, Environment, Marine Biology\*, Honors Biotechnology

\* 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, Figure Drawing I & II

*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\*, Film as Literature

*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, Musical Theatre Tech.

*Band:* Beginning Band; Advanced Band; Colourguard

*Dance:* Dance Techniques I - VI; Company Dance Honors

### Computer Department

Advanced Placement: 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	7 credits
to total	24 credits

### Class of 2009 Awarded \$26 Million in Scholarships

Under the direction of Scholarship Specialist Kelly Bennett, the Class of 2009 reported a record-breaking \$26 million in scholarship money for college. This figure was achieved primarily through academic, or merit-based, scholarships, athletic awards and Bright Futures scholarships. Mrs. Bennett manages a college scholarship list, which is available to seniors and their parents. She provides hands-on help with scholarship applications and essays.

Several students earned special recognition this year. Valedictorian Rohit Thummalapalli was recognized as a Regional Scholar in the 2009 Coca-Cola Scholars Program. In addition, four students were honored for the Ford Salute to Education Scholarship award. We are extremely proud of all of our 2009 scholarship winners; the Class of 2009 surpassed our expectations.

### 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.

### Guidance Staff

#### Grade 12: A-Gn; Grade 11: D-J

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

#### Grade 12: Go-O; Grade 11: K-Q

Elise Ackerman  
954-472-0022 ext. 3020  
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#### Grade 12: P-Z; Grade 11: R-Z

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

#### Director of College Planning Grade 11: A-C

Luciana Mandal  
954-472-0022 ext. 3077  
lmandal@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 College Scholarship Specialist

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

#### Academy Guidance Director

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

**Class of 2009** Total students: 225

**National Merit Semi-Finalists: 14**  
**National Achievement Scholar: 2**

**National Merit Commended Scholars: 24**

**National Hispanic Scholars: 6**

**SAT score distribution** Class of 2008

	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			

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

**AP Scores:  
78% passing rate with scores of 3 or higher**

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

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