



AMERICAN HERITAGE  
SCHOOL & FAMILY EDUCATION CENTER

January 13, 2010

All Parents  
American Heritage School

Registration, Tuition, and Programs 2010-2011

Dear Parents,

Welcome back to School and Happy New Year! Attached please find the following documents that will be helpful to you as you register for the upcoming 2010-2011 school year:

- (1) *Instructions for Online Application for Enrollment for the 2010-2011 School Year.* All currently enrolled families must reapply via online application for enrollment each year. The purpose of the online application is to streamline the application process, make it more accessible to new families applying to the school, and save time for families and office staff by retaining and rolling over family information from year to year. This is a secure, password-protected and encrypted site. The instruction sheet circulated to you at the sign-in table of this (January 13) parent meeting is personalized with your previous login and password information that is necessary to properly access and update your application information from last year. Call or e-mail the front office if you forget or misplace your login information. To access the online application go to [american-heritage.org](http://american-heritage.org), then click the “Enrollment” link at the top of the home page. To reserve your seat(s) for the upcoming year, you should submit your completed online application by next Friday, January 22, 2010. Open enrollment for the general public begins on Monday, February 15, 2010.
- (2) *High School Update, January 13, 2010.* Please take a few moments to read about the 2010-2011 plans for American Heritage High School. This information will be particularly relevant for families entering the 7<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grades in the upcoming year.

Tuition. Effective June 1, 2010, the monthly per-student tuition rates for the 2010-2011 school year will increase by \$17 per month for Kindergarten; by \$24 per month for first through eighth grades; and by \$32 per month for 9<sup>th</sup> through 11<sup>th</sup> grades.

As in the past, the Board is very sensitive to the added burden that any increase in tuition, no matter how small, places upon families – particularly those families with multiple children enrolled in the School. At the same time, the Board hopes that parents will be sensitive to the purposes for

modest tuition increases, which include better compensation for teachers (the majority of the tuition increase goes directly to increasing teacher salaries and benefits), adjusting for inflation and increased costs of living, and providing for other standard increases in the operating costs of the School.

“Educating Hearts & Minds” Annual Fund Campaign 2010. Since April of 2006 when the School launched its “Educating Hearts and Minds” annual fund, the School has received numerous donations that have blessed the children and teachers in various ways, including the addition of a music facility, science room, art room, a reading intervention facility, acquisition of special reading and math software, books for classrooms, listening/reading centers, reading tables, bleachers, musical instruments, P.E. equipment, computer and networking equipment, professional development and faculty enrichment opportunities for teachers, and more. Some donors have even made cash contributions directly to our teachers’ modest Christmas and end-of-year bonuses.

None of these improvements and programs were funded with tuition receipts. Raising tuition is always a last resort – and we have historically (including this coming year) set tuition rates at approximately half of the “true” cost of a seat at AHS. It is only through donations that we are able to keep our tuition so affordable while offering the quality of education that we now enjoy. We need your help to continue this generous “sacrifice model” of operating. **Sacrifice consecrates our efforts!**

**Our goal in this year’s annual fund campaign is to raise \$300,000 to help increase our teachers modest salaries and to attract and retain the best teachers.** Did you know that most teachers at AHS make less than they could earn elsewhere? They come because they are drawn by our mission and spirit. With well over 300 families at the school, this is a very achievable goal if we will each take some personal responsibility for it. Beginning this month, we will be asking for the help of dedicated and grateful parents and grandparents to assist us in meeting our annual fund goal through a “calling tree” effort that is undertaken by volunteer parents on a class-by-class basis. Initially, all donations up to \$50,000 will be matched 1-to-1 thanks to a committed and generous supporter of the School. We have currently raised approximately \$100,000 of our \$300,000 goal. Our dollar goal, however, is second in importance to our participation goal of 100% of our current families making a donation – in any amount – to demonstrate to ourselves and other potential donors that we are grateful stewards of an educational experience that would cost every family at least twice as much in tuition were it not for the charity and sacrifice of those who gave before us. Thank you all for helping us to meet this year’s annual fund goal.

Focus on Parent Service. Service hours are a condition upon which seating is determined. As more families apply for increasingly limited seats in each of the classes, service hours are used by Administration as one of the most important indicators of a family’s commitment and long-term compatibility with the School. We recognize that various circumstances require flexibility in terms of how and when service hours are filled – but please rededicate yourselves to achieving the minimum requirement of 20 hours per family, per year. A blank service hour card is unacceptable and demonstrates a lack of one of the most fundamental qualities that we seek in seating a family at

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the School. Please record your hours and how you served. (Service hour cards are located in a box in the front office next to Shari Wheeler.)

Please know that both the Board and Administration are constantly mindful of the great and humble legacy that has been left for us by generations of past directors, administrators, teachers and parents. We are mindful of how difficult it is, if not impossible, to satisfy all the requirements of all the parents who entrust to our School a great portion of the responsibility for educating their children; however, as we (and no doubt you) continue to discuss what is most needful and required—may we all be mindful of what the Lord requires, which is “the heart and a willing mind.” (D&C 64:34).

In this spirit, we hope that parents will not hesitate to discuss with Administrators or Board Members any questions that they may have with respect to the upcoming 2010-2011 school year.

Thank you for your service, sacrifice and commitment!

Sincerely,

Board of Trustees

American Heritage School