

Welcome New Teachers and Staff!

American Heritage School 2016-2017

FACULTY



Kay Anderson, First Grade Teacher. Kay Anderson has taught Pre-K, Kindergarten, First, Third, Fourth, and Fifth Grades for nearly twenty years. She comes to American Heritage School from Odyssey Charter School where she taught Kindergarten and First Grade for five years. While there, Kay's skills and experience in Spalding Language and Saxon Math methodologies, as well as her classroom management skills, became a model for many teachers, including from American Heritage School. She is thrilled to be teaching at American Heritage School and feels privileged to work with such great teachers and administration. "Since I was a little girl playing 'school' in my garage with all my dolls and teddy bears, I've wanted to be a teacher," she says. Kay has had the privilege of living in Paraguay for three years teaching and working with missionaries. While there, she saw first-hand the devastating effects of a lack of education. "It not only affects individuals, it affects the entire nation. Children were begging in the streets to fill their tummies instead of sitting in a classroom filling their minds." Kay grew up in a family of girls but learned from her father to camp, hunt, fish, snow ski, and water ski. Her father was a principal of an elementary school and her mother was a speed-reading teacher in junior high. The family spent summers traveling throughout the United States. Consequently, every vacation became an education in-and-of itself. After graduating from BYU in Elementary Education with a minor in music, Kay married Vaughn Anderson, who is the love of her life. They have five children, four sons and a daughter, and a growing number of grandchildren. She thoroughly enjoys teaching children and helping the process of learning as they make exciting discoveries and lifelong connections. She also enjoys music, ballroom dancing, cooking, scrap-booking, writing histories, photography, theater performances, BYU football, quilting, serving others, Christmas, and especially her family.



Lacey Aston, Third Grade Teacher. Lacey has been working with children since 2006 and loves playing a part in helping their minds grow and expand. She was raised in Bluffdale, UT, attended Brigham Young University, and just recently purchased a home in Pleasant Grove. Lacey took a break from her schooling to serve a full-time mission for the LDS church in Nauvoo, Illinois and Dallas, Texas. Lacey has taught for 4 years and is eager to join the faculty and staff of American Heritage School. Lacey was drawn to American Heritage because of its mission and ideals. She has a great love for this country and claims Washington D.C., where she has lived the past two summers, as her second home. In her free time, Lacey enjoys sports and fitness, traveling, and spending time with her family and friends.



Charlotte Bingham, Second Grade Teacher. Charlotte Bingham grew up in Bountiful, Utah. She attended Brigham Young University and earned a degree in Elementary Education. There she met her husband. They are the parents of six children, 4 boys and 2 girls. Mrs. Bingham worked in many classrooms as her children were growing up. Some of her favorite memories come from the family's years of homeschooling. While living in Brussels, Belgium, she taught pre-school, LDS Institute, and piano lessons. Her last two years have been spent teaching fourth grade. Mrs. Bingham loves music, quilting, and researching and writing family histories. She is very excited to be teaching second grade this year at AHS.



Alex DeBirk, Science Teacher. Alex comes to American Heritage after a career in structural engineering. He has designed buildings as large as a skyscraper, as small as a concession stand, and even spent some time with NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory, working on future satellites and lunar rovers. He received an MS in civil engineering with a emphasis in structural engineering, mechanics and materials from the University of California at Berkeley, and a BS from Brigham Young University with a minor in Japanese. Alex discovered his passion for teaching in high school when he started operating the experiential learning simulators (two of which he designed) at Pleasant Grove's Christa McAuliffe Space Education Center, or CMSEC. He continued to teach as an LDS missionary in Fukuoka, Japan, and as a physics instructor while in graduate school. He continues to volunteer as the STEM instructor at the CMSEC's sister program at Renaissance Academy in Lehi, where his latest simulator design is set to open in the summer of 2016. He also has extensive experience in musical theater, having been accepted to BYU's Music/Dance/Theater program, and performing at Tuacahn, Hale Center Theater, and numerous LDS Church productions in Salt Lake City and Nauvoo. He loves the arts, the sciences, sports and the outdoors. His greatest joy, beside his wife and daughter, is knowing he has had a positive impact in another person.



