American Heritage Pre-Professional Programs

Attorney teachers Ani Porter and Eric Schwartzreich discuss strategy with Pre-Law students in the mock courtroom at American Heritage where the majority of the classes in the Honors Legal Studies Program are held.

An Introduction

American Heritage is pleased to offer pre-professional programs that give our high school students the chance to explore several career opportunities. The Pre-Law, Pre-Medical, Pre-Engineering, and Biomedical Engineering Programs are designed to provide students with the opportunity to experience college-level courses and activities not normally available in a high school setting.

Attorneys, physicians, and engineers with current or previous experience in their chosen fields teach classes on a daily basis. Seniors who complete the courses in their pre-professional program are required to serve an internship with professionals in their area of study. In addition to extensive course preparation in law, medicine, engineering, or biomedical engineering, students fulfill all the academic requirements needed for admission to top-tier colleges and universities.

Students will graduate more focused on the career paths open to them. Through expert instruction, a unique curriculum, and real-life experiences, students gain special insight into these professions. The preparation provided to the students in the pre-professional programs will afford them a wealth of knowledge and experience superior to that of their college peers.

Attorneys Ani Porter and Eric Schwartzreich coach a Pre-Law student on best practices as a witness in preparation for a mock trial competition.

Pre-Law

The Honors Legal Studies Program offers students the opportunity to decide, through unique coursework and a hands-on internship rotation, whether law school and law as a profession is for them. The program offers 11 college/law school-level courses taught by attorneys and judges, and during senior year, an internship rotation through different areas of the law. The Pre-Law Society is dedicated to providing community service locally and globally, speakers and legal discussions, and several extracurricular competition teams, including Mock Trial, Moot Court, and Model United Nations. Speech and Debate is also available.

Our legal instructional staff:

Adriana Alcalde, JD, University of Miami Law School. She served in the County Court Division, Domestic Violence, Felony Trial Unit, Sex Crimes Unit, Special Prosecutions/Public Corruption Unit, and Homicide Division of the Broward County State Attorney's Office. Mrs. Alcalde is in private practice specializing in victim's rights and family law. She is one of four Mock Trial coaches at Heritage and heads the State Champion AHS Middle School Mock Trial team.

Christopher J. Clark, JD, Marquette University. He worked as an Assistant State Attorney in Miami before he became an Assistant United States Attorney with the Southern District of Florida. After assignments to the Appellate, Major Crimes, Narcotics, Economic Crimes, and Public Corruption Sections, he is currently assigned to the Health Care Fraud Task Force. He has received numerous awards as a federal prosecutor, including the EOUSA Directors Award for Superior Performance.

Michael Gilfarb, JD, Washington University Law School. He worked with the Miami-Dade County State Attorney's Office as Chief of the Criminal Traffic Unit, Division Chief of the felony division, and then became a federal prosecutor for the Southern District of Florida. He was voted Best Prosecutor of the Year in 2012. Mr. Gilfarb is a senior coach for Heritage's Mock Trial Program.

Mark Gruskin, JD, George Washington Law School. Before law school, he earned his B.A. from University of Pennsylvania. He worked in the Legal Department for CBS and at Herzfeld & Rubin law firm in New York City. He has been at Heritage for over 20 years teaching AP History, Government, Business Law, and Constitutional Law. He is head coach of Heritage's nationally-recognized Model UN team.

David Haimes, JD, University of Notre Dame Law School. He is a Circuit Court Judge in Fort Lauderdale in the Criminal Division, presiding over felony cases. Prior to law school, he worked as an accountant with Ernst & Young. Prior to becoming a judge, he worked as a federal prosecutor with the U.S. Attorney's Office in the Southern District of Florida and as a state prosecutor in Fort Lauderdale. Judge Haimes teaches Honors Evidence and Trial Advocacy.

