



AMERICAN  HERITAGE
SCHOOL

AHS ANNUAL
REPORT 

2019-20



Dear Friends,

We're very grateful for the Lord's tender mercies and for all the people who lifted in every way possible to support American Heritage School through our most challenging year since I arrived in 2005. We've had our share of pain, but it could have been much worse.

When the coronavirus closed schools around the world, including ours, we realized that AHS had been prepared for it in providential ways—and also that it required us to send our mission roots even deeper to secure ourselves against the storm. Major gifts that had been donated to the school in the months prior to the COVID-19 crisis had strengthened our foundations just in time. With the onset of the pandemic in the spring, and more families in need of financial aid to remain at the school, our entire community stepped forward to help us successfully complete an unprecedented \$900K “stretch” Annual Fund campaign. With no debt and not a penny of government funding, AHS not only survived but thrived. We launched additional AHS Online courses to serve our on-campus students, and we welcomed nearly 4,000 new families around the world who signed up for a free subscription of American Heritage Worldwide's Family School Online.

With additional, special-purpose donations in the spring of 2020, we invested right away in AHS Online 2.0 for the fall, developing a new part-time, reduced-tuition enrollment option called “AHS Essentials.” This innovation effectively merged the strengths of our on-campus and online programs to provide our families with flexible, high-quality, and low-cost options to improve their learning experience and outcomes whether at school or at home. We also kept our eye on other aspects of our long-term vision, moving forward with our Campus Masterplan and breaking ground on Phase 2 of our high school expansion.

The heroic efforts of our teachers and administrators, and the generosity we witnessed as many families made financial sacrifices for the school—during a time of great financial uncertainty—was humbling and inspiring.

As for the Class of 2020, we were amazed by what they accomplished amidst such complicated circumstances. 59 graduates from five different countries achieved a 100% graduation rate, a 100% college admission rate, with more than \$1 million in scholarship funds awarded (an average of \$17,000 per student to approximately 40 colleges and universities), a 100% senior thesis pass rate, and an 80% admission rate to BYU-Provo among those who applied. More importantly, these scholars entered the world prepared to lead strong Christ-centered lives and families. This is the fullest expression of our mission, and the focus of American Heritage School's curriculum and methodologies.

This kind of education infuses the light of faith into every subject and every discipline. This kind of education can change the world. It is changing the world, one heart and one mind at a time. We hope you will join the spirited march of the Patriots! May the Lord bless you and your family as you seek diligently to teach your children wisdom “even by study and also by faith” (D&C 88:118).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Grant Beckwith". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Grant Beckwith, Principal



After American Heritage officially joined the Utah High School Activities Association in 2018, AHS senior **Naomi Noot** captured the school's first UHSAA state championship when she won the Class 2A/3A state girls tennis singles title in the fall of 2019.





CHARACTER

Developing hearts centered in Christ, influenced by example and refined through experience.



“Master, which is the great commandment in the law? Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind.

This is the first and great commandment.

And the second is like unto it,

***Thou shalt
love thy neighbour
as thyself.”***

BUILDING CHARACTER AT AHS

- Daily class devotionals
- Principle approach to education
- Master projects
- Stewardship minutes
- Annual grade-level devotionals
- Ancestor reports
- Service club
- All-participation athletics
- Senior theses
- “This I Believe” essays
- Sacred music and hymn singing
- Focus on For the Strength of Youth and Honor Code



RIGOROUS ACADEMICS



**RESTORED-GOSPEL
PERSPECTIVE**



AHS SCHOLARSHIP

EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING

Regular classes are replaced for several days each year with deep-dive, hands-on courses, such as:

- Astrophysics
- World Religions
- Entrepreneurship
- Genetics
- Constitutional Studies
- Filmmaking
- CPR Certification
- Cooking
- Recording Artists
- Wilderness Rescue
- Fitness
- Photography
- Interior Design



SCHOLARSHIP

Inspiring minds through transformational teaching
and learning in the light of the restored gospel.



