



Experiential Learning

Program Overview

Grades 6–8

Course Dates: March 29–31, 2023

What is Experiential Learning? American Heritage School’s Experiential Learning serves as an intensive implementation of the 4R-ing methodology, with the purpose of bridging academic experiences and exploration of real-world applications—all in harmony with American Heritage School’s mission statement.

Middle School Experiential Learning is a three-day experience offering students an in-depth experience in **1) science/technology/creation, 2) health/wellness, and 3) humanities/culture**. During Experiential Learning, regular classes in grades 6–8 are suspended and replaced with project-based learning experiences in academic fields of interest to AHS students under the mentorship of experienced AHS instructors, professionals, guest presenters, and practitioners.

Middle school students will enroll in three different courses. On each of the three days, students will participate in a different course. Students must choose three distinct classes. They may not enroll in the same class on two different days.

Experiential Learning courses may include classes at school, educational fieldtrips and/or guest presenters. Experiential Learning enables students to engage in rigorous learning experiences—to study one subject in depth.

What was the process for developing Experiential Learning? The initial concept for Experiential Learning came from the FACE Demonstration School, Stonebridge Academy (Virginia), which has a well-

developed and highly successful experiential learning program in its high school. However, hundreds of schools around the nation (middle / secondary / post-secondary) use experiential learning programs to improve the quality of the educational experience for students and teachers. In 2013, the AHS Teacher Development and Curriculum Committee proposed Experiential Learning to the Board of Trustees, which approved the pilot program for the 2013–14 year. As with other programs at the school, we regularly incorporate input from teachers, parents, administrators, and students. More input is welcome as we improve the program each year.

When is Experiential Learning? Experiential Learning Week will be held for Grades 6–8 during the week of March 29–31. These dates were chosen in conjunction with teachers and administration to minimize disruption to continuing curricular programs and courses.

What is the learning value of Experiential Learning?

Focused Learning. Experiential Learning enables American Heritage School students to engage in intensive 4R-ing through in-depth research, applied reasoning, personal relating, and careful recording of “real-world” lessons and experiences. Experiential Learning should be a character-building experience and should also require hard work from students.

Portfolio of Learning. Experiential Learning culminates in American Heritage style portfolios, notebooks, or another method of the 4R-ing Record component. The portfolio or another method of completing the Record component, as is most appropriate for each Experiential Learning option, creates an opportunity for students to create a record of what they have learned and the ways in which that knowledge relates directly to them and can help them be useful in the hands of the Lord. Consequently, portfolios are a key component of the Experiential Learning program.

Who is eligible to participate, and what expectations must students meet to participate? AHS students in grades 6–8 are eligible to enroll in Experiential Learning courses offered in 2023. Enrollment is a privilege extended to students who meet basic academic requirements and demonstrate self-government in adherence to the Honor Code. Students are expected to work diligently during Experiential Learning Days. Students must understand that this is not a break from studies; rather it is an opportunity to explore in depth an area of personal interest. The dress code during Experiential Learning Week will consist of the school’s regular uniform, dress uniform (typically for a field learning experience), or spirit apparel, as specified by the instructor.

Are students required to participate? Can they choose any option? All full-time students are expected to participate. Not all Experiential Learning options will be available to every student every year. Some options may not ultimately carry based upon low enrollment interest, and some students may not be able to register for courses that are already full (priority registration begins with eighth grades first, followed by seventh grade). Academic performance, self-government, or other pre-qualification requirements may also be considerations.

Can a student participate in Experiential Learning without being enrolled at the school? No. Students must be enrolled in curricular middle school offerings, on-campus to participate.

What is the cost of this program? How will Experiential Learning Week affect AHS tuition? AHS tuition will not be affected by Experiential Learning Week. Middle School Experiential Learning Week courses have an associated cost of no more than \$60 per student for the three full days of Experiential Learning courses. The board and faculty committees that developed the program felt it important to include a nominal participation fee to increase the commitment level of students to the program and to cover basic costs; however, in no case should the participation fee discourage a family or student from participating. Please contact an administrator if financial assistance is desired.

Middle School Course Options



Mindfulness Physically, Emotionally, and Spiritually

Come learn several stress relieving and mindfulness techniques to help you deal positively with the challenges of life and anxiety. Get geared up for yoga, breathing techniques, positive self-talk, mindful eating habits, and more to take care of your spirit, plus a fun walk up City Creek. Price includes lunch.

Instructor: Mary Gilmore – mgilmore@ahsmail.com

Cost: \$15



Understanding & Building Salt Lake City

Come learn about the vision required to build Salt Lake City. Begin the day on a steep climb to Ensign Peak to be inspired by what Brigham Young saw when he looked into the uninhabited Salt Lake Valley. Next head over to the Salt Lake Cemetery for a scavenger hunt to discover and learn about important souls who influenced the foundations of Salt Lake. We will end by building our own city with Legos.

Instructor: Tracy King – tking@ahsmail.com

Cost: \$20



D is for Dog. Learn the 4 Ds to Sculpt a Dog!

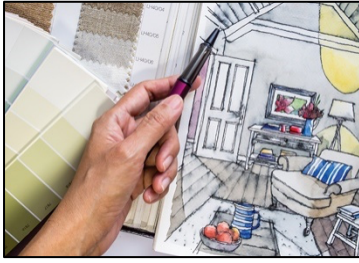
Use the creative process to work in clay to create your own sculpture. Each student will sculpt a dog out of Sculpey clay. The process is fun and easy, and includes learn the 4 D's of Dog Sculpting:

- Design and drawing of a dog.
- Dynamics and dimensions of the dog.
- Dig for details.
- Decide when to call it done.

Activities will also include a walking field trip to the Conference Center to see and discuss the art there with Ms. Bradshaw. Several pieces of art were personally created by her, including the bust statues of Presidents Hunter and Hinckley.

Instructor: Laura Lee Bradshaw – lbradshaw@ahsmail.com

Cost: \$10



Interior Design School (March 29th only)

What is interior design? How can you make a career from a love of design, space, and living? In this course, students will travel to the Studio McGee warehouse in Draper and talk with one of the interior designers there who will take them to the design library and run through what an Interior designer does as well as show them their line of products. Student will then head to Target where the Studio McGee line is in store and will have the opportunity to take pictures of products, and, combining that with their newfound knowledge, they will design a living room for their client. Lunch is included in the cost.

Instructor: Caroline McNiven – cmcniven@ahsmail.com

Cost: \$10



NASA Recruits

Head to the planetarium to learn about space and what goes on outside our planet. Taking what we have learned, we will head back to the school to make our own rockets. In addition to launching rockets, the students will be required to calculate rocket launch height and duration of flight.

Instructor: Lane Bitner – lbitner@ahsmail.com

Cost: \$15