Kelly Harris, JD, Georgetown University Law School. She practiced law in Atlanta as a public defender for indigent criminal defendants, as well as in the litigation department of a large corporate law firm on product liability cases, white-collar criminal defense, and government investigations. Her pro bono work includes: landlord-tenant eviction proceedings, juvenile delinquency and truancy, and worker's rights. She teaches Pre-Law courses and coaches the Mock Trial team.

Justin Jacobson, JD, Duke University Law School. Prior to law school, he graduated cum laude from Princeton University. After two years of practicing medical malpractice and product liability, he joined his father in private practice and became managing partner of his collections law firm, Lawcraft. This firm specializes in sophisticated collection litigation and appellate matters throughout Florida. Mr. Jacobson currently teaches Honors Business Law.

Mindy Kapit, JD, University of Miami Law School. Before attending law school, she graduated from the University of Pennsylvania. She clerked for Judge Alan S. Gold in the Dade County Family Law Division and worked in private practice in marital, family, and criminal law. Mrs. Kapit currently teaches Honors Criminal Law, Honors Criminal Procedure, and Honors Business Law at Heritage.

Jeremy Kroll, JD, University of Florida Law School. He was admitted to the Florida Bar and the Bar for the U.S. District Court Northern, Southern, and Middle District of Florida, as well as the U.S. Court of Appeals 11th Circuit. He was a Public Defender and an Assistant State Attorney in Broward County before joining Bogenschutz & Dutko, P.A., where he is a partner specializing in criminal defense and appellate matters. Mr. Kroll is the lead Moot Court coach at American Heritage.

Nikki Laurie-Van Allen, JD, Nova Southeastern University Law School. She is the Director of Honors Legal Studies at American Heritage, where she began the program in 2004. She worked in private criminal defense, and then served as an Assistant Broward County State Attorney, prosecuting in county and circuit court, and switched to the Broward Public Defender's Office, where she defended first degree felonies. Her trial experience includes 150+ jury trials to verdict.

Ani Majuni Porter, JD, Florida State University Law School. She worked at the Broward County Public Defender's Office litigating criminal cases, capital felonies, and juvenile delinquency, at the Public Defender's Office as a supervising attorney, in the Office of the Attorney General in constitutional and employment discrimination law, and in private practice in immigration, probate, and family law. She is Head of the Pre-Law Program at the Boca/Delray Campus, and Head Coach of the Mock Trial and Moot Court teams.

Eric Schwartzreich, JD, St. Thomas School of Law. He received his MBA from Nova Southeastern University. Mr. Schwartzreich is managing partner of Schwartzreich & Associates, a criminal defense firm, and he has completed over 200 jury and bench trials to verdict. He is a former Assistant Public Defender for Broward County, a member of the Florida Bar, and Past President of the Broward Association of Criminal Defense Attorneys. He is the lead Mock Trial coach at American Heritage School's Plantation Campus.

Deborah Seese, JD, University of Miami Law School. Her professional experience includes five years as a civil litigator in private law firms across South Florida and ten years of experience working as in-house counsel for various corporations in the aviation and hospitality industries. Mrs. Seese teaches Honors Business Law to freshmen, as well as Family Law and Tort Law to upperclassmen.

Nadia Bohachewsky Soree, JD, Yale Law School. She assists with the Heritage Moot Court team. She is an Associate Professor of Law at St. Thomas University School of Law, and prior to teaching, she worked in the Office of Legislative Counsel for the United States House of Representatives. Mrs. Soree received her Bachelor of Music Degree from Juilliard School, and her Masters of Music in Harpsichord Performance from Rutgers University.