SENIOR CLASS OF 2020

- \$1 million+ in college scholarship offers
- Accepted to 129 universities/colleges
- 100% graduation rate
- 100% college acceptance rate
- 100% wrote and defended a 20-page senior thesis
- 80% BYU-Provo acceptance rate
- 59 students from 4 countries (Canada, China, Hong Kong, USA)

STEM IMPROVEMENTS

- Galileo Shuttlecraft simulator
- Virtual science experiment software
- Increased number of chemistry labs
- Added Sports Medicine class (with career skills certification opportunity and collaboration with BYU athletic training department)
- Added CPR course

KEY ACADEMIC METRICS

- 26 avg. AHS ACT score (Utah ACT average = 20)
- AHS students perform 1–2 grade levels higher on STAR testing
- 13:1 student-to-teacher ratio
- 8–25 range of students per class

AP Results:

- 92% pass rate in AP Seminar, AP Stats, AP US Government
- 117 exams given
- Pass rate in AP Seminar, AP Stats, AP US Government



LEARNING MORAL SELF-GOVERNMENT

through studying the lives of America's founding fathers and mothers, pageants, devotional programs, and themed classroom celebrations, students actively seek to ease human suffering via service opportunities that "liberate the captive, and administer relief to the sick and the afflicted" (Jacob 2:19).

Other methods we use to teach liberty-oriented citizenship include:

- Great American Documents Memorization
- 7 Principles of Personal & Civil Liberty
- Constitutional Convention Re-enactment
- State Capitol Visit
- Living Wax Museum
- Patriotic Program
- Veteran's Day, Constitution Day, & Columbus Day Celebrations
- Providential View of History
- Principles of Leadership Course
- Freedom Festival Essays
- Crossing the Delaware





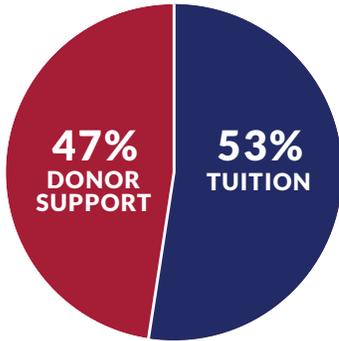
LIBERTY

Choosing moral self-government as the foundation
of thriving individuals, families and communities.

As part of the school's 50th anniversary celebrations, the **Nathan Hale** statue was unveiled during the Constitution Day Festival in September 2020. Captured and killed by the British during the Revolutionary War, Nathan Hale epitomizes the character AHS seeks to instill in each of its students. A war hero, a teacher, and a faithful Christian, he truly was a Disciple, Scholar, and Patriot.



A CULTURE OF INDEPENDENCE & SELF-RELIANCE



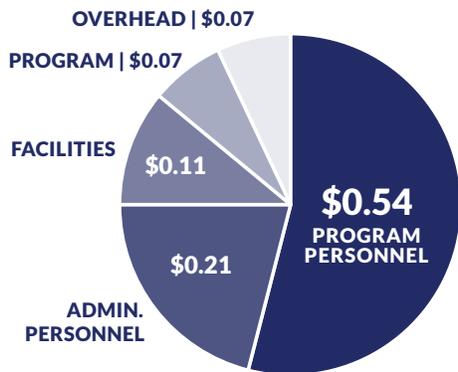
THE GIFT OF AN AHS EDUCATION
How the True Cost of Each Student at AHS is Funded

THE SCHOOL ACCEPTS NO FEDERAL, STATE, OR LOCAL TAX FUNDING. We are a truly independent and self-reliant school community. **To keep quality high and tuition low, we never use debt financing or tuition dollars—only donations—for land acquisitions, facilities expansion, and other significant building projects.**

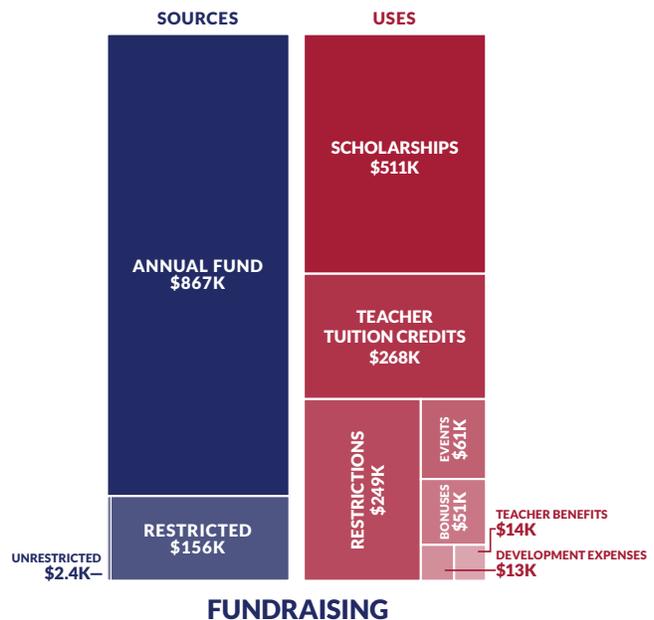
Without the generous support of donors, tuition for a private educational experience of similar quality and scope would need to be nearly double the present rate. In other words, **a student's tuition at AHS represents only about half of the true cost of that seat.**

