

American Heritage School

Home of the Patriots

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SCHOOL PROFILE 2006 - 2007

The School

American Heritage School is an independent, nonsectarian, and co-educational day school for grades Pre-K through 12 with approximately 2,500 students. The High School, grades 9 through 12, has a student population of 866 students. The school was founded in 1971 to serve the fast-developing communities west of Fort Lauderdale, Florida. The wooded 40-acre campus and colonial style complex includes a new multimillion dollar fine arts facility/auditorium, sports fields, Olympic size pool, and quiet courtyard areas. Our new Library is a 6,600 square foot state-of-the-art structure housing 4 interactive classrooms, 150 computers, and 30,000 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. All 13 boys varsity athletic teams and 12 girls varsity teams have a no-cut policy. 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 independently navigate 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 classes are small with an average class size of 17.

Highlights of School Recognitions (2005-2006)

- The *Patriot Post* newspaper, *Spotlight* yearbook, and *Expressions* literary magazine all won first place with the American Scholastic Press Association.
- The math competition team ranks first in South Florida and second in the state among private schools.
- Girls Varsity Golf were State Champions.
- Boys Varsity Golf and Girls Varsity Soccer were State Runners-Up.
- Three students were semi-finalists at the USA Biology Olympiad.
- The Theater program won the district one-act play competition, represented Broward County at Florida State Thespian Festival, and won superior ratings.
- Students placed first, second and third in the state on the National Spanish Exam.

Faculty

The students at American Heritage are served by 125 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

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

17 Advanced Placement courses and 77 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, Speech & Debate*, Competitive Debate*, Creative Writing, Literary Magazine*, College Writing*

** Honors sections also available*

Foreign Language Department

Advanced Placement: Spanish Language, French Language. College Preparatory: Mandarin Chinese I*, 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

** Honors sections also available*

Social Studies Department

Advanced Placement: World History, American History, American Government, Economics, Psychology, European History. College Preparatory: World Geography*, World History*, American History*, American Government*, Economics*, Sociology*, Psychology*, World Religions*

** Honors sections also available*

Law Studies Honors Program: (Requirements: high English grades; approval through interview)
(All courses are Honors level) Legal Systems & Concepts, Trial Advocacy, Moot Court/Mock Trial, Constitutional Law, Criminal Law I & II, Contemporary Issues in Law, Family Law, International Law, Law Internship

Science Department

Advanced Placement: Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Environment. College Preparatory: Physical Science, Biology*, Chemistry*, Physics*, Honors Science Research, 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, Genetics, Microbiology, Organic Chemistry, Medical Internship

Mathematics Department

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

** Honors sections also available*

Fine Arts Department

Visual Art. Intro to Visual Concepts; Drawing I & II; Ceramics I, II, III, IV; Painting I, II, III; Photography I, II, III, IV (Honors); Computer Graphics; Studio Art; Art Portfolio Honors; Architectural Design I - IV

Theater. Intro to Drama; Acting I, II, III, IV Honors, V 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; Film as Literature*, Playwriting*

Music. Mixed Chorus I - IV; Women's Chorus I - IV; Honors A Capella Chorus; Voice; Classical Guitar I - VIII; Piano I - IV; Orchestra I, II, III, IV (Honors available); Music Technology I - IV; AP Music Theory

Band: Beginning Band, Advanced Band (Honors available), Colourguard I

Dance: Dance Techniques I, II, III, IV Honors; Company Dance Honors

Computer Department

Computer Applications I - V*; Web Page Design I - III*; Page Design

** Honors sections also available*

Graduation Requirements

There are 2 semesters per year and credits are granted each semester. In addition, all seniors are required to complete 15 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:

Graduation Requirements	
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	3 credits (4 recommended)
Fine Arts	.5 credit
Computer Education	.5 credit
Personal Fitness	.5 credit
Additional courses of students' choice varies, to total 24 credits	7.5 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. 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.

High School Guidance Counselors/College Advisors:

A - Gn: Kari Topel
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Director of Guidance:
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Director of College Planning:
Luciana Mandal
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Class of 2007 Total students: 187

National Merit Semi-Finalists: 8

National Merit Commended Scholars: 16

National Hispanic Scholars: 7

SAT score distribution

	CR - Critical Reading	M - Math	Total - CR & M only	WR - Writing
Top 5%	773	797	1570	748
Top 10%	745	774	1519	731
Top 20%	701	731	1432	697
Mean	560	570	1130	555

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

Class of 2006

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

Cumulative GPA includes all courses taken. Rank is reported to colleges in quintile rank only, such as top 5%, top 10%, and so on.

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

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