Judge Michael Usan, JD, Wake Forest University Law School. He is a Circuit Court Judge for the 17th Judicial Circuit of Florida, where he presides over the criminal felony division. Prior to taking the bench, Judge Usan was a private criminal defense attorney and an Assistant State Attorney in Broward County. He served five years with the United States Air Force as an attorney for civil claims and military law issues. He teaches Honors Juvenile Law and Homicide Law at American Heritage

Francis Viamontes, JD, University of Miami Law School. She worked as an Assistant State Attorney before becoming an Assistant U.S. Attorney with the U.S. Department of Justice. Ms. Viamontes dedicated her career to the Federal Law Enforcement's Initiative Against Child Exploitation Offenders, and she spearheaded the Department of Homeland Security's Investigation to combat sex tourism to Columbia. She coaches Mock Trial at American Heritage.

Dr. Nicholas Suite demonstrates protein electrophoresis with a HeritagePre-Medical student during a laboratory experiment in Honors Forensic Science class.

Pre-Medical

The Pre-Medical Program provides college/medical school-level courses and real life experiences to students who are interested in the medical field. Doctors, surgeons, and specialists, who are currently practicing in their fields, teach all classes. Students complete an internship rotation through different areas of medicine during their senior year. All students in the program may become members of the Heritage Pre-Med Society, a non-profit organization that hosts guest speakers and medical discussions, as well as providing service to local hospitals throughout the community.

Our medical instructional staff:

Dr. Naaz Fatteh, MD, MPH, Johns Hopkins University, Lehigh University, and Drexel University. She is a graduate of American Heritage School and attended a six-year combined undergraduate and medical program. Dr. Fatteh completed her fellowship training in Infectious Diseases and served as Director of Infectious Diseases for the Obstetrics/Gynecology Department at Plantation General Hospital. She currently works in the medical group of Infectious Diseases and Internal Medicine at Broward Health in Ft. Lauderdale. Additionally, Dr. Fatteh has a Masters of Public Health from Johns Hopkins University. A graduate of American Heritage, she enjoys teaching Heritage students Medical Terminology and Embryology.

Dr. Romeo Fernandez, MD, St. George's University School of Medicine. He completed his pediatric training at Maimonides Medical Center in Brooklyn, and his child neurology fellowship at Children's Hospital/UAB in Birmingham. He is a board-certified Pediatric Neurologist with over ten years of clinical practice in pediatric neurology. Currently, Dr. Fernandez is in private practice with offices in Boca Raton, Hollywood, and Jupiter. He has clinical affiliations with Broward Health, Joe DiMaggio Children's Hospital, and Jupiter Medical Center. He has given lectures and held administrative positions at different hospital facilities, and he has taught pediatric residents at Nova Southeastern University and Broward Health. He enjoys teaching Pre-Med students at American Heritage Medical Terminology and Embryology.

Dr. Farzanna S. Haffizulla, MD, FACP, University of Miami Miller School of Medicine. She completed residency training at the Cleveland Clinic in Florida and Ohio. Dr. Haffizulla is board certified in Internal Medicine and served as Past-President of the American Medical Women's Association (AMWA). She is the on-camera medical correspondent for the nationwide health program, Mission Critical Health, an Affiliate Clinical Assistant Professor of Biomedical Science at the Charles E. Schmidt College of Medicine at FAU, and a Voluntary Assistant Professor of Medicine at the University of Miami. She is also a primary scientific board member for Shulman Institutional Review Board and was chosen as a National Delegate for Drexel's Institute for Women's Health and Leadership's Vision 2020 program. Dr. Haffizulla also serves as a Physician Ambassador for Broward County's Department of Health promoting prevention of disease and as Medical Director of Haven Home Health in Broward County. She teaches Honors Organic Chemistry.

Dr. Cindy Hernandez, DO, Chicago College of Osteopathic Medicine. She provides services in medical and surgical ophthalmology. Dr. Hernandez is affiliated with several hospitals in the area, including Broward Health Coral Springs and Broward Health North, and she specializes in eye trauma and surgical repairs. She teaches Medical Terminology, Embryology, and Honors Organic Chemistry at American Heritage School.