\$100M DONATIONS SINCE 2001	\$780K SCHOLARSHIP & TUITION REMISSION AWARDED IN 2019-20	50 YEARS SINCE AHS OPENED IN 1970	\$0 NO COMMERCIAL DEBT
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\$1.03M TOTAL FUNDRAISING (\$879K IN ANNUAL FUND/UNRESTRICTED, \$156K IN RESTRICTED)
201 UNIQUE DONATIONS FROM 126 DONORS



HOW EACH \$1 OF TUITION/ FEE REVENUE IS SPENT



AMERICAN HERITAGE WORLDWIDE

2019–20 SET THE STAGE for very important strategic developments for American Heritage School's global outreach arm, American Heritage Worldwide. A time-sensitive \$1M donation provided much needed capital to help AHW begin developing resources to expand its reach well beyond traditional homeschooling. Although AHW's flagship K–6 homeschool resource had reached beyond 30,000 students in over 100 countries around the world, some missing pieces were needed to appeal to LDS families more broadly. K–6 math, language arts, student-led resources, and a diploma-granting high school are at the top of the list. Good strategies

and adequate funding attracted essential personnel, including former BYU-IS Director of Instructional Design, Dr. Pablo Riboldi. The future of American Heritage Worldwide is bright—on track to launch a student-led, video-based K–6 product and diploma-granting middle and high school in the fall of 2020, with K–6 math and language arts set to release in fall 2021. Truly, the vision of American Heritage School is becoming a reality.

American Heritage School will become an effective educational resource for parents worldwide in assisting children and families to maximize their divine potential.





OCTOBER

6th graders provide service at Tabitha's Way, a local food pantry named after a woman in the New Testament (Acts 9:36-41) who was dearly loved for the charity that she provided for so many in her community. AHS students perform dozens of acts of service each year—a key component of our character education.

SUMMER 2019

American Heritage campus was busy with summer camps that provided participants with a variety of learning opportunities, from dance to cooking to the Constitution!



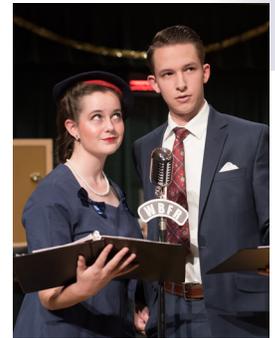
OCTOBER

In its inaugural season, the AHS baseball team won its first playoff game en route to a fourth-place finish in the state tournament.



NOVEMBER

400 ballroom dancers and more than 1,500 spectators crammed Patriot Arena for a regional ballroom dance competition that saw several Patriot dancers take top awards!



NOVEMBER

AHS drama students thrilled audiences with their performance of *It's a Wonderful Life*, reimagined as a radio show.



JULY | AUGUST | SEPTEMBER | OCTOBER | NOVEMBER | DECEMBER



SEPTEMBER

American Heritage School's Athletic Director Yahosh Bonner (back row, just to right of center silver pole) joined his family to sing at the 95th birthday celebration of President Russel M. Nelson (with his wife Wendy) on Friday, Sept. 6.



DECEMBER

The 2019 Savior of the World production featured several AHS students and faculty, including Mary Lynn Johnson with three of her children Adam (10th), Abby (8th), and Annalie (7th); Derek Rowen (10th), and Dr. Ryan Anderson. AHS Technical Director, Jay Clark, was instrumental in writing and producing the original version of the play.



DECEMBER

Brooklyn Terry (Kindergarten) came up with the idea to have a bake sale to earn her own money for the bear she wanted to donate to the AHS Christmas Teddy Bears Service Project benefiting homeless children and children in trauma. Her bear, along with 480 others, were delivered to hospitals, first responders, homeless shelters, and foodbanks.



DECEMBER

Nathan Pacheco and Lexi Walker joined our Lyceum Philharmonic and Heritage Youth Chorus for two sold-out Christmas concerts!



2019-20 YEAR AT A GLANCE

JANUARY

Students studying microorganisms from samples of Utah lake contributories (Jordan River and Willow Creek) using new microscopes. The microscopes were part of a major investment in STEM equipment and technology during the 2019-20 school year.



APRIL

In the middle of March, on-campus instruction was moved online due to COVID-19. Students, families, teachers and administrators made the transition within 72 hours and worked together to thrive in the face of very difficult challenges.



