



### The Noah Plan: Self Directed Study in the Principle Approach

Dear Parents,

It is our great pleasure to provide you with this copy of *The Noah Plan, Self-Directed Study in the Principle Approach*. Whether you are a new parent to American Heritage School, or one who has been with us for a time, we hope that you will take an opportunity to read this manual and come to understand why we feel so strongly about the pedagogical method called “The Principle Approach”.

As you read, it is important to understand that the Foundation for American Christian Education (“FACE”) is a Christian, non-denominational, non-profit organization based in Virginia that shares a tremendous amount in common with American Heritage School. From the time that members of our Board of Trustees and Curriculum Committee became familiar with FACE founders Verna Hall, Rosalie Slater, and Carole Adams beginning in the 1980’s, it was clear to all that we had a common purpose in “transforming the mind and heart of a nation.”

Over a decade ago, American Heritage School adopted the Principle Approach as the primary *methodology* for instruction at American Heritage School. Of course, American Heritage School is an LDS-based school, and as such, our mission, philosophy, curriculum and lesson content are all based upon Restored Gospel principles. But the *delivery* of our mission, philosophy, curriculum and lesson content is accomplished through Principle Approach methodologies such as “The 4-R Method”, “The Word Study Method”, “The Notebook Method”, and other Principle Approach techniques that are powerful tools for educators focused on changing hearts. Importantly, these methods are not new – in fact they are very old – and have been commonly used in the cause of Christian education for centuries, including by the American Founders and many ancient and modern prophets for the education of their children as well as for their own self-education.

With this in mind, as you read this *Self-Directed Study in the Principle Approach*, please note the following:

- In most cases when you see the word “Bible” or “Biblical” – substitute the word “scriptures” or “scriptural”. American Heritage School’s Restored Gospel view of God’s revealed word is more expansive than the Bible alone – but this certainly does not diminish the value of what wonderful fellow Christians (including the Founding Fathers) have been able to accomplish with the Bible! We take their work and add the beautiful perspective of the Restored Gospel to produce a truly “whole” approach to education.
- Because the *Self-Directed Study* is a “seminar” manual, you will see references to various other FACE publications, such as *The Christian History of the Constitution of the United States of America*, and *Teaching and Learning America’s Christian History*, among others. These are excellent publications that are also used by American Heritage School as teacher references; however, please do not hesitate to simply read the *Self-Directed Study* as a self-contained

manual without the aid of other sources. This is precisely why we are giving it to you. It is a quick and enjoyable read – succinct, straight-forward, and powerful – a perfect introduction for the busy parent that wants a good foundational understanding of the Principle Approach!

- If reading the manual proves difficult for you, we are including a CD supplement to the *Self-Directed Study* that you could listen to while driving, folding laundry, doing dishes, etc. A detailed listing of the audio contents is on page 116 of the *Self-Directed Study* manual.
- You will be introduced to the “StoneBridge School” or the “StoneBridge FACE Demonstration School” in the course of reading this manual (and especially if you choose to listen to the audio CD). Multiple administrators, board members, and faculty at American Heritage have visited StoneBridge through the years. We are not striving to emulate the StoneBridge School in all aspects; however, we have been grateful for many good ideas that we have gleaned through the years from StoneBridge and from other excellent schools like it.
- American Heritage School has adopted some, but not all, of the recommended curriculum scope and sequence set forth on pages 77-80 of the *Self-Directed Study* manual.

We find it interesting (and yes, even “providential”) that one of the “anchor” scriptures for the Foundation for American Christian Education is Ephesians 1:10, stating “That in the dispensation of the fullness of times he might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven, and which are on earth; even in him.” We too believe that we are living in the dispensation of the “fullness of times” that must include not just new educational methods for a 21<sup>st</sup> Century world, but time-tested, moral-based, and Christ-centered methods that must not be discarded as we and our children move into an ever uncertain and morally perilous future. In personal notes made shortly before he passed away, Gaylord Swim, Chairman of the American Heritage School Board of Trustees from 1995 to 2005, made a case for the continued emphasis on the Principle Approach at American Heritage School:

- It is inspired.
- It is compatible with the Restored Gospel.
- It is compatible with the principles of faith, sacrifice and patriotism.
- It develops character.
- It works on the mind and the heart of students and faculty.
- It sparks a love of learning.
- Is it the end-all-be-all? No. Therefore, we build upon it. We are strengthened by it but not limited by it.

May the Lord bless you and your family as you come to understand the urgency and significance of principle-based teaching and learning – both at school, and in your homes.

Sincerely,



Grant Beckwith  
Principal