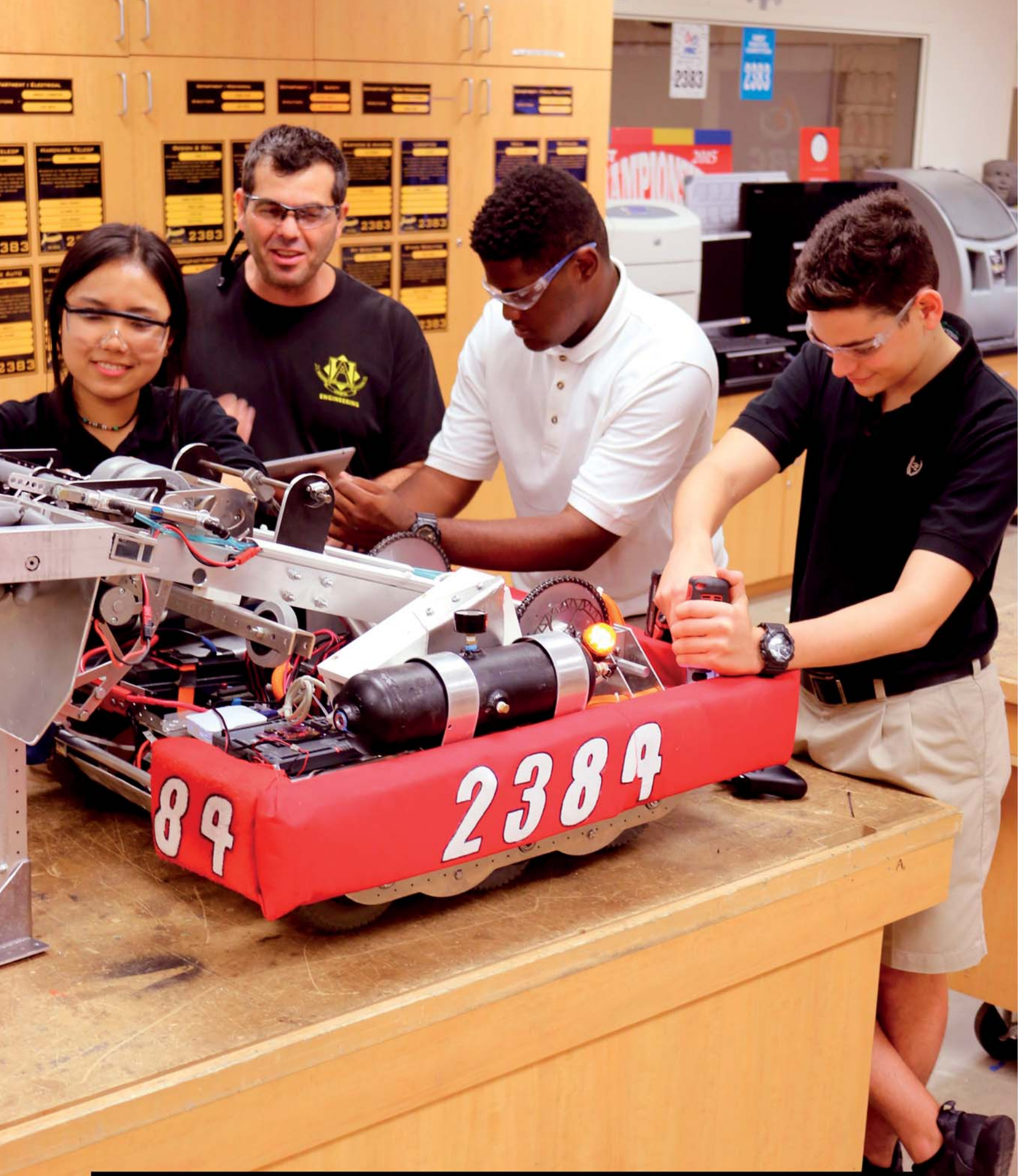
Dr. Bruce Mark, DC, Logan University. He is Graston-certified, and is currently a chiropractor with offices in Hollywood and Sunrise. He provides care for patients with hip, back, neck, and shoulder pain, in addition to scoliosis, connective tissue disorders, chronic stress, and fibromyalgia. Dr. Mark's staff speaks a variety of languages, including English, Spanish, Russian, and Haitian Creole, allowing him to communicate effectively with a variety of patients. He teaches Medical Terminology to Pre-Med students at American Heritage.

