

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Last Updated March 2021

AHS ESSENTIALS (GENERAL)

Can a student receiving a Carson Smith scholarship enroll in AHS Essentials?

Yes. The State has indicated that the amount of the award will not exceed out-of-pocket costs for the student. Further, the student may not be dual enrolled at another school. Enrollment in American Heritage Worldwide programs as well as AHS Essentials or AHS Full Time would not violate the dual-enrollment policy since each is a service of American Heritage School.

Is financial aid available to students enrolled in AHS Essentials?

Scholarship applicants receiving a financial-aid award will be granted a percentage discount on their tuition. That percentage may be applied to either the AHS Full Time or the AHS Essentials tuition rates.

Will [fill in the blank] program available to AHS Full Time students also be available to students enrolled in AHS Essentials?

AHS Full Time students have the ability to participate in all programs provided by the school. Students enrolled in AHS Essentials can participate in many but not all school programs. To see a list of inclusions and exclusions for both AHS Full Time and AHS Essentials, [click here](#).

Will AHS Full Time and AHS Essentials students be taught in the same classrooms?

In grades 7-8, AHS Essentials students are grouped into classes with dedicated core teachers, separate from classes of AHS Full Time students. No segregation will occur in grades 9-12, where AHS Essentials students fit within the same schedule and have the same course catalog available to them as AHS Full Time students.

When can an AHS Essentials student schedule on-campus tutoring?

Tutoring can be scheduled anytime during normal business hours at the school. Tutoring appointments are obviously subject to the scheduling constraints of a given tutor and should be timed such that gaps do not exist between a student's AHS Essentials schedule and the tutoring appointment. Students must always be under the supervision of a faculty member when on campus.

Why are AHS Essentials students allowed to participate in afterschool music programs but not afterschool athletics?

The UHSAA, the league that organizes almost all of the school's athletics programs, requires that participants be enrolled as full-time students at their respective schools. No such requirements exist for participation in the choir and orchestra programs, which is why we are also able to admit non-AHS students to those two programs.

Will AHS Essentials require more homework than AHS Full Time?

Because AHS Essentials and AHS Full Time are based upon the same curricular scope and sequence, and because AHS Essentials students are on campus approximately half as much as AHS Full Time students, AHS Essentials students should anticipate a certain amount of home-based work to offset the time they are off campus while their AHS Full Time counterparts remain on campus. However, AHS Essentials students are able to work at their own pace for a greater portion of their educational experience than AHS Full Time students. As such, it is possible that AHS Essentials could spend less total combined time on school and homework than AHS Full Time students.

Why did the school consider two part-time models but only keep one?

We know that both the staggered week and the AM/PM models have their proponents who strongly prefer them. Further, we understand that for some families, only one of those two options is feasible. We would love to offer both, and we may be able to in the future. However, we do need a certain critical mass of students to enroll in a class for that class to carry. During this first pilot year when we are establishing patterns, it is important that we first establish critical mass for at least one option before we can consider both options—but we will maintain the possibility of pursuing both, and we can pursue both when demand is sufficient.

Can we still request teachers if we enroll in AHS Essentials?

Teacher requests have long been an acknowledgment of the individuality of children, the unique approach of different teachers, and the wise perspective of parents to assess both. Due to limits on seating, we can't always accommodate every teacher request, but we do try, and we are able to accommodate the vast majority. It is not likely that there will be multiple instances of an AHS Essentials classes for a single grade and cohort (e.g. two classes of AHS Essentials 5th grade AM). As such, families choosing AHS Essentials are effectively choosing the teacher assigned to that class over the option of teachers assigned to AHS Full Time classes.

AHS ESSENTIALS (7TH – 8TH GRADES)

What electives are available?

This has not yet been finalized. However, the electives available to AHS Essentials students will constitute a subset of the electives available to AHS Full Time students, which include the following: art, keyboarding, speech, ballroom, choir, music explorations, P.E., and strength & conditioning.

Can students in the AM cohort remain on campus through lunch?

Yes. In fact, we hope they do. Survey responses have underscored the priority parents place on their students' access to unstructured time (lunch, recess, etc.), and we will enthusiastically facilitate that form of enrichment wherever possible.

AHS ESSENTIALS (9TH – 12TH GRADES)

What is the graduation path for students enrolled in AHS Essentials?

Students enrolled in AHS Essentials for all or part of their high-school career will be expected to have final transcripts that satisfy all graduation requirements of American Heritage School. Any credits not obtained at American Heritage School will need to be transferred from another institution.

Is there a PM option for AHS Essentials in high school?

The schedule provided to illustrate AHS Essentials at the high school level is just an example schedule. Students can pick any combination within the seven-period day that works for them, subject to the following parameters:

- *1 credit must be English*
- *1 credit must be History*
- *Schedule must include 8th period Advisory on Wednesday*
- *1 credit is open for one or more elective courses*
- *Seminary is an optional add-on*
- *Resulting schedule must be contiguous (with no gaps between classes)*

If an AHS Essentials student opts out of seminary on AHS campus, can they pursue a fourth credit at AHS?

No. The price set for AHS Essentials at the high-school level is based upon the cost of providing three credits. Seminary is available as an optional add-on because (1) AHS wants to make this course available to those who appreciate the convenience of bundling it and (2) AHS does not incur any significant cost with seminary, which is staffed by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

Am I required to take Senior Thesis as an AHS Essentials student?

Yes. If you want to graduate from American Heritage School, you are required to take English, History and Senior Thesis as a part-time student.