Keisha Hansen, Fifth Grade Teacher. Ms. Hansen comes with 12 years' experience teaching homeschool, two years' experience teaching early morning seminary, a bachelors' degree in Family Science from BYU, and maybe most importantly as a trusted aide and substitute teacher in 7th and 8th grade classrooms at AHS for the past four years. Mrs. Hansen has had three children graduate from AHS over the years, and is overjoyed at the opportunity to now be a full-time teacher and showed us in a competitive hiring process that some of our best candidates are those whom we have "created" through the years from within.



Lemuel Harsh, Ninth Grade Teacher. Lemuel Harsh joins American Heritage as one of our 9th grade core teachers as well as AP English Literature and 11th grade Written Portfolio instructor. He has taught for twenty-seven years in public, private, and charter schools, most recently at another private school (Ascend Academy in Ogden) where he pioneered a classics-based history and writing program. Lem received a Bachelor's of Science Degree from Brigham Young University in Theater & Speech, and a Secondary Teaching Certification. He is a dedicated educator who loves his students and loves to incorporate the gospel, church history, and the founding of our nation into his teachings. He and his wife Gina homeschooled their children. He taught them to love and appreciate the American Founders, and to understand great literature and theater. Lem believes history possesses the power to assist us in discovering and choosing our best selves, and it has inspired his education and life's work. He inspires his students to dig deeper and think critically, and was awarded Teacher of the Year at Evergreen Junior High School, where he taught American and Utah History for the Gifted & Talented program. One of Lem's passions is mentoring and directing theater productions, particularly Shakespeare, and using theatrical simulations in his instruction. Lem invites students beyond the surface, whether it is in understanding a script, a document, a person, a poem, or a time period.



Jeff Hymas, Seventh Grade Teacher. Jeff Hymas is passionate about God, Family and Country. He recently launched his non-profit, *In the Constitution*, and has spent the last 5 years teaching thousands of people across the nation the beautiful principles of freedom established in our founding documents. He has published a book, *Founders and Prophets*, and has produced an adult Constitution series, a youth series, and, most recently, a Constitution Bee that has reached over 1000 youth nationwide and has awarded them 15 scholarships worth over \$10,000. He is absolutely convinced that the most important of life's activities is learning; the most important learners are youth; and, the most important things to teach youth are principles. He can hardly believe he gets to participate in all three on a daily basis at American Heritage - and all within the foundational context of the gospel of Jesus Christ! Jeff served a mission to Guayaquil, Ecuador and attended Ricks College, BYU and received an MBA from Idaho State University. He and his wife, ShaRee, are the parents of nine children. Of all the setbacks and successes in their lives, none of them has proven to be nearly as challenging nor as rewarding as their striving to raise up a family unto the Lord. They are grateful to have the full-time assistance of the committed staff and faculty at American Heritage to help them do just that and Jeff is honored to be part of a team which provides that same resource to the parents of the incredible youth he gets to work with each day.



Michelle Stanford, Sixth Grade Teacher. Michelle Stanford comes to American Heritage with a wonderful variety of teaching, writing and leadership experience, including seminary teaching, homeschooling her elementary and middle school aged children, and teaching the AHS Family School Curriculum. Mrs. Stanford graduated with honors from the accelerated nursing program at Weber State University and was privileged to work as a Registered Nurse at Primary Children’s Hospital. She has a great passion for liberty, education and The Gospel of Jesus Christ. She is thrilled beyond words to be able to teach in an environment that values “light and truth” (D&C 93:36). She is now delighted to attend school at AHS with her three youngest children, who have been admitted to AHS elementary and high school. She dearly loves her husband Dale and appreciates his love and support for her long-held dream of teaching at American Heritage.



