



## AMERICAN HERITAGE SCHOOL FOUNDATIONS TRAINING

*“How Firm a Foundation” – Essential Practices That Produce Principle Approach® Results, June 6-7, 2011*

Time	Tuesday, June 7 (Revised Schedule)
8:00-8:10 a.m.	Welcome, Prayer & Devotional
8:10-8:50 a.m.	<p>“The Christian Idea of the Child” <i>Dr. James D. Stice</i></p> <p>Inspiring Hearts &amp; Minds: How the Christian Idea of the Child Mandates a Distinct Method of Education, and How it Redefines the Role of Teacher and Parent</p>
8:50-9:00 a.m.	Break
9:00-9:50 a.m.	<p>Fine Arts and the 4-R Methodology: “From Anesthetic to Aesthetic” <i>Dr. Michael Ballam</i></p> <p>Unlocking Individual Potential through Fine Arts and the 4-R Methodology • Reaching All Learners through Fine Arts</p>
9:50-10:00 a.m.	Break
10:00-10:05 a.m.	Student Share
10:05-10:45 a.m.	<p>The Seven Principles of America’s Christian History, Education, and Government: An Overview (Part 2) <i>Dr. Jenet Erickson</i></p>
10:45-10:50 a.m.	Student Share
10:50-11:40 a.m.	<p>A Principle Approach to Home &amp; Distance Education <i>Nick Gentile, David Hancock, Linda Strong, Jereamie Randall</i></p> <p>Classroom Simulations in Philosophy Foundations: The 7 Principles • Cause &amp; Effect • Internal to External • Self-Education as a Life-long Pursuit</p>
11:40 a.m. -12:15 p.m.	Lunch (Provided), Break-Out Lunch Groups
12:15-12:45 p.m.	<p>The Home as a Principle Approach Classroom <i>Danny &amp; LaDawn Mason Family</i></p>
12:45-1:25 p.m.	<p>The Seven Principles Applied: A Principle Approach to History <i>Jared Cornell</i></p> <p>Teaching the Seven Principles Through Stories &amp; Biographies • Internal Principles to External Application</p>
1:25-1:35 p.m.	Break
1:35-2:15 p.m.	<p>The Seven Principles Applied: Principle Approach Methodologies <i>Lauri Updike</i></p> <p>The Power of Word Studies • The Notebook Method • Celebrating Learning</p>
2:15-2:25 p.m.	Break
2:25-2:30 p.m.	Student Share
2:30-3:30 p.m.	<p>Educating Hearts &amp; Minds <i>Dr. C. Terry Warner</i></p>
3:30-4:00 p.m.	Q&A and Closing Remarks, Grant Beckwith

*Humility - Faith - Charity - Courage - Self-Government - Virtue - Industry - Wisdom*

American Heritage Schools, Inc., 736 North 1100 East, American Fork, Utah 84003, (801) 642-0055, (801) 642-0060 (fax), [www.american-heritage.org](http://www.american-heritage.org)  
The Principle Approach® is a registered trademark of the Foundation for American Christian Education.



## AMERICAN HERITAGE SCHOOL FOUNDATIONS TRAINING

“How Firm a Foundation” – AHS Faculty Retreat, June 8, 2011  
 Provo City Library at Academy Square

*Preparation:* Dress is inservice casual. Bring comfortable walking shoes and layered clothing for warm or cool outdoor activities. Breakfast and lunch will be covered by the School. Also, various activities and competitions will be centered on the School’s Mission Statement, the Seven Principles of American Christian Education, and the School Song. Prizes will be awarded to those who can demonstrate word-for-word mastery of these important American Heritage School foundations!

Time	Wednesday, June 8 All-Faculty Retreat
9:00-9:50 a.m.	An Open Discussion About the Future of American Heritage School <i>by Grant Beckwith</i>
9:50-10:00 a.m.	Break
10:00-10:50 a.m.	“The History of Education in Zion” <i>By: C. Terry Warner</i>
10:50-11:00 a.m.	Break
11:00 a.m.-Noon	“The History of Education in Zion” (cont’d) <i>By: C. Terry Warner</i>
Noon – 1:00 p.m.	Lunch (provided)
1:00 – 2:00 p.m.	“Union with Unity” Team Building Exercise
2:00-3:30 p.m.	“The Christian Form of Our Government” Team Building Exercise
3:30-3:40 p.m.	Break
3:40-4:00 p.m.	Conclude

Thank You Teachers! Have a Wonderful Summer! We Love and Appreciate You!

