

Welcome New Middle & High School Teachers American Heritage School 2009-2010!

April 22, 2009 – Middle & High School Open House

We are very pleased to announce the following newly hired teachers for the American Heritage Middle and High School programs. This year the School had more applicants, and more qualified applicants, than in any previous year. As you come to know and love these new teachers (just as our administration, board, faculty, and students have done over the last few months interviewing and observing them), we hope you will agree with us that each of these teachers was guided by a Providential Hand to American Heritage School! It is with sadness that we say goodbye to Mr. Latimer and Ms. Lawyer, both of whom will be leaving us at the end of this school year. But that sadness is mixed with the blessing of welcoming new teachers in their places, who we know will impact the students in truly extraordinary ways. Thus, teacher assignments by grade for the 2009-2010 year are as follows: Mr. Haymond (11th), Mr. Gentile (10th), Ms. Scholl and Mr. Carman (9th Grade – two classes), Mrs. Yamada (8th Grade), Mrs. Updike (7th Grade), and we have yet to fill the second 8th grade class, which decision we will announce at our earliest possible opportunity. Also, as a result of a renewed focus on teacher development and teamwork in our middle and high school programs, all of these teachers will work closely as a team as we continue our work of building a middle and high school program that is a model for the world! Congratulations again to each of these teachers!

Sincerely, --Grant Beckwith, Principal

Nicholas Gentile – 10th Grade Core, French

Mr. Gentile (pronounced Gen - teal) comes to American Heritage School from The Fenn School in Concord Massachusetts, where he taught History, English, Soccer, Skating, and Baseball, working with multiple grade levels (5-9). 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. He has taught at the MTC and early-morning seminary. He and his wife, Christina, are the parents of one daughter and—soon to be—one son. We are delighted to announce Nicholas's addition to the American Heritage School faculty.

Laura Scholl – 9th Grade Core, Debate

Ms. Scholl 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 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 is currently teaching English 11, AP English Literature and Composition, International Baccalaureate, and Speech/Debate. We are thrilled to welcome Laura to American Heritage School.

Stephen Carman – 9th Grade Core, Spanish

Mr. Carman graduated from BYU, earning a bachelor's in Social Sciences. He continued his education at the University of Utah, recently finishing a Masters degree in Communication. During the past several years, Stephen has taught intermediate and professional writing at the University of Utah where he developed extensive curriculum and built meaningful relationships with students and supervisors. Stephen loves to travel and has visited many countries in Europe, South America (he communicates in Spanish fluently), and the Middle East. Welcome to the American Heritage School, Mr. Carman.

Laura Yamada – 8th Grade Core

Mrs. Yamada 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. We look forward to Laura's teaching at the American Heritage School.

David Goff – Upper Grade Math

Mr. Goff comes to American Heritage School from Encampment K-12 School in Wyoming where he currently teaches Science 6, Science 8, Pre-algebra, Consumer Math (11, 12), High School Algebra, Physics 11, and Calculus 12. Among many involvements at the school, he personally built and maintained a class website for all his classes where the students and their parents could stay up-to-date with the class and assignments. He has additional middle school teaching experience in Uintah School District, where he taught middle school math (6-8) at West Middle School. Prior to his teaching experience, David studied physics at both Utah Valley State College and Utah State University. He obtained a bachelor's of science degree in Physics with a minor in Mathematics from USU, where his research focused on nanotechnology and fabrication for the optics industry. David has been able to infuse his physics expertise into his teaching of Math. David is an excellent bass singer and cellist and is also fluent in French. He and his wife, Marie, are the parents of one son and two daughters. We are pleased to announce Mr. Goff's joining our faculty.