Hannah Adams, Kindergarten Aide. Hannah was born and raised in Tennessee. Currently she is studying at Brigham Young University-Idaho and pursuing a bachelors in child development. She is wanting to use that degree to become a child life specialist, and bring joy to the children she will be working with. She found her way to American Heritage while searching for something that would make a great fit for her on the career path she loves. She has a deep love for children and wants to help them better understand not just the school aspect, but also the spiritual aspect as the Gospel of Jesus Christ has been so important to her life. Hannah was married in June to Brandon Adams.



Jill Conder, Fourth Grade Aide. Jill Conder was born and raised in Utah. She graduated from American Fork High School and continued studies at UVSC (now UVU) and BYU-Hawaii. Shortly after her return from the Arkansas Little Rock Mission, she married her best friend Brad. They are the parents of 3 children; Brooke, Elizabeth and Ethan. Her greatest joy in life has been her role as wife and mother. Jill enjoys reading, traveling, hiking, skiing, and spending time with family and friends. After spending 15 years as a stay-at-home mom she decided to return to work. She has been working as a teacher’s aide at a charter school in Pleasant Grove. She is thrilled to be joining the American Heritage faculty where principles of the gospel are coupled with secular learning.



Heather Petersen, Third Grade Aide. Heather Petersen was born and raised in Heber, Utah, where she attended a public school from 1st grade to 11th grade. She joined American Heritage her Senior year in high school and graduated. While attending American Heritage she really enjoyed how she was taught, constantly keeping Christ the focus of everyday study and His Restored Gospel. Upon graduation she studied at George Wythe for a semester before leaving on a full time mission to Honduras. After serving an honorary mission, Heather came back with a desire to teach. She is now currently studying at Utah Valley University and majoring in Elementary Education to one day become a full time teacher to help teach the rising generation the importance of self-government and following the Spirit.

ADMINISTRATION



Ed Rowe, Institutional Advancement Director. Ed has recently joined American Heritage as the Director for Institutional Advancement. Prior to joining American Heritage, Mr. Rowe was a partner at international law firms in Washington, DC where he focused on international dispute resolution, foreign investment and government relations. His work included representing foreign governments before international tribunals, the UN Security Council, EU, U.S. and other governments regarding foreign affairs and the peaceful resolution of disputes including armed conflict, boundary disputes, war claims and major investments. He has spent half his career abroad, opening and managing new offices. He took a leave of absence from his law practice to work for the LDS Church's Humanitarian Department for one year to help develop and implement international humanitarian projects. He has also served as a board member of different organizations, including related to education, and he and his family have been involved in developing many international humanitarian projects. Mr. Rowe is a graduate of the University of Chicago's Law School and received a master's degree from the University of Chicago's Harris School of Public Policy and a bachelor's degree from Brigham Young University in philosophy, where he was a student athlete. He and his family have lived abroad in Russia, Azerbaijan, Ethiopia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Belgium, and Croatia, and he has worked in other parts of Africa, Central Asia and the Middle East. He and his wife Brooke have three sons and two daughters. Mr. Rowe has extensive experience working with young men and women and was drawn to American Heritage because of its inspired mission and vision. He is looking forward to help prepare the hearts and minds of the next generation of great leaders.



Angela Davidson is the Development Manager for American Heritage School, including Latter-day Learning, the Lyceum Orchestra Program and the American Heritage Youth Chorus. She loves to bring people on campus, and enjoys helping with AHS events. Mrs. Davidson graduated from Southern Utah University (SUU) with a Bachelor's Degree in Communication with a double emphasis in Public Relations and Advertising, and now serves on the SUU National Alumni Advisory Board. Prior to joining AHS, Mrs. Davidson worked as an IT Business