Dr. Carlos Pulido, MD, Universidad del Norte in Colombia. He earned his degree in General Surgery and Emergency Medicine/Trauma. Dr. Pulido has vast experience working in a trauma unit and wrote a protocol for the evaluation of trauma patients. He was also the Head of Research for a large-scale study on the effects of anabolic steroids. Dr. Pulido is the Pre-Medical Program Director at American Heritage and teaches Pre-Med classes at both the Plantation and Boca/Delray campuses. He is the advisor of the Heritage Pre-Med Society, which focuses primarily on helping children who are battling cancer, as well as philanthropic contributions to the Pediatric Hematology & Oncology Unit at the Salah Foundation Children's Hospital of Broward Health. He has been awarded Teacher of the Year by the Deaver Foundation and the Plantation Chamber of Commerce. He teaches Anatomy & Physiology, Pathology, and Forensic Science.

Dr. Joel Silverman, DO, FACP, Southeastern University. He completed his internal medicine fellowship at Mount Sinai Medical Center in Miami Beach. Currently, his medical practice, Joel I. Silverman DO PA, services over 10,000 patients in Boca Raton. Dr. Silverman has published papers in neurovirology spanning research performed at institutions such as Harvard Medical School, the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, and Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons. He spearheads and manages the Forensic Science Lab and Physical Exam Workshops at American Heritage throughout the school year.

Dr. Diana Sood, MD, Universidad Iberoamericao in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic. She worked in orthopedic surgery as a surgery coordinator, educator, and medical researcher. Currently, she is co-owner of Quick Family Urgent Care, LLC with her husband. Dr. Sood has been teaching Biology Honors and mentoring students at the Heritage Science Research Institute. Dr. Sood is one of the judges for the INTEL International Science Fair, and she is the adviser for the AHS Multicultural Club and Heritage for Humanity. She teaches Medical Terminology, Embryology, Pathology, and Forensics.

Dr. Nicholas Suite, MD, Johns Hopkins University. He completed his residencies in Internal Medicine and Neurology at Weill Cornell Medical College in New York. Dr. Suite has held academic appointments at The University of Miami School of Medicine and practiced as the Senior Staff Neurologist at the Henry Ford Hospital in Detroit. He served on various boards within the Memorial Healthcare System before becoming a member of the executive committee at the Cleveland Clinic Florida in Weston. Currently, Dr. Suite is the Medical Director at Reliance Medical Rehabilitation LLC, a clinical neurology practice in Miami-Dade, Broward, and Palm Beach Counties and remains on the medical staff at Memorial Hospital West and Kendall Regional Medical Center. He teaches Pathology and Forensic Science at American Heritage.



Mr. Massimo Salafia, Prototyping Lab Manager and Lead Robotics Mentor, guides Pre-Engineering students as they put the finishing touches on their awarding-winning robot before the World Robotics Competition in St. Louis.

Pre-Engineering & Biomedical Engineering

The Pre-Engineering and Biomedical Engineering Programs provide students with the chance to participate in a specialized course of study and internship rotation to determine if the engineering or biomedical engineering field is a profession they would like to pursue. The program offers college-level classes taught daily by instructors who are professional engineers, some with patents to their name, culminating in a capstone project demonstrating a product that solves a problem in our world, and which can be used in daily life. In addition, the internship completed during senior year enables students to acquire hands-on experience as they rotate through different disciplines in the engineering industry. They can also choose to join the world-ranked Robotics Team and participate in the design and fabrication of competition robots.