APRIL

During the shutdown, the AHS community gathered for a virtual Country Family Dinner/ Dance that featured "Boot Soup"!

APRIL

Mr. Swenson's choir students released the inspiring "Why We Sing," a virtual choir performance produced during the coronavirus shutdown.



JANUARY

FEBRUARY

MARCH

APRIL

MAY

JUNE



FEBRUARY

In its first season as a full member of Class 2A in the UHSAA, the boys varsity basketball team finished third place in the state tournament. Way to go, Patriots!



MARCH

The K-6 playground received the much-anticipated addition to its playground thanks to generous AHS donors.



MAY

Elder Cardon, General Authority Seventy (emeritus), taught the Graduating Class of 2020 four key principles during his commencement address: 1) there will always be opposition. 2) Work hard. 3) Never stop learning. And, 4) always put the Lord's purposes first.





LYCEUM YOUTH ORCHESTRAS

- 13-time Best of State winner, Lyceum Youth Orchestras at American Heritage School. Six orchestras ranging across age and experience
- 100 million+ views on YouTube
- Perform with artists such as The Piano Guys, David Archuleta, Marie Osmond, Genti, and many more

HERITAGE YOUTH CHORUS

- Selected to perform at prestigious WACDA conference in Salt Lake City in 2019
- Annual national tours to perform musical firesides across the country
- Opportunities for students in grades 1–12

COMMUNITY MUSIC PROGRAMS



The Lyceum Philharmonic and Heritage Youth Chorus performed Christmas concerts with **Nathan Pacheco** and **Lexi Walker** in Ogden and on the American Heritage School campus.



CHARACTER ATHLETICS

2019-20 ATHLETICS HIGHLIGHTS

- Multiple top finishes in ballroom competitions
- UHSAA state champion, Naomi Noot, Girls 2A/3A Tennis
- 3rd place, UHSAA Boys Varsity Basketball State Tournament
- 4th place, UHSAA Baseball State Tournament

PROGRAMS OFFERED

- Ballroom
- Baseball
- Basketball
- Cross Country
- Soccer
- Tennis
- Track & Field
- Ultimate Frisbee
- Volleyball



IN THE SPRING OF 2019, AHS dedicated Phases 1A and 1B in a touching ceremony held in Patriot Arena. Students, families, and faculty were joined by the Board of Trustees, donors, and community dignitaries to honor—in both word and music—the sacrifices of all those who laid the foundations for the school's growth and success.

With the completion of the \$30 million Phase 1A and 1B expansion, we are pleased to announce a new \$9.5 million donation for the construction of Phases 1C and 2A. Phase 1C will be an auxiliary gym that will help the school to meet the needs of curricular PE students as well as student-athletes, coaches, and families as we continue to pursue our all-participation athletics model. Phase 2A will provide the following new spaces: a high school kitchen and cafeteria, a student commons area that can be used for multipurpose curricular space, four additional classrooms, and several thousand feet of unfinished space. The unfinished space can be purposed at a future date to meet future needs, accommodating several years of student population growth.

Our generous donors allow us to expand our campus without the use of a single dollar of tuition, continuing the pattern of consecrated donor sacrifice that has endured from the early years of our school's history. These donations bless each and every American Heritage family because they allow us to operate debt-free, which keeps the price of tuition many multiples below the total cost of the experience provided.



CONSTRUCTION UPDATE: PHASES 1C AND 2A

OUTDOOR ATHLETICS (PHASE 1A)

Completed fall of 2018

1. Future soccer field
2. Future greenhouse and garden
3. Outdoor Basketball Courts
4. Tennis Courts (4)
5. Expanded Elementary Play System
6. Concessions, Restrooms, & Outdoor Storage
7. 1,733-seat Stadium, Soccer Field, Track & Field
8. Baseball/Softball Field

INDOOR ATHLETICS (PHASE 1B)

Completed fall of 2018

9. Classrooms for Curricular Instruction, Dance, Health, P.E., Weightlifting; Locker Rooms
10. 1,406-seat Patriot Arena with Elevated Indoor Track

7-12 BUILDING (PHASES 1C & 2A)

Construction slated for 2020

11. Auxiliary Gym (1C)
12. Kitchen, Cafeteria, Student Commons, Classrooms, and unfinished space to be purposed later (2A)

7-12 CLASSROOMS (PHASE 2)

