AMERICAN HERITAGE SCHOOL

KNOWLEDGE | INTEGRITY | COMPASSION

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Lower School Profile 2016-2017

Highlights of Recognitions

The students at American Heritage School are uniquely prepared to be leaders of the 21st century who embody knowledge, integrity, and compassion. Our goal is to guide students to be independent, productive, and accomplished when they progress into our Upper School. Each year Lower School students excel in academics while enjoying a well-rounded school experience, and students earn exceptional honors in a variety of academic and art disciplines. Here are some of the recent achievements of our students and notable facts about our Lower School:

- One out of four 4th and 5th grade students qualified for Duke University's Talent Identification Program
- Stanford University's math program for elite math students in 4th and 5th grades
- Additional after-school IMACS program offered for advanced math students
- Award-winning yearly participants in the Palm Beach County Science Fair
- 25% of students in 5th grade qualified for National Elementary Honor Society (NEHS)
- "Green School of Excellence" certified by the Palm Beach County Green Recognition Program
- Core curriculum supplemented with over 15 elective classes integrated into all students' daily schedules
- Yearly participant in Presidential Education Academic Award program
- Yearly chorus and dance recognitions
- Average tenure of teachers exceeds ten years
- Enrichment classes offered after school, such as chess, IMACS, karate, robotics, musical theater, yoga, swimming, and Zumba.

Our School

In 1999, American Heritage School of Plantation opened a second campus in Boca/Delray to serve the fast-developing residential communities of Palm Beach County. Our 40-acre lush, tropical campus resembles a college campus in size and design with Boca Raton style buildings that house classrooms, offices, complete Wi-Fi Internet coverage, science labs, an engineering lab, a state-of-the-art library and media center, courtroom, fine arts complex, butterfly garden with an Aquaponics growing system, aquatics center, tennis courts, sports fields, and quiet courtyard areas.

A College Prep Experience

American Heritage School gives its students a rigorous, traditional education in a forward-thinking, technologically advanced, well-rounded environment. Our mission is to graduate students who are prepared in mind, body and spirit to meet the requirements of the colleges of their choice. To this end, we strive to offer a challenging college preparatory curriculum that serves students of bright average to gifted intelligence and aims to develop critical thinking skills and lifelong learning. American Heritage offers financial aid and academic and fine arts scholarships.

American Heritage School of Delray is an independent, non-sectarian and co-educational day school for PK3 through 12th grades with approximately 1,300 students. Our **Lower School** serves PK3 through 5th grade and has a student population of 300 students. Our student to faculty ratio is 8:1.

What Makes Our School Unique

While our campus resembles a small college in size and design, the feeling of an intimate, nurturing, well-rounded, and family-oriented school community is quite evident. We celebrate diversity and welcome students of all religions, nationalities, ethnicities, and races. Here are some of the unique aspects of our Lower School:

- Every classroom has a certified teacher and full-time assistant, and state-of-the-art technology, including iMacs and iPads, interactive Epson boards, and audio enhancement systems.
- Stanford University's Education Program for Gifted Youth curriculum is offered for high achieving math students in 4th-6th grades. After-school IMACS program is also available for elite math students.
- Honors and accelerated classes are offered beginning in 2nd grade for math, 4th grade for language arts, and 5th grade for Science.
- STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) hands-on learning is integrated into all classrooms.
- Lessons are enhanced through use of our Upper School facilities, such as the mock courtroom and robotics lab.
- Enrichment classes are incorporated into each student's weekly schedule, including: Foreign Language (Spanish and Chinese), computer lab, science lab, library and media center, art, music, orchestra, band, chorus, dance, drama, TV production, and physical education.
- Our outdoor Aquaponics System, with two growing beds and 250-gallon fish tank provides an interactive classroom, along with vegetables and spices as ingredients for school lunches.
- Our AHS student broadcast network enables students to produce the Morning Announcements each day.

Community Service

Lower School students at American Heritage learn how to become leaders at a young age. They make things happen for their peers halfway around the world and help people right in their own community. Each year, we participate in Education Rocks, and students each raise $365 which helps one child at a time in Bali go to school. Students demonstrate creativity and leadership as they work together to reach goals. Students also collect bottle caps each year for Caps of Love to help build pediatric wheelchairs, and they support the cancer awareness campaigns throughout the community.

Faculty

The Lower School faculty includes 35 degreed and certified instructors, two administrators, 24 teacher assistants, two registered nurses, and two office professionals. More than half of the instructional staff hold a post-graduate degree. Our highly qualified, talented, and committed teachers guide our students to develop intellectually, emotionally, and socially while preparing them for a lifelong journey of learning. To foster educational best practices, all of our teachers participate in professional development throughout the year. Parents and students respect our professional, competent, and caring faculty.

Student Clubs & Organizations

We believe that students should develop a strong sense of social responsibility with a respect for individual and group differences. We offer student clubs and organizations supervised by faculty advisers to foster a community of scholars and responsible citizens. Following is a sampling of the extracurricular activities available to our students:

Math Competition Team offers students in our Stanford University Math Program the opportunity to compete in national, state, and regional mathematical contests.

Robotics Club attracts students who are interested in the fundamentals of engineering. Students work together to create the inner-workings of robotics resulting in projects that meet the standards of professional engineers.

Chess Club gives students in grades K-5 the chance to train with a Chess Grandmaster and acquire skills to foster logic, critical thinking, and creativity.

National Elementary Honors Society (NEHS) is a prominent national organization for which students are selected based on GPA and citizenship. NEHS provides a springboard to higher level learning and encourages hard work and reaching each student's full potential.

Student Council represents 4th and 5th graders who are elected officers or general members. The Council promotes leadership as students support local, national, and international causes.

Safety Patrol is an on-campus service organization that provides a safe environment for pedestrians and motorists. Patrol members assist at morning drop-off.

Drama Enrichment culminates in a Broadway-style theatrical production at the end of the Spring Semester as students with all different learning styles grow through this experience.

Lower School Choral Group, known as the 'Heritage Harmonizers,' is a select group of 3rd-5th graders who show great promise or enthusiasm for choral singing.

Green School of Excellence

American Heritage School has maintained its status as a "Green School of Excellence," awarded through the Green Schools Recognition Program. A team of faculty advisers works with student leaders to encourage a culture of sustainability within our school environment. To achieve this status, we have integrated curriculum that prepares students to participate in environmental initiatives, encouraged the conservation of energy, water, and recyclables throughout our campus, and enhanced our school grounds as a learning environment with ecological integrity.

Accreditations and Memberships

Association of Independent Schools of Florida (AISF)
Middle States Association (MSA-CESS)
National Council for Private Schools Association (NCPSA)
Broward County Non-Public School Association
Florida Association of Academic Non-Public Schools
Accreditation International (Ai)
Southern Association of Colleges and Schools/AdvancED (SACS)
National Association of College Admissions Counseling (NACAC)
Southern Association of College Admissions Counseling (SACAC)
College Board