Our professional engineering instructional staff:

Taiowa Donovan, London Metropolitan University. He majored in Early and Secondary Science Education and studied abroad focusing on exceptional education and teaching the inner city child. His teaching experience includes the George Junior Republic Union Free School District; the Advent School in Boca Raton, where he taught science and served as Science Department Chair; and LeadAmerica High School in Boca Raton where he was Program Director of the Engineering and Robotics program helping to design the curriculum and manage the teaching staff. Mr. Donovan is currently the Heritage Robotics Program Director at the Boca/Delray campus, as well as the FIRST Robotics Competition team coach and founding mentor, and he teaches the Honors Introduction to Robotics I & II courses.

Robert Gabel, Georgia Institute of Technology. He earned a Masters degree in Management and a Masters in Engineering. He has worked in many large corporations, including Kurt Salmon and Associates as a Management Consultant, The Coca-Cola Company USA as a Project Manager, and Genuine Parts Company as a Director. Mr. Gabel taught high school science courses in Atlanta for ten years before moving to South Florida. He is a certified instructor in physics and chemistry and teaches AP Physics C, AP Physics 1, Honors Physics, and Physics at American Heritage. He is the Heritage Pre-Engineering Program Director at the Boca/Delray campus and sponsor of the Robotics FIRST Lego League.

Paloma Murray, Johns Hopkins University and Florida Atlantic University. She earned her M.Ed. in Curriculum and Instruction, as well as an M.S. in Environmental Sciences and Policy. Mrs. Murray worked for over 12 years with Motorola, Inc., designing cell phones and two-way radios for police and fire departments across the nation. She has been teaching math and engineering at Heritage for over ten years, and almost 100% of the students in her AP Calculus AB and BC classes have earned 5, the highest score possible, on their AP exams. She teaches Honors Algebra II, Honors Pre-Calculus, Honors Calculus, AP Calculus AB, and AP Calculus BC.

Dr. Carmen Mendez, PhD, University of Wisconsin Madison. She earned her M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in Industrial and Systems Engineering. Dr. Mendez has published numerous reports for government and think tank organizations and has taught undergraduate and graduate engineering courses at Universidad del Turabo in Puerto Rico, Laureate International Universities, and Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, where she is currently an Adjunct Assistant Professor. Dr. Mendez is a Systems Engineer for advanced nuclear concepts at Sandia National Laboratories in Albuquerque, NM, and a Project Lead the Way certified instructor for Engineering Design and Development at American Heritage. She also mentors Heritage Lower School students in the FIRST Robotics Lego League.

Mohanalatha Pamajala, Bharathiyar University in India and College of Saint Rose in Albany. She earned her M.S. in Education in Applied Technology. Mrs. Pamajala also received an Honors diploma in Network Centered Computing & Diploma in Quality Management Program from the National Institute of Information Technology in Chennai, India. She has over ten years of experience teaching engineering technology to high school students and is currently the Pre-Engineering Department Co-Chair. She is Project Lead the Way (PLTW) certified and teaches Introduction to Engineering Design, Principles of Engineering, and Digital Electronics, as well as AP Physics 1.

Dr. Diana Rincon, PhD, University of Michigan. She earned her M.S., and Ph.D. in Mechanical Engineering. She developed a health-conscious guidance/control system for autonomous air vehicles for the U.S. Air Force and is a Department of Defense Fellow. Dr. Rincon has designed aids, orthotics, prosthetics, and surgical tools for orthopedic doctors, as well as methods for repairing fractures in the acetabulum. She was internationally recognized with the VIII Rhone Poulenc Rorer Award for surgical procedures and has authored over 50 research publications at national and international conferences. She is currently Director of Research and Grants for the College of Education at FIU, She teaches Introduction to Engineering Design, Principles of Engineering, and Physics C: Mechanics.

