

# AMERICAN HERITAGE SCHOOL

KNOWLEDGE | INTEGRITY | COMPASSION



## Lower School Profile 2019-2020

American Heritage School  
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### CEO & Founder

William R. Laurie, M.Ed.

### President

Douglas R. Laurie, M.Ed., D.C.

### Vice President

Leslie Laurie Wood, Ed.S.

### Lower School Principal

Lauren Johnston, M.Ed.

### Assistant Principal

Linda Hertler, M.S.

### Lower School Guidance Counselors

Robin Behar, M.S., LMHC

Paula Fitzpatrick, M.Ed.

### Highlights & Recognitions

The students at American Heritage School are uniquely prepared to be leaders of the 21st century who embody knowledge, integrity, and compassion. We guide students to be independent, productive, and accomplished when they progress into our Upper School. Here are some of the recent achievements of our Lower School students and notable facts about our school:

- #1 private elementary school in the U.S. in math competition;  
#1 elementary school in Florida in math
- Nationally standardized test scores in the 85<sup>th</sup> percentile on average
- One out of four 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade students qualified for Duke University's Talent Identification Program
- Stanford University's math program for accelerated math students in 4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> grades
- STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) initiatives in new state-of-the-art Science & Engineering Lab and Innovation Lab
- Project Lead The Way (PLTW) curriculum enhances computer science instruction focusing on programming, creative thinking, student collaboration, and communication
- Over 15 elective classes supplement core curriculum in all students' daily schedules
- 20+ years participant in Presidential Education Academic Award program
- Highest number of winners in city-wide Art Search competition
- Straight Superiors at Junior Thespians state competition for one-act play, Superior Tech, Best Ensemble in a Play, Best Actor
- Yearly orchestra, band, and chorus recognitions
- Average tenure of teachers exceeds ten years
- Over 30 enrichment classes offered after school, such as chess, robotics,

### Our School

American Heritage was founded in 1965. Our wooded 40-acre campus has colonial-style brick buildings that house classrooms; offices; Science, Engineering, and Innovation Labs; a multi-million dollar fine arts facility; outdoor Environmental Educational Center; Olympic-size pool; sports fields; and quiet courtyard areas. The Lower School library is a 2,041 square-foot media center with a resource lab, two instructional areas, and over 16,000 books and reference materials.

### A College Prep Experience

American Heritage School gives its students a rigorous education in a forward-thinking, technologically advanced, and well-rounded environment. Our mission is to graduate students who are prepared in mind, body, and spirit to meet the requirements of the colleges of their choice. We offer a challenging college preparatory curriculum that serves students of bright average to gifted intelligence and aims to develop critical thinking skills and lifelong learning. At American Heritage, students find their passion and uncover hidden talents.

**American Heritage School** is an independent non-sectarian, and co-educational day school for PK3 through 12th grades with approximately 2,800 students. Our **Lower School** serves PK3 through 6th grade and has a student population of 800 students. Our student to faculty ratio is 5:1.

## What Makes Our School Unique

While our campus resembles a small college in size and design, the feeling of an intimate, nurturing, well-rounded, and family-oriented school community is quite evident. We celebrate diversity and welcome students of all religions, nationalities, ethnicities, and races. Here are some of the unique aspects of our Lower School.

- Every classroom has a certified teacher and a full-time assistant; state-of-the-art technology with a 1-to-1 iPad program; visual projection and audio enhancement systems.
- Stanford University's Education Program for Gifted Youth curriculum is offered for high achieving math students in 4th through 6th grades.
- Honors and accelerated classes are offered beginning in 2nd grade.
- STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) hands-on learning is integrated into new Science & Engineering Lab and Innovation Lab
- Elective classes are incorporated into each student's schedule, including: foreign language (Spanish and Chinese), computer science, science lab, library and media center, 2D and 3D art, music, drama, chorus, dance, orchestra, band, and physical education.
- Our outdoor Environmental Education Center provides an interactive classroom in a certified natural wildlife refuge and amphitheater.
- Student broadcast network enables students to produce the Morning Announcements each day.

## Ethnic & International Diversity

Caucasian (non-Hispanic)	48%
Foreign Born	33%
Latin/Hispanic	23%
Black/African American	10%
Asian/Asian American	10%
Other	5%
Native American	4%

## Faculty

The 147 Lower School faculty members include degreed and certified instructors, administrators, a guidance counselor, teacher assistants, a nurse with two assistants, and office professionals. More than half of the instructional staff hold a post-graduate degree. Our highly qualified, talented, and dedicated teachers guide our students to develop intellectually, emotionally, and socially and prepare them for a lifelong journey of learning. To foster educational best practices, all of our teachers participate in professional development throughout the year. Parents and students respect our professional, competent, and caring faculty.

## Student Clubs & Organizations

We believe students should develop social responsibility with respect for individual and group differences. We offer student clubs and organizations supervised by faculty advisers to foster a community of scholars who seek to become responsible citizens. Following is a sampling of our extra-curricular activities.

Elementary Theater Troupe is an after school enrichment program during the fall and winter that culminates in an elaborate production of a Broadway-style musical for two nights in January in the American Heritage Center for the Arts Main Theater.

Lower School Dance Company attracts students with a love of dance. Students rehearse under the direction of professional dancers; they perform two times each year with the Upper School Dance Company on the Main Stage of the American Heritage Center for the Arts.

National Elementary Honor Society (NEHS) recognizes a highly selective group of motivated students who display the characteristics of scholarship, leadership, responsibility, and character. Our NEHS chapter has sponsored an orphanage in earthquake-damaged Haiti, hosts the Principal's Honor Roll Breakfast each quarter, and participates in Math Night at Publix Supermarket.

Robotics Team attracts students in 4th-8th grades interested in the fundamentals of engineering. Students meet after school two times each week; they work together to build and program an autonomous robot that performs tasks within a set time frame.

Safety Patrol is an on-campus service organization that provides a safe environment for pedestrians and motorists. Patrol members assist at morning drop-off and help younger students with their backpacks and other items that need to be taken to their classrooms.

Speech Club is offered to students in 4th & 5th grades giving the opportunity to develop skills in persuasion and communication and compete with other elementary schools in Broward County. 6th graders may join the Junior High Speech & Debate Club and compete with other middle schools in Broward County.

Student Council represents all Lower School students and is comprised of students in 4th-6th grades. Officers and classroom representatives are elected at the beginning of each year; students can join the general membership, as well. The Council operates a school store and raises funds for community service projects. Members earn points to travel to Washington, DC; Boston; or Philadelphia to observe our nation's government and history.

### Accreditations and Memberships

- Association of Independent Schools of Florida (AISF)
- Middle States Association (MSA-CESS)
- National Council for Private Schools Association (NCPSA)
- Broward County Non-Public School Association
- Florida Association of Academic Non-Public Schools
- Accreditation International (Ai)
- Southern Association of Colleges and Schools/AdvancED (SACS)