



American Heritage School hosts Family Forum event Friday

Barbara Christiansen - Daily Herald | Posted: Sunday, March 6, 2011 12:02 am

AMERICAN FORK -- American Heritage School is not just for young students. It's for the whole family.

The school is sponsoring its third annual Family Forum Friday at its campus, 736 N. 1100 East, American Fork (east of the Mount Timpanogos LDS Temple). The public is invited to attend the forum and/or the Family Ball that evening from 7:30 to 10:30.

During the day, there will be two tracks of speakers, focusing on either adults or youth. Professional presenters will be the featured speakers.

In the adult track, the topics include "Preserving our American Heritage at Home," "Raising Teens in Turbulent Times," "The Anatomy of High Trust Relationships," "A Child's Plea to Mom and Dad," and "Divine Design: Practices from the Proclamation."

The youth track includes "Dare Not to Compare," "The Call to Preserve Our American Heritage: YOU Are the Flag Bearers!" "Let Your Light Shine," "Vision, Virtue, Values -- Preparing for Temple Marriage" and "Break Up With the World."

Mike Bohn, associate director of the American Heritage School Family Education Center, encouraged community members to attend any or all of the sessions, which run from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. that day. The cost is \$15 for individuals, \$20 for couples and \$30 for family. It may be paid at the door. No babies or young children should attend. Youth 12 and older are welcome upon registration. A lunch is provided for preregistered participants. The preregistration should be done by March 9 by calling Shari Wheeler at (801) 642-0055, ext. 301 or e-mailing her at swheeler@ahsmail.com.

"We all know that families need as much help as possible," he said. "We are American Heritage School and Family Education Center. We believe that the best way for us to be an effective school is to support the families in all areas. We are providing the best education for marriage, parenting and the development of teenagers."

In the evening there will be a family ball, with a live big band, ballroom dancing, refreshments and entertainment. It will run from 7:30 to 10:30 p.m. Children of all ages are welcome with their parents. The cost is \$3 per person or \$5 per family. Best dress is requested. Semi-formal or formal dress is welcome but not required. No shorts or jeans should be worn. Standards from "For the Strength of Youth" apply.

The Family Forum began as a community outreach, Bohn said. It had a stated purpose "to strengthen marriages, inspire joyous relationships between parents and children, and to encourage Christian principle-based learning and living in the home."

"We wanted to offer something to the community that would be extremely educational and a great experience for the entire family," he said. "It was a natural fit. It is a good fit for the purpose and mission of American Heritage School and Family Education Center."

"We are a non-profit," he said. "It is really nice that these people volunteer their time to benefit the community." The registration fees pay for lunches and expenses.

Bohn said the school hopes to continue to expand its outreach.

"We are trying to provide more and more to the community," he said. "I think this is beginning a new annual family tradition."

Family Forum presenters

- **Mike Bohn** -- Associate Director of the American Heritage School Family Education Center
- **Elizabeth Johnson Craig** -- Religious and inspirational speaker, teacher and author for EFY and Deseret Book
- **Dwight Durrant** -- Teacher at Lone Peak Seminary and former Institute Director at Yale University
- **Dr. Jenet Jacob Erickson** -- Former assistant professor in the School of Family Life at BYU
- **Dr. John Hilton III** -- Employee of LDS Seminaries and Institutes and author of several books
- **Scott Robley** -- Seminary teacher at Maeser Preparatory Academy, who has taught with EFY, Education Week and Know Your Religion.
- **Hank Smith** -- Religion teacher at BYU, who authors talks on CD for Covenant Communications and speaks for EFY