*Humility - Faith - Charity - Courage - Self-Government - Virtue - Industry - Wisdom*

American Heritage Schools, Inc., 736 North 1100 East, American Fork, Utah 84003, (801) 642-0055, (801) 642-0060 (fax), [www.american-heritage.org](http://www.american-heritage.org)  
 The Principle Approach® is a registered trademark of the Foundation for American Christian Education.



# AMERICAN HERITAGE SCHOOL FOUNDATIONS TRAINING

“How Firm a Foundation” – AHS New Teacher Training, June 9, 2011

### Preparation and Notes

- New Teacher Training is required for all new teachers to the School. Any “nearly new” teachers who would like to attend are welcome to do so; however they are not required to attend.
- A New Teacher Handbook will be provided. Please bring scriptures, Faculty Handbook, and Master Teacher Development Program Handbook. Lunch will be provided.

Time	Thursday, June 9 New Teacher Foundations Training
9:00-9:30 a.m.	Devotional & Introductions History of American Heritage School & Culture <i>By: Grant Beckwith</i>
9:30-10:15 a.m.	Preparing a Principle-Approach Classroom Using History Timelines and Laying Foundations in All Subjects (Christ and “His Story”) <i>By: Blaine Hunsaker, Trudy Camp and Selected AHS Teachers/Classroom Visits</i>
10:15-10:25 a.m.	Break
10:25-10:30 a.m.	Faculty Share
10:30-11:00 a.m.	Building, Facilities, and Security Orientation <i>By: Bob Wheeler</i>
11:00-11:30 a.m.	Word Studies and the Four R’s in Practice Research, Reason, Relate, Record <i>By: Blaine Hunsaker</i>
11:30-11:40 a.m.	Break
11:40-11:45 a.m.	Faculty Share
11:45-12:45 p.m.	Teaching Literature Classroom Applications and Methodologies The Notebook Methodology in Practice, Literature Markings, 4-R’ing, and Word Studies <i>By: Blaine Hunsaker &amp; Trudy Camp</i>
12:45-1:45 p.m.	Lunch Break (Lunch Provided)
1:45-2:45 p.m.	Information Technology Training Edline, Atlas Curriculum Mapping, GradeQuick, and Other Technology Tools <i>By: Stephen Driggs (Information Technology Manager)</i>
2:45-2:55 p.m.	Break
2:55-3:00 p.m.	Faculty Share
3:00-4:00 p.m.	Teaching Language, Classroom Applications Writing, Reading, and Grammar <i>By Blaine Hunsaker &amp; Trudy Camp</i>

Thank You Teachers! Have a Wonderful Summer! We Love and Appreciate You!

*Humility - Faith - Charity - Courage - Self-Government - Virtue - Industry - Wisdom*



## AMERICAN HERITAGE SCHOOL FOUNDATIONS TRAINING

*"How Firm a Foundation" Essential Practices That Produce Principle Approach® Results*

June 6-7, 2011

### Biographical Sketches of Presenters

**Dr. Michael Ballam** is the general director of the Utah Festival Opera, a professor of music at Utah State University, and an accomplished operatic singer, pianist and oboist. He has served as a member of the Board of Trustees of American Heritage School since 2010. A native of Logan, Utah, he has performed in the major concert halls in America, Europe, Asia and the Soviet Union, with command performances at the Vatican and the White House. At the age of 24 he became the youngest recipient of a Doctor of Music with Distinction in the history of Indiana University. Dr. Ballam is frequently asked to hold lectures nationwide on the creative arts, more specifically music, and their interaction with the functions of the mind, their use in enhancing education, and as sources of therapy and motivation. A life-long member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, the Church created a position of "musical missionary-at-large" specifically for him. Dr. Ballam, his wife Laurie, and their son Ben, live in Logan, Utah.

