

American Heritage School

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School Profile 2011 – 2012

Highlights of Recognitions (Class of 2011)

- 74 nationally recognized students:
 - 31 National Merit Scholar Semifinalists: number one in the state
 - 19 National Merit Commended Scholars
 - 14 National Hispanic Scholars
 - 10 National Achievement Scholars
- 92% passing rate on Advanced Placement tests (highest rate among all South Florida schools)
- Number one private school in national math competitions
- Number one Calculus student in the nation
- Number one private school in state Mock Trial competitions
- Among the top science research schools at the Florida State Science Fair
- Second place winner at the Intel International Science Fair competition
- Nationally ranked in the top 10% of all high school debate programs
- First place team in the nation at Novice Public Forum Debate
- 47 first place winners in local, state, and national debate competitions
- First place winner at the National History Day competition
- Finalist at Bentley University's Tomorrow25 International Leadership Competition, second year in a row
- All Florida rating for WAHS News by the Florida Scholastic Press Association
- First place at Florida State Thespian Convention of the production of *Sweeney Todd*
- Ballet/drama one-act play *Aftermath* selected for performance at the International Convention by the Florida State Thespian Convention
- Five Coaches-of-the-Year and six Athletes-of-the-Year named by the *Miami Herald*
- All-Sports Trophy (Class 3A-1A) in Broward County named by the *Miami Herald*

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 1,200 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. We celebrate diversity and welcome students of all religions, nationalities, ethnicities, and races. Our focus is to create a community of scholars who respect individual and group differences and who seek to become responsible citizens.

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.

Accreditation and Membership

Accreditation International; Advanced Ed-Southern Association of Colleges and Schools; Association of Independent Schools of Florida; Middle States Association; National Council for Private Schools Association; National Association of College Admissions Counselors; The College Board

Curriculum/Course Offerings

In addition to the standard college preparatory curriculum, we offer
23 Advanced Placement courses and 80 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, Advanced Public Debate Honors, Advanced Congress Debate Honors,

* 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

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, Constitutional Law, Criminal Law, Evidence, Homicide, Family Law, Juvenile Law, International Law, Law Internship

Science Department

Advanced Placement: Biology, Chemistry, Physics B, Physics C: Mechanics, Environment. College Preparatory: Physical Science, Biology*, Chemistry*, Physics*, Honors Research I, Environment*, Marine Biology*, Honors Biotechnology

* Honors sections also available

Medical Professions Honors Program: (Requirements: advanced math & science, high reading comprehension, and interview)

(All courses are Honors level) Medical Terminology, Sports Medicine, Embryology, Anatomy & Physiology, Pathology, Forensic Science, 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*

* 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; Painting I, II; Photography I, II, III, IV; Computer Graphics; Graphic Design; Sculpture I & II; Architectural Design I – VI; Art Portfolio; Figure Drawing I & II

Theater. Intro to Drama; Acting I, II, III, IV - VII Honors; Technical Theater I – IV; 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 I & II; AP Music Theory, Musical Theatre Tech. I & II

Band: Beginning Band; Advanced Band; Colourguard; Percussion Ensemble

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*, Film Production Honors; Virtual Animation*

* 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

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.

Class of 2011 Awarded \$42 Million in Scholarships

Under the direction of Scholarship Specialist Kelly Bennett, the Class of 2011 reported a record-breaking \$34 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.

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.

	<u>Grade</u>	<u>College Prep</u>	<u>Honors</u>	<u>AP</u>	
WEIGHTING OF CLASSES	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 2011 Total students: 247

National Merit Scholar Semi-finalists: 31

National Achievement Scholars: 10

National Merit Commended Scholars: 50

National Hispanic Scholars: 14

SAT score distribution Class of 2011					High School Ethnic/International Diversity	
	CR - Critical Reading	M - Math	Total - CR & M only	WR - Writing		
Top 5%	780	783	1563	779	Caucasian (non-Hispanic)....48%	
Top 10%	757	773	1530	762	Hispanic23%	
Top 20%	726	751	1477	735	African-American.....15%	
Median	580	596	1176	587	Native American..... 4%	
					Asian-American..... 5%	
					Other.....5%	
					Foreign Born.....33%	
SAT SUBJECT TEST SCORES					<p>100% of our graduates were accepted to 4-year colleges.</p> <p>AP Scores: 92% passing rate with scores of 3 or higher</p>	
	SUBJECT					
		Mean				
	Biology-Ecology	790				
	Biology-Molecular	749				
	Chemistry	712				
	English Literature	626				
	Math Level I	680				
	Math Level II	709				
	Spanish	698				
	U.S. History	653				
	World History	669				

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) | | |