Massimo Salafia, Engineering Trade School in Friedbeng, Germany. He served as a mechanical engineer at Pheiffer GmbH, Faust GmbH, and Gassella GmbH in Frankfurt, Germany. Mr. Salafia holds several intellectual patents on mechanical devices. Currently, he is the Pre-Engineering Prototyping Lab Manager and Robotics Lead Mentor heading the Robotics Team in the design and creation of competition robotics for FIRST Robotics, and he teaches the Honors Engineering Design and Development class.

Dr. Michael Shen, MD, Yale University School of Medicine. He earned his medical degree in cardiovascular medicine. Dr. Shen was the Head of Cardiac Imaging & Procedure Utilization at the Cleveland Clinic in Weston and is currently the Chief Medical Officer at Duxlink Health in Sunrise, where he specializes in telemedicine and patented data analytics for improved patient outcomes. He has done extensive work in Biomedical Engineering and Biomedical Informatics and has eight U.S./international patents. He teaches the Honors Biomedical Engineering class at American Heritage.

Students in the Pre-Professional Program embrace the extensive course preparation with knowledge they will use in college to be successful in their chosen fields of study.

Unique Curriculum

The course offerings in each of the pre-professional programs are honors classes with instruction at the college level. Students must complete specific prerequisite courses, as well as the required courses and electives within their chosen field. The pre-professional classes are all taught every day by physicians, attorneys, judges, and engineers with current or previous experience in their chosen fields. Students in their senior year who have completed the courses in their pre-professional program are required to serve an internship or a series of internships with local professionals in their area of study. In addition to the extensive course preparation in law, medicine, engineering, or biomedical engineering, students fulfill all of the academic requirements needed for admission to top-tier colleges and universities.

Course Offerings

Legal Studies Honors Program
Business Law
Criminal Law
Criminal Procedure
Tort Law
Constitutional Law
Juvenile Law
Homicide
Family Law
Evidence
Trial Advocacy
Law Internship

Pre-Medical Honors Program
Medical Terminology
Embryology
Honors Biology
Honors Chemistry
Anatomy & Physiology
AP Biology
AP Chemistry
Honors Physics or AP Physics I
Pathology
Honors Organic Chemistry
Forensic Science
Medical Internship

Pre-Engineering Honors Program
Introduction to Engineering Design
Principles of Engineering
Digital Electronics
Engineering Design & Development
Honors Physics or AP Physics I
AP Calculus AB
Architecture Design I
Architecture Design II
Honors Coding Using Java
Engineering Internship

Biomedical Engineering Honors Program
Introduction to Engineering Design
Medical Terminology
Embryology
Honors Biology
Honors Chemistry
Anatomy & Physiology
AP Biology
Honors Physics or AP Physics
Biomedical Engineering Internship

A Heritage Pre-Medical intern learns about the practice of interventional radiology at Broward Health.

Real Life Application

The students at American Heritage School are fortunate to be taught by attorneys and judges, physicians, or engineers who are currently practicing or have extensive previous experience in their fields. These faculty members are associated with many professionals throughout South Florida, which enables the students to participate in a vast array of real life experiences. Students in their senior year are required to spend one semester completing an internship or a series of internships in their chosen area of study.

Honors Legal Studies students get a glimpse into "a day in the life" of a practicing attorney and judge at all levels of the legal process when they complete their internship rotation throughout their senior year and visit a wide array of law firms, attorneys, and courtrooms. Pre-Law students also have the opportunity to implement their classroom studies as an active participant in any of our state and national championship teams, including Mock Trial, Moot Court, and Model United Nations. As part of this experience, students act as attorneys, witnesses, or diplomats and compete at the state, national, and international levels in simulated legal situations and international events within courtrooms and meeting rooms around the country.

