

2200 EAST 170TH STREET LANSING, ILLINOIS 60438

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American School prepares for busy season

by Jeff Cox

The months of March through June are the busiest times of the year at the American School. In order to best serve you during these months, please remember these important grading and processing procedures:

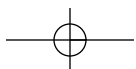
For All Students:

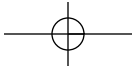
All exams are graded in the order in which they are received, regardless of the means of delivery to the American School. Using Express Mail, UPS, FedEx, etc. to send exams reduces shipping time and usually provides a tracking number from the shipper, but all exams are graded in order once they arrive here.

You **are allowed** to send in more than one exam at a time, but it is **not recommended**, especially if you are struggling in the course.

All exams submitted together will be graded unless two of them in the set receive a grade of “partial”. In that case, the remaining exams in the set will be returned **ungraded**. This encourages you to master the concepts on earlier exams before proceeding to subsequent exams and more difficult concepts. You should carefully make corrections to the partialled exams (or do the assigned alternate exam) and review the ungraded exams to ensure their accuracy.

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The highest grade assigned on resubmitted work is 85.

We encourage you to keep photocopies of any exams or other correspondence you mail to us in case of delivery problems. Please **submit the original exams only** and keep the photocopies for your own records.

Help yourself prepare for exams by taking time to use the study guide provided with your course materials, and be sure to do all the self-check tests in each unit.

Further help on a difficult exam item is available from our instructors. You may call our Instruction Department at (708) 418-2855 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Central Time or write to the school with your question.

For Independent Study Students:

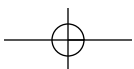
In addition to the procedures already listed, we offer the following recommendations:

Send exams to the American School for grading no less than 4 to 6 weeks before your local school's deadline.

Please allow plenty of time for exams to be graded and returned to you for corrections, if necessary.

Please check your progress through the Online Student Center before taking the final exam, if required. We recommend that you take the proctored final only upon successful completion of all unit exams.

Thank you for your cooperation. We wish you the best in your studies.





Ginger Jackson performs as Rosette in the opera *Manon* as part of the Met's 2008 Opening Night Gala.

Opera singer finds American School to be music to her ears

by Jeff Cox

Not too many American School graduates have met Henry Kissinger, Barbara Walters, Oscar de la Renta and New York City mayor Michael Bloomberg, but Ginger Jackson didn't just meet them. She sang for them.

Ginger, a 2005 graduate and winner of the 2006 William L. Wright Scholarship, performs regularly at the Metropolitan Opera House in New York as part of the Met's Young Artists program. At age 22, she appeared as Rosette in *Manon* and as Myrta in *Thais*, and this spring she will appear as Lola in *Cavalleria Rusticana*.

Originally from Utah, Ginger did most of her American School work while she was studying opera in Italy. While overseas, she performed in her first major opera and did a tour of international vocal competitions, winning several of them. Her big break came when she met the director of the Met's Young Artist Development Program, who invited her to audition. After an impressive audition, Ginger became the youngest mezzo-soprano to ever join the Young Artists. The three-year, graduate level finishing school prepares singers for professional life on stage and has given Ginger the opportunity to train with some of the finest singers and pianists in the world. She credits the American School as a reason for her success.

"The work I put in to earn a 4.0 GPA from the American School helped me develop a work ethic capable of learning and excelling in opera," Ginger explained. "I hold the American School dear because it gave me the chance to pursue my dream of becoming an opera singer while completing the requirements for a high school diploma."

American School attends conventions in Milwaukee and San Diego

by Jeff Cox

The American School traveled to cold and warm climates this winter to attend a pair of education conventions.

Independent Study Coordinator Paul Czapkowicz and Public Relations Coordinator Jeff Cox received a warm reception at the Wisconsin State Education Convention in chilly Milwaukee. While there, they discussed the American School's Independent Study program with educators from the Badger State, heard speeches by CNN's Soledad O'Brien and actor LeVar Burton, and linked up with the Milwaukee Brewers' Racing Sausages, who, along with University of Wisconsin mascot Bucky Badger, roamed the aisles of the exhibit hall.

Educational Director John McCulley enjoyed better weather but received the same warm reception at the National Association of Secondary School Principals Convention in San Diego. Principals from around the country were excited to learn how our Independent Study program can help their schools improve completion rates and aid their students in making up credits toward their high school diplomas.

We look forward to attending conventions in Chicago, Dallas and Atlanta in the coming months.

All American Staff

**Public Relations
Coordinator-** Jeff Cox

Editor- David Perry

Letters to the Editor should be sent to:

David Perry, Editor

All American

American School

2200 East 170th Street

Lansing, Illinois 60438