**Grant Beckwith** has been the Head of School and the Director of the Family Education Center at American Heritage School since 2005. Prior to joining American Heritage School's administration, Mr. Beckwith was a practicing attorney in the Washington D.C. office of Nixon Peabody LLP. A member of the Utah Bar, the Virginia Bar, and the District of Columbia Bar, Mr. Beckwith holds a juris doctor degree from BYU Law School and also bachelors and masters degrees in accountancy and information systems from the BYU Marriott School of Management. Mr. Beckwith has lived and worked in Moscow Russia, New York, New York, Washington D.C., and various other parts of the United States. Mr. Beckwith represented American Heritage School at the 2006 FACE Principle Approach Leadership Conference in Chesapeake, Virginia. Mr. Beckwith and his wife, Candice, are the parents of four children, and reside in Alpine, Utah.

**Jill Bigelow** is a wife, mother of ten, and grandmother of over 25 (and counting). With a love for children, learning, and teaching, she has taught in home-school and cooperative settings for many years. Mrs. Bigelow has significant experience developing curriculum and providing inservice training at American Heritage School and in other principle-based education settings. She has served widely in the LDS church and in the community, and became a member of the Board of Trustees of American Heritage in March 2011.

**Deanna Bingham** is a Second Grade Core teacher at American Heritage School. She was born and raised in Boise, Idaho. She attended Brigham Young University where she met her husband. They made it official on February 13, 1987 and now have 5 children ranging in age from 8 years old to 23 years old. They adopted their last child after fostering for 3 years. Mrs. Bingham graduated with a B.S. in Early Childhood Education. She taught preschool and kindergarten at Challenger School in Salt Lake and has home schooled her children whenever possible with a Christian Notebook curriculum as well as Saxon Math. Mrs. Bingham has taught piano lessons, played violin, viola and cello, and loves to sing.

**Dr. Jenet Erickson** served as an assistant professor in the School of Family Life at Brigham Young University where she taught classes on everyday family life and parenting until 2010 when her first child was born. She completed a PhD at the University of Minnesota where she worked with Dr. Bill Doherty on cultural conversations around issues of parenting in an overscheduled, hyper-techno, supersizing culture. In January, 2007, she was invited on the Today Show to discuss the issue of out-of-control birthday parties and its effects on parents and children. Prior to her PhD work she taught for the Linguistics department at Brigham Young University. The first Board Member of American Heritage School who is also an AHS Alumna, Dr. Jacob was nurtured in a love for America and an education grounded in the scriptures and the restored Gospel. She is the fifth of eleven children, a daughter of James and LaDawn Jacob, and a granddaughter of H. Verlan and Shirley Andersen. She and her husband, Michael, live in Salt Lake City with their daughter, LaDawn.

**Heidi Boden** has been an Elementary Art teacher at American Heritage School since 2009. Prior to joining AHS she had six years of elementary art teaching experience in both public and private schools. With a bachelor's degree in Art Education from Brigham Young University, Mrs. Boden has significant experience working with elementary art students of all ages and has been instrumental in the development of art curriculum for private and charter schools. Prior to her work as an art teacher, Mrs. Boden also taught seminary for the CES program in Abingdon, Virginia before moving to Utah. When she is not at school or at home with her family, Mrs. Boden serves as a member of the American Fork City Arts Council, director of the American Fork City Steel Days Art Show, and also as a Utah County Delegate.

**Jared Cornell** has been a Fifth Grade Core teacher at American Heritage School for nearly a decade. Jared Cornell's love of History and its capacity to build character in young students has motivated much of his life's work. Prior to his career in education, Mr. Cornell worked in the steel fabrication industry as a manager and quality control inspector. Mr. Cornell has organized numerous different living history organizations in Utah, including Civil War groups, a Mormon Battalion company, a Pioneer Heritage group, and even a muzzle-loading rifle club. He and his wife Brenda were the originators and organizers of the Sesquicentennial Wagon Train that crossed the Mormon Trail in 1997 and he managed a horse and wagon concession at This is The Place State Park, giving tours and lectures on the history of the Pioneers. Mr. Cornell's passion for history has also led to his involvement in various archeological digs such as the Camp Floyd and Tin War sites in Cedar Valley and Strawberry River, Utah. A life-long resident of Utah, Mr. Cornell is the father of five children, and has 2 grandchildren.

