



All American Newsletter

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American School Celebrates Digital Learning Day in Style

The American School celebrated Digital Learning Day on February 6 by announcing that students in seven more paper-based courses now have the option of taking their exams online.

Online exams are now available to students taking paper-based versions of Biology (non-lab), Social Civics, Literature 3: Selected American Classics, American Literature, Classic Adventure Literature, World Literature and Environmental Science, in addition to the nine courses for which online exams have been available since November.

The American School further celebrated Digital Learning Day by awarding iPads to student **Katie Rhoads** of Logansport, Louisiana, and staff member **Cathy Leato** of the Student Service department.

Although Digital Learning Day is just one day, the American School is becoming more digital every single day. Students, parents and school officials should bookmark and regularly visit www.americanschool.org/online-learning for updates and other important information on all of the American School's online offerings.



Nicole Hessenthaler is on the Right (and Write) Tracks!

To say that **Nicole Hessenthaler** is on the right track is probably correct, but saying she's on the *write* track might be more accurate. In just her first year as an American School student, Nicole is competing in the Scholastic Art and Writing Awards competition. So far, her persuasive essay on the right to bear arms is at the regional level, but if she receives a gold key in that portion of the competition, she'll be on her way to Carnegie Hall in New York City, where she'll compete for college scholarships. Not surprisingly, Nicole's favorite American School course is Writing 1.

"I like Writing 1 because I've always enjoyed writing and it gives me a chance to improve my writing skills," she said. "I know I need more work, and Writing 1 is easy to understand and not frustrating or stressful at all."

Nicole, who lives in Pleasant Prairie, Wisconsin, and has been homeschooled since fourth grade, learned of the American School through her mother and other family members. Like many of our students, the ability to work at her own pace is one of her favorite things about the American School.

"It's nice not being stressed out and having tons of homework," she said.

Not having tons of homework, along with the