Analyst for clients across the U.S. and Canada. Her past career in Human Resources including recruiting and hiring employees and directing events. She feels blessed to now work with the wonderful families at AHS and is grateful for their influence for good in her life. Mrs. Davidson is an active member of the LDS Church and served an LDS mission in Nebraska (Omaha). She enjoys sharing her testimony of Jesus Christ at LDS Youth Conferences and Girls Camps, Retreat for Girls, and with Young Women and Relief Society sisters across the United States. After being a Program Manager for the Washington DC Girl Scouts Resident Summer Camps, Mrs. Davidson served as a counselor for CES at the Academy for Girls program. Mrs. Davidson and her husband Mike love being parents to their sons Jasper and Henry. Their family moved to Highland from the island of Newfoundland so their children could attend AHS. Previously they called Henderson, Nevada home for nine years, and have also lived in Tulsa, Oklahoma and Salt Lake City, Utah. The Davidson family are all avid readers and also enjoy playing board games and exploring outdoors, including hiking and sledding. Mrs. Davidson loves all water activities, including swimming, creek-hopping, canoeing, windsurfing and running through the sprinklers with her boys. Mrs. Davidson's greatest happiness comes from her family.

SUPPORT STAFF



Athena Monson, Front Office Manager. Athena Monson comes to American Heritage School with a diverse background in Office Management, Business Management, Personnel Development, Professional Training, and graduated from Weber State University with Honors as a Registered Dental Hygienist. She has served in many leadership capacities in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, Educational, Professional, and Community Programs. She started The Greatest Gift Network, a charity developed to benefit children with

Special Needs. She has volunteered for many years to support multiple charities that benefit children. Her greatest gifts are her husband, Roger, and her 5 amazing children. (3 Beautiful Girls, 2 Handsome Boys) She currently has 3 children attending American Heritage School, one attending Brigham Young University, and her special needs son at home. She has dedicated her life to serving Heavenly Father, Jesus Christ, and her precious family! Many sacrifices through the years reflect those priorities. She is passionate about Principle and Truth-Based Education, and feels grateful for an answer to prayer that brought her, and her children, to American Heritage School. She has a deep love for children, youth, and all those she is honored to associate with here. She desires to be a positive asset to the extraordinary mission of American

Heritage School. Athena also enjoys learning new things, traveling, sports, karate, coaching, music, temple work and serving others.



Stacy Wood, Guidance Counselor. Mrs. Wood is happy to be a school counselor at American Heritage School. She is a transplant to Utah from Kailua, HI and Westchester, CA. Mrs. Wood graduated from El Segundo High School (El Segundo, CA), Brigham Young University (BA in Communication Studies) and the University of Utah (M.Ed. in Educational Psychology). She has been counseling for 5 years and loves working with students to create a high school, college, career, and life plan. When she isn't helping students at school she enjoys spending time with her husband and two daughters, attempting the latest America's Test Kitchen recipe, watching soccer, crafting, eating at new local restaurants, learning languages and traveling. One unique/weird fact about Mrs. Wood is that she is allergic to eggs.



Jacob Allred, Database Manager, Cross-Country Coach, Yearbook Advisor. Mr. Allred was drawn to the school's mission and Christ-centered approach to education. When Latter-day Learning launched the Family School Program in 2012, Mr. Allred and his wife were one of the original Founding Families. Mr. Allred is an active member of the LDS Church and served a mission to Madrid, Spain from 1999-2001. Mr. Allred graduated from BYU with a Bachelor of Science in 2006 where his studies focused on non-profit business. He also holds an MBA with an extra emphasis in Leadership from Liberty University in Lynchburg, Virginia. Mr. Allred has lived in the metro Washington, D.C. area and Phoenix, AZ while working as a non-profit administrator responsible for fundraising, recruitment, and database management. In addition to the non-profit sector, Mr. Allred has also worked as a technician for Microsoft and compliance consultant for SecurityMetrics. Mr. Allred grew up in Provo and Orem, graduating from Mountain View Senior High School. During his senior year, Mr. Allred was the Senior Yearbook Editor and was on the National Championship Boy's Cross-Country team, under the direction of Coach Dave Houle. Mr. Allred has volunteered with the Jacob Hamblin Legacy Organization and was the founding Rotaract President his senior year at BYU (Provo). He also has been a Rotarian in Leesburg, Virginia. He and his wife Meghan are the busy parents of one princess and five boys, all of whom continue to enjoy learning through the Family School Program.



