

# AMERICAN HERITAGE SCHOOL

KNOWLEDGE | INTEGRITY | COMPASSION

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President/Founder

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Lower School Principal

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Assistant Principal

## 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:

- #1 elementary school in Florida and #3 private school in the U.S. in math competition
- Nationally standardized test scores in the 85<sup>th</sup> percentile on average
- One out of four 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> grade students qualified for Duke University's Talent Identification Program
- Stanford University's math program for accelerated math students in 4<sup>th</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup> grades
- Core curriculum supplemented with over 15 elective classes integrated into all students' daily schedules
- 20+ years participant in Presidential Education Academic Award program
- Highest number of winners in city-wide Art Search competition
- Winner of Plantation Landscape Award for Nurturing Our Town
- Best in Show for Duet Acting at Junior Thespians state competition; Best in Show for Makeup Design at Junior Thespians district competition
- Yearly orchestra, band, and chorus recognitions
- Average tenure of teachers exceeds ten years
- Over 30 enrichment classes offered after school, such as chess, IMACS, karate, robotics, ceramics, musical theater, and sports

### Our School

American Heritage was founded in 1965 to serve the fast-developing residential communities west of Fort Lauderdale, Florida. Our wooded 40-acre campus with colonial-style buildings houses classrooms and offices, complete Wi-Fi Internet coverage, science labs, a multi-million dollar fine arts facility, an outdoor Environmental Educational Center, an Olympic-size pool, sports fields, and quiet courtyard areas. The Lower School library is a 2,041 square-foot media center with a resource lab, two instructional areas, and approximately 16,000 volumes of books and reference materials.

### 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** is an independent non-sectarian and co-educational day school for PK3 through 12th grades with approximately 2,700 students. Our **Lower School** serves PK3 through 6th grade and has a student population of 800 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, races and sexual orientation. Here are some of the unique aspects of our Lower School.

- Every classroom has a certified teacher and a full-time assistant; state-of-the-art technology, including iMacs and iPads; visual projection and audio enhancement systems.
- Stanford University's Education Program for Gifted Youth curriculum is offered for high achieving math students in 4th through 6th grades.
- Honors and accelerated classes are offered beginning in 2nd grade.
- STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) hands-on experiences are integrated into classroom learning.
- Elective classes are incorporated into each student's schedule, including: foreign language (Spanish and Chinese), computer lab, science lab, library and media center, 2D and 3D art, music, drama, chorus, dance, orchestra, band, and physical education.
- Our outdoor Environmental Education Center provides an interactive classroom in a certified natural wildlife refuge and amphitheater.
- Student broadcast network enables students to produce the Morning Announcements each day.

## Ethnic & International Diversity

Caucasian (non-Hispanic)	48%
Hispanic	23%
African American	10%
Native American	4%
Asian American	10%
Other	5%
Foreign Born	33%

## Faculty

The Lower School faculty includes 56 degreed and certified instructors, two administrators, a guidance counselor, 45 teacher assistants, a nurse with two assistants, and three office professionals. More than half of the instructional staff holds a post-graduate degree. Our highly qualified, talented, and dedicated teachers guide our students to develop intellectually, emotionally, and socially and prepare 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 who seek to become responsible citizens. Following is a sampling of the extra-curricular activities available to our students.

National Elementary Honor Society (NEHS) is an organization that recognizes a highly selective group of motivated students who display the characteristics of scholarship, leadership, responsibility, and character. Our NEHS chapter has sponsored an orphanage in earthquake-damaged Haiti. The students also host the Principal's Honor Roll Breakfast each quarter and participate in Math Night at Publix Supermarket.

Robotics Team attracts students in 5th – 8th grades who are interested in the fundamentals of engineering. Students meet after school two times each week; they work together to build and program an autonomous (no remote control) robot that performs mission tasks within a set time frame.

Student Council represents all Lower School students and is comprised of students in 4th - 6th grades. Officers and classroom representatives are elected at the beginning of each year, and students can join the general membership, as well. The Council operates a school store and raises funds for community service projects throughout the year. Members earn points to travel to Washington, DC, Boston, or Philadelphia to observe our nation's government and history.

Safety Patrol is an on-campus service organization that provides a safe environment for pedestrians and motorists. Patrol members assist at morning drop-off and help younger students with their backpacks and other items that need to be taken to their classrooms.

The Elementary Theater Troupe is an after school enrichment program during the fall and winter that culminates in an elaborate production of a Broadway-style musical. Presented on two nights in January in the American Heritage Center for the Arts Main Theater, tickets are reserved in advance to sold-out audiences attending from throughout South Florida.

The Lower School Dance Company attracts students with a love of dance. Students rehearse throughout the year under the direction of professional dancers; they perform two times each year with the Upper School Dance Company on the Main Stage of the American Heritage Center for the Arts.

## Accreditations and Memberships

Association of Independent Schools of Florida (AISF)  
Middle States Association (MSA-CESS)  
National Council for Private Schools Association (NCPA)  
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