**Nicholas Gentile** (pronounced Gen - teel) is a high school History and English teacher at American Heritage School as well as one of the first Distance Education teachers for the American Heritage School Distance Education program. He joined AHS in 2009 from The Fenn School in Concord Massachusetts, where he taught History and English. Among his many accomplishments while at The Fenn School, Nicholas wrote a textbook titled *Puzzle Pieces: An Introductory Primary Source Reader for Ancient China*, which was published in 2008. Prior to his teaching experience, Nicholas attended Brandeis University on a prestigious Crown Fellowship and graduated with a Masters degree in History, having been trained in primary-source-based research, analytical writing, the methodologies of the historian's craft, and American historiography by the Pulitzer-Prize winning author of Washington's Crossing, Dr. David Hackett Fischer. While at Brandeis, Nicholas taught a survey course and colloquia at the college level. Nicholas graduated with bachelor's degree in History from Brigham Young University Summa Cum Laude as a valedictorian, a winner of the History Department Outstanding Undergraduate Award, and a Hinckley Scholar. Nicholas is fluent in Korean and studied French during six years. He has taught at the MTC and early-morning seminary. He and his wife, Christina, are the parents of three children.

**David Hancock** is an American Heritage School Home & Distance Education Instructor (9<sup>th</sup> Grade English) as well as an AHS Journalism and Debate teacher. Mr. Hancock graduated from BYU in 1991 with a degree in English. He then went back to school and received his Juris Doctorate, cum laude, from BYU in 1994. After graduation, Mr. Hancock and his family moved to Southern California where he practiced law for 14 years. In 2008, Mr. Hancock returned to Utah in order to begin a career in teaching. He has taught high school and middle school in Eagle Mountain, Utah, providing instruction in 7th through 10th grade English, Debate, Creative Writing, and Chess. Mr. Hancock currently lives in Eagle Mountain with his wife and four children. His oldest daughter is married and lives with her husband in Southern California.

**Debbie Hobbs** is a Kindergarten Core teacher and reading intervention specialist at American Heritage School. Deborah Hobbs was born to a wonderful family in Shelley, Idaho, and raised on a potato farm where she learned the value of hard work and the worth of souls. She attended Ricks College and Brigham Young University where she received her Bachelors degree in Early Childhood Education. She recently completed a Masters Degree in Reading and Literacy from Benedictine University. Mrs. Hobbs has five children, 15 grandchildren. Mrs. Hobbs has enjoyed teaching for fifteen years, grades preschool-3 and as a reading specialist in private and public schools. She has shared her love for dance by teaching tap, ballet, and clogging to children and adults for five years. Having lived in Utah, Idaho, Montana, Virginia, Nebraska, and Hawaii, and having visited Europe twice, Mrs. Hobbs loves to travel and see the wonderful creations of the Lord and visit with other choice people around the world. Mrs. Hobbs enjoys teaching at American Heritage School and prays continually for the spirit to guide and direct her in order to be an instrument in his hands in educating the hearts, minds, and bodies of the students and parents of American Heritage School.

**Charlene Knight** is a Fourth Grade Core teacher at American Heritage School. Mrs. Knight came to American Heritage School in 2009 with seven years' experience as a 4th Grade teacher at Ivy Hall Academy, Provo, Utah, where she was also responsible for conducting student plays, choir performances, and theater. Prior to her time at Ivy Hall, Mrs. Knight was a special education technician at Springville High School. Mrs. Knight's application to American Heritage School was attended by numerous co-worker and parent references, one of which stated that "in talking with other parents, you always hear the same types of comments from them: Mrs. Knight is so caring, she is so loving, she makes learning fun, she finds unique ways to help children learn, and she truly has the capacity to treat each child according to their individual needs." In addition to teaching, Mrs. Knight volunteers in various organizations. She loves to read, quilt and travel. She and her husband, Jay, have four children and two grandchildren.

**Danny & LaDawn Mason** met while they were both in the MBA program at the BYU Marriott School of Management. They fell in love, were married, had eight children, and have enjoyed the journey! The Masons have been with AHS since 2007. Danny and LaDawn can both be easily identified by their ever-present smiles, and by Danny's delightful English accent! Danny has been a board member at American Heritage School since 2009. Danny has significant experience as a consultant, multiple business owner, and board member for various business and nonprofit organizations. In April of 2007, Danny served as the outside consultant for the American Heritage School Board of Trustees in the development of the School's 20-year Strategic Plan. LaDawn has significant experience in running the business of a home, and in principle-based mothering! The Mason family lives in Alpine, Utah.

**Angie McIntyre** has been a Third Grade Core teacher at American Heritage School since 2009. She earned a Bachelor of Arts in Communications from Brigham Young University and a Minor in Business Management. She has worked as a para-educator at Barratt Elementary (American Fork) where she has also been a substitute teacher and PTA president. Her teaching and leadership has included broad experience in student tutoring, parent training, and public relations. She has taught and led in LDS primaries, Sunday schools, and scouting organizations. Angie and her husband, Don, are the parents of a son and a daughter.

**Wendy Meade** has been a Seventh Grade Core teacher at American Heritage School since 2009. At that time, Mrs. Meade, her husband, and five children had just relocated to Utah from Portland, Oregon, where for 11 years she owned and directed a private tutoring center for students from kindergarten through twelfth grade, including literature, grammar, composition, and history. Prior to that, she had five years' teaching experience at the Carden School of Portland and also Sylvan Learning Center (both in Oregon), Challenger School (Utah), and Tarboro High School (North Carolina). Having graduated magna cum laude from North Carolina State University in Political Science and Social Studied Education (1993), Mrs. Meade has a special love for history, and has earned several graduate credits toward a master's degree in history from Brigham Young University. Of seventh grade Mrs. Meade says, "I love teaching, and I especially love teaching middle school students; they are absolutely my favorite age group to work with."

**Curtis & Janine Miner** are sometimes referred to as the "architect family" because Curtis is the architect of the American Heritage School building and campus. The Miners have been involved with American Heritage School for a decade, with all of their four children currently enrolled in AHS elementary, middle, and high school. Janine has served in many capacities in the church and in the community, including as a member of the American Heritage School Parent Organization Presidency. Among other talents, the Miners are exceptional musicians, and have performed with their string instruments individually and as a family on many occasions. Mr. Miner has been a board member at American Heritage School since 2007, and is the Chair Elect for the 2011-2012 year.

**Karen Richardson** came to American Heritage School in 2008 with 14 years of experience teaching at Hillcrest Elementary (Alpine School District), 12 of which were in sixth grade, and the other two in fifth grade and computer lab instruction. Recently, Miss Richardson has been working as a business and office manager; however, she says that she soon realized how eager she was to return to teaching, and particularly to a school that emphasizes "love for the Lord and faith in His plan in each subject area" and "a methodology grounded in reasoning from eternal principles." In observing her teaching demonstration in the classroom, it was clear to students and administrators alike that Miss Richardson is a natural educator who loves children and draws out their best in the classroom.

**Jereamie Randall** joined American Heritage School in 2009 from Arizona. He earned his bachelor's degree in Elementary Education from Brigham Young University-Idaho and is currently working on a Master's degree in Political Economy at George Wythe University. Before coming to American Heritage School, Jereamie taught elementary school for five years—three years of third grade, one of fourth grade, and one of fifth grade. Jereamie brings extensive background in early American history and government and constitutional studies, and he has taught these subjects to school-aged children for the past five years. Jereamie served a two-year LDS mission in Sao-Paulo, Brazil. He and his wife, Shelly, have four children.

**Laura Scholl** has been a high school English and History teacher at American Heritage School since 2009. She received a bachelor's degree in English Teaching and a minor in History Teaching from BYU. She began teaching at Payson High School and remained there for eight years, during which time she taught a variety of classes: English 10 and 11, Advanced Placement English Literature and Composition, International Baccalaureate, US History, ESL, and Speech/Debate. She also mentored two student teachers and served as the advisor for the National Honor Society. Laura recently took a break from teaching in 2008 to serve a full-time mission for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in California. As a missionary, she created a curriculum used to teach English as a Second Language classes and provided training for other missionaries in effective teaching methods. Upon returning to Utah, she began teaching at Hillcrest High School, where she taught English 11, AP English Literature and Composition, International Baccalaureate, and Speech/Debate.

**Esther Sivert** joined AHS as a First Grade Core teacher in 1999. She was born in Iowa to wonderful non-LDS parents. The fifth of six children, her father was a farmer and her mother was a teacher. Mrs. Sivert received her BA with a double major in elementary education and music. Mrs. Sivert joined the Church at the age of 26. She taught music in Beliot, Wisconsin, and in Marion, Iowa, for nearly six years before she was married and had children. Mrs. Sivert and her husband are the parents of eight children and grandparents of 21. Mrs. Sivert's husband is also a convert to the Church. "Being at American Heritage School is the fourth greatest event of my life," Mrs. Sivert says. "The first greatest event was being baptized, the second was being married in the Logan temple to my wonderful husband, Dale, and the third is giving birth to such wonderful children who have blessed me with darling grandchildren." Mrs. Sivert is also very grateful to Gaylord Swim who invited her to teach music at American Heritage School in 1999. "It is such a great blessing in my life to be a first grade teacher at American Heritage School."

**Dr. James D. Stice** is an associate dean at BYU's Marriott School of Management, and a member of the Board of Trustees of American Heritage School. Dr. Stice has been at BYU since 1988, and is often called upon to conduct faculty orientation for newly hired teachers at BYU. He has co-authored three accounting textbooks and published numerous professional and academic articles. In addition, Dr. Stice has been involved in executive education for Ernst & Young, Bank of America Corporation, International Business Machines Corporation, RSM McGladrey, and AngloGold Limited and has taught internationally in France and China. Dr. Stice received a Ph.D. from the University of Washington as well as master's and bachelor's degrees from BYU, all in accounting. He and his wife, Kaye, are the parents of seven children, the youngest of whom, Cierra, currently attends American Heritage High School. Dr. Stice and his family live in Provo, Utah.

**Linda Strong** has been teaching Kindergarten at American Heritage School since 1994. She graduated from BYU with a composite bachelor's degree in Early Childhood and Elementary Education. A longtime resident of Utah, she has traveled as far as Korea and New Zealand, but has always called Utah County home. After teaching Kindergarten for three years in the public school system, Mrs. Strong retired for several years to raise seven children. During this time, she also conducted a preschool out of her home. Her family is unique in that it is multi-cultural. Of her seven children, four are adopted - two from Korea and two from India. She and her husband Mark are now the grandparents of twelve and they have enjoyed the experience of blending different backgrounds in their family. "Words cannot express my gratitude for the blessings that I have received from being at American Heritage School" Linda says. "I love teaching and cherish my association with the children, patrons, and faculty of this wonderful school."

**Lauri Updike** has been a Seventh Grade Core instructor, and high school English and History teacher at American Heritage School since 2002. She has been an advocate of principle-based education for over 30 years. She home schooled her own children from 1985-1999, took part in a High School Co-op (Christian Co-operative Learning Center) from 1999-2002, has been a Teacher Trainer for Utah Boys Ranch, and has served as the Inservice Director for American Heritage School. She enjoys the privilege of teaching her scholars at American Heritage School, and, in addition, each summer she conducts American Heritage Tours for students and their families to Virginia and Washington, D.C. Mrs. Updike graduated from BYU in 1971 with a bachelor's degree in English and German. She is the mother of three sons, four daughters, and six grandchildren. Mrs. Updike is passionately involved in church, politics, civic affairs, and education.