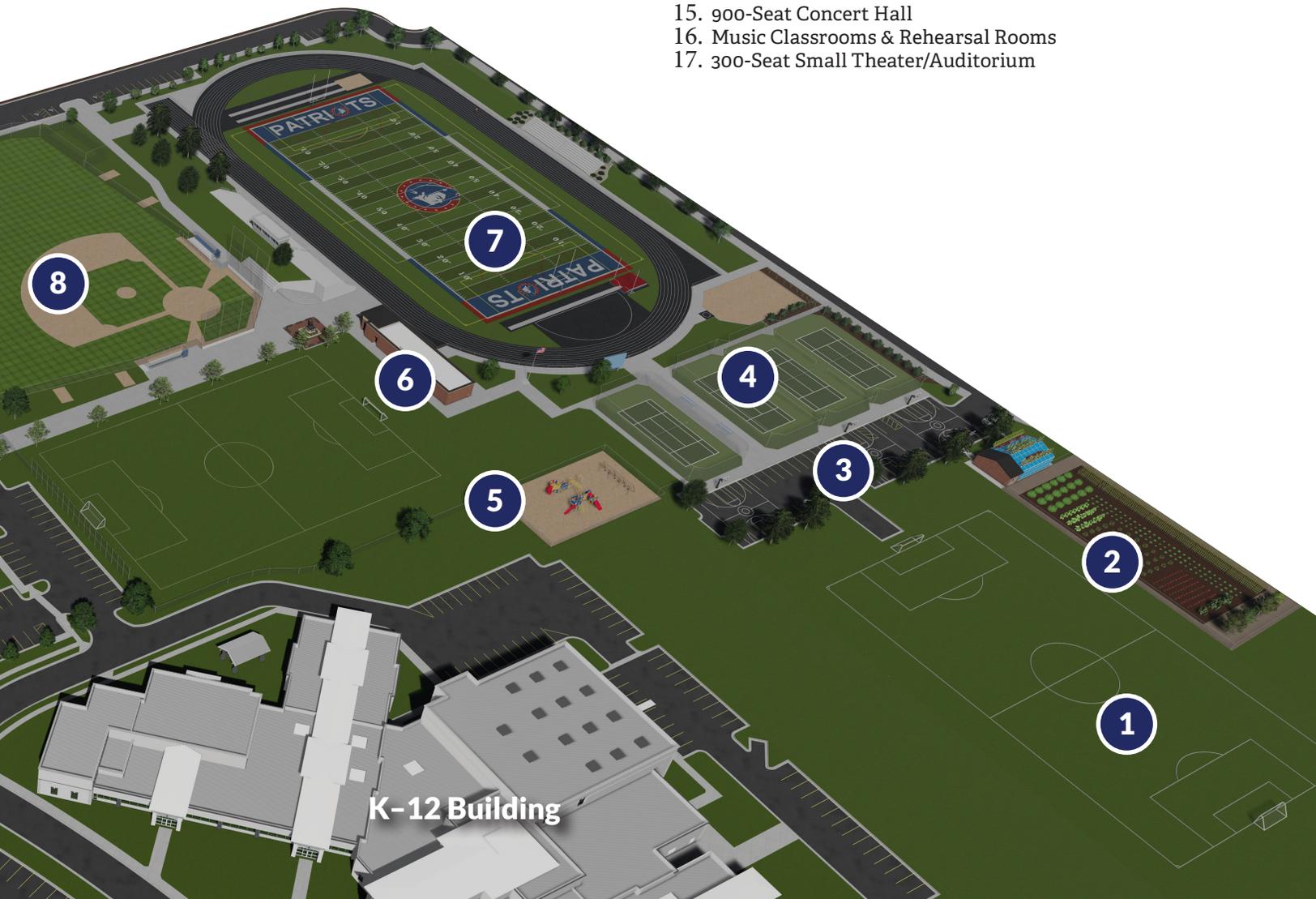
Future expansion

13. General Classrooms and Specialized Classrooms for Science, Art, Engineering, Math & Technology
14. Student Commons & Activity Area, Administrative Offices

PERFORMING ARTS CENTER (PHASE 3)

future expansion

15. 900-Seat Concert Hall
16. Music Classrooms & Rehearsal Rooms
17. 300-Seat Small Theater/Auditorium





American Heritage has given me a brand-new perspective to examine the world around me. It installed in me the **foundation of morality, values, and critical thinking**. I have learned profound lessons through my classes and discussions with my teachers and peers. It was a life-changing experience. The education I acquired here will guide me through the future path of my life.”

"Sabrina" Sijin Chen

International Student from Guangdong, China

AHS Class of 2020



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about American
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