Pre-Medical students visit with over 35 doctors of various specialties and will observe surgeries and autopsies, as well as the practices of radiologists, veterinarians, and other specialists. In clinical specialties, the students have the opportunity to refine skills in physical examination and interpretation of medical information, labs, images, and other studies that result in a diagnosis. In surgical specialties, students have the unique opportunity to stand next to the surgeons and witness the amazing skills that are vital to performing different interventions– from brain surgery, reconstructive surgery, robotic surgery, C-sections, and hip and knee replacements to heart transplants, lung transplants, LVAD procedures, and autopsies, to name a few. They also study innovations in dentistry and veterinary medicine.

The goal of the Pre-Engineering and Biomedical Engineering program is for the students' studies in engineering, the sciences, and mathematics to culminate in the creation of a new and innovative product that helps to improve the world. Comparable to a college thesis, students complete this project during their senior year and are evaluated on their ability to think critically, work as a team, and solve challenging problems. Many of the projects through the years have been candidates for U.S. patents. Also in their senior year, students complete an internship rotation and visit with all types of engineering firms, industrial engineers, architects, and biomedical engineering companies, gaining firsthand knowledge of all areas in the field of engineering and biomedical engineering. In addition, beginning as early as 7th grade, students can participate on the international award-winning Robotics Team that competes at the state, national, and international levels.

Students in the Pre-Med Society bring smiles to the faces of children battling cancer through their volunteer work at the Pediatric Hematology and Oncology Unit at Broward Health.

Service to the Community

Students in each of the Pre-Professional Programs are very involved in service to the community.

Honors Legal Studies students are encouraged to become members of the Pre-Law Society and help give back to their community through fundraising projects that are both related and unrelated to law. Their involvement has included "The Innocence Project of Florida," for which students raised money to help a wrongfully convicted and imprisoned man in Florida transition back into life as a "free man" once he was exonerated. Pre-Law students have also made a difference in the lives of inner city youth through the creation of the "Teachers for Taylor Talent Show," benefiting Miami Dolphins football star Jason Taylor's Foundation and his bluapple Poetry Network. Over $50,000 was raised to promote awareness about child literacy. The Pre-Law students produced two annual talent shows where Heritage faculty and staff competed for prizes in front of an audience of over a thousand people, including celebrity host Jason Taylor. The Pre-Law Society also supports "Kids in Distress," an organization that benefits children in foster care, through supply drives and a fashion show, as well as tutoring and reading services to the children. Throughout the school year, Pre-Law students also assist the Heritage Upper and Lower School PTO's with their annual school events.

The Pre-Med Society has had a positive impact in the community for two decades. Student members earn their CPR certifications senior year so they can teach CPR and First Aid throughout the community, and all of the Pre-Med students support the missions of many causes, such as multiple sclerosis, multiple myeloma, cystic fibrosis, and breast cancer. The primary focus, however, has been bringing smiles to the faces of children who are battling cancer. Every day, students volunteer in the Pediatric Hematology and Oncology Unit at Broward Health, and every year, they host a holiday party for the patients to brighten their holiday season and bring them all the gifts they wished for on their wish lists. Their biggest gift has been a $250,000 donation for the full sponsorship of a playroom in the Broward Health Pediatric Hematology and Oncology Unit, equipped with 90-inch flat screen TV's, every movie and video game imaginable, a fish tank, Healing Garden, and a kitchen for the parents. To date, the Pre-Med Society has surpassed $750,000 in funds raised, mostly through their annual "5K For A Better Day" and "A Road for the Cure Gala" events.

The Pre-Engineering students have also applied their skills in the engineering field to generate helpful tools for others to use. They designed and created a can crusher that they donated to the Ronald McDonald House in Fort Lauderdale. The students have also worked to promote awareness about science and math through a partnership with the Museum of Discovery and Science in Fort Lauderdale. They prepared and conducted hands-on demonstrations with the robots they built in the Heritage Engineering & Prototyping Laboratory for all the children and families who visited the museum.

American Heritage Schools

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