**C. Terry Warner** is an American academic, author and business consultant. He wrote the book *Bonds That Make Us Free* and founded Arbinger Consulting and Training based on his academic work on the foundations of human behavior. In writings and seminars, Warner asserts that we are responsible for our own actions and even negative emotions which we often use to accuse others rather than responding to their needs. We therefore have the power to free our relationships with others from negativity. Warner holds a Ph.D. from Yale University and is a professor of philosophy at Brigham Young University. In 1967 he joined the faculty at Brigham Young University, where he has served as chair of the Philosophy Department, director of the Honors Program, and dean of the College of General Studies. He was a visiting senior member of Linacre College, Oxford University. Dr. Warner was the exhibit director of the Education in Zion project at Brigham Young University. The project traces the history of education in the LDS Church, beginning with the spiritual and secular education of Joseph Smith, and continuing through the foundation of educational institutions throughout Church's Kirtland and Nauvoo years, its migration to the Mountain West, and its ultimate worldwide expansion. The exhibit opened in the summer of 2008.

**Brad Wilcox** is a renowned LDS author, motivational speaker, and teacher. He grew up in Provo, Utah, except for childhood years spent in Ethiopia, Africa. As a young man, he served a mission for the Church in Chile. Brad earned a Ph.D. from the University of Wyoming and is now an associate professor in the department of Teacher Education at BYU. Brad and his wife, Debi, lived at one time in New Zealand, where Brad directed a Study Abroad program for Brigham Young University. They recently lived in Santiago, Chile, where Brad served as president of the Chile Santiago East Mission from 2003-2006; he currently serves as a member of the Sunday School general board. Brad and Debi are the parents of four children and reside in Provo, Utah.

**Nancy Willis** has been an elementary school teacher at American Heritage School since 2008. She is currently the Elementary Science Teacher, and has over 25 years of teaching experience in kindergarten through third grade. She grew up in Provo where she attended Brigham Young University and graduated with a bachelor's in Elementary Education and taught first grade for a year in Sandy. After serving an LDS mission in the Massachusetts Boston Mission, she taught first grade at Lindon Elementary for two years. She and her husband then moved to Alaska where she lived for the next 24 years until moving back to Utah in August of 2008. She has taught Kindergarten for two years at American Heritage School. In Alaska, Mrs. Willis taught for 20 years in public schools. While in Alaska, Mrs. Willis also completed a Masters degree in Educational Leadership and spent two years as an Elementary School principal. After retiring, she volunteered with the Alaska PTA, taught piano lessons, and home-schooled her youngest child. She and her husband have eight children. In her spare time, Mrs. Willis enjoys spending time with her family, going for walks, playing games, reading, doing family history research, baking, and playing and listening to music. During her years in the classroom, Mrs. Willis taught science curriculum to all of her classes as there were no science specialists in elementary public schools. Over the years she has helped her own children raise a variety of pets, including dogs, cats, guinea pigs, hamsters, gerbils, birds, fish, a rabbit, and snakes. She has a love of nature and a deep love and appreciation for the Creator of it. She is looking forward to sharing that love with the young students in the K-4 science classes at American Heritage.

**Laura Yamada** has been an Eighth Grade Core teacher at American Heritage School since 2009. She earned both a Bachelor's and a Master's degree in English from Brigham Young University, where she taught six semester courses of "College Reading and Writing." She was honored as a finalist for the Rowe Teaching Award. She also excelled in her undergraduate studies, graduating Summa Cum Laude. Laura has studied both history and religion at the Brigham Young University Jerusalem Center and at important sites throughout Israel, Egypt, Turkey, and Greece. She has also participated in a study abroad program in Mexico, served an LDS mission in Japan, and spent a total of six years living in Asia, which allowed her to visit historical sites in China, Korea, Hong Kong, Singapore, Malaysia, and Indonesia. Laura is the mother of five sons.

---

---

*Humility - Faith - Charity - Courage - Self-Government - Virtue - Industry - Wisdom*

---

---

American Heritage Schools, Inc., 736 North 1100 East, American Fork, Utah 84003, (801) 642-0055, (801) 642-0060 (fax), [www.american-heritage.org](http://www.american-heritage.org)  
The Principle Approach® is a registered trademark of the Foundation for American Christian Education.