Kandace Goodrich, Part-time Front Office Administrative Assistant. Kandace was born and raised in Kearns, Utah, but prefers the warmth of St. George where she lived for 9 years. While living in St. George she attended Dixie State University. She has worked in the front office of LDS Family Services for 5 years assisting therapists and clients, which has deepened her desire to educate others about emotional challenges. She loves faith-based therapy, and loves that American Heritage provides a faith-based education. The opportunity to work at

American Heritage combines Kandace's love for office administration work, education, family, and faith. Kandace plans on becoming a Family Life Educator after completing the online Family Life program at Utah State University. She also hopes to become more involved with two organizations she volunteers for - Utah Coalition Against Pornography and Operation Underground Railroad. She served a mission in Nauvoo, Illinois where she deepened her love of the gospel, church history, and teaching. Kandace is the 4th of 8 children, and the favorite aunt of 7. When not working or pursuing education, she enjoys hiking, reading self-help books, organizing, and spending time with two of her five sisters whom she lives with in Orem, Utah.



Brooke Brockbank, Front Office Administrative Assistant. Brooke grew up in Utah, one of 8 children. During college she was able to travel with the BYU ILP program and teach English in the kindergartens in Voronezh, Russia. Upon returning home she married Steve Brockbank and they headed off to California for his schooling. After graduation they moved multiple times to multiple states with the last out of state home being on a farm in Pullman, Washington. This is where she and her husband started "Freedom Camp". A 3-day camp that focuses on Faith, Family (ancestors), Freedoms (love of America and the founding fathers) and hard work! After moving to Lehi about 4 years ago they have gone on to host 3 more camps with the latest here in Utah County for nearly 100 of their extended family members. This is her family's passion and last year they were awarded Lehi City's "Family of Year" award. She loves American Heritage because the people here also have this same passion for Faith, Families and the Freedoms we hold dear in America. She is very excited to be working with the children here. She currently lives in Lehi with her husband and 6 children, where you can find her playing with her children, singing, cooking, working in the yard, and if you ask her 6 year old what she loves he'll say her favorite thing to do is "clean the house".



Adam Hendrickson, Finance Assistant. Adam was born and raised in Richfield, Utah. He is the youngest of 4 children. He served a LDS mission in Florianopolis, Brazil from 1998 – 2000. In 2004 Adam started Peace of Mind Home Inspections LLC, a growing home inspection company in Utah County. He still enjoys inspecting homes today. Adam has also been extensively involved in the financial services industry and currently holds numerous insurance and investment licenses. He is also involved in the direct sales industry. Adam enjoys serving in his church calling, golfing, reading, and a good movie. Adam and his wife Melisa reside in Pleasant Grove, Utah with their two sons, Logan and Nathan. They have enjoyed their associations at AHS for the past 6 years, and love the mission of the school and dedication of the faculty and staff. Adam is thrilled to be a part of the American Heritage finance team.



Cathy Hayward, Aide. Cathy Hayward attended BYU and earned a bachelor's degree in Clinical Laboratory Science with a minor in chemistry. She has completed an eighteen-month author coaching class from a professional editor and attended several business workshops with her husband. She loves cooking, writing, playing the piano, singing, and taking care of her family. She and her husband have five children. She loves American Heritage School and has been associated with the school since 2001. She is grateful to be one of the people who helps the school to operate and fill its mission in the lives of children and families seeking a Christ-centered education.



Bailey Savage, Girls Volleyball Coach. Bailey is delighted to return to American Heritage School as the girls volleyball coach. She has loved volleyball ever since playing for her high school in Vancouver, Washington and she has loved the people of American Heritage School ever since working there as the high school chemistry teacher. In the years between high school and becoming a teacher, Bailey studied biochemistry at Brigham Young University, served as a missionary in Omaha, Nebraska and taught missionaries at the Provo Missionary Training Center. All the while, she has continued to play volleyball with friends and neighbors. Although she will often comment on how much she loves volleyball, chemistry and teaching, Bailey's greatest loves are the gospel of Jesus Christ, her wonderful husband and her sweet, little daughter.

Katherine Biggs, Boys Volleyball Coach

Paul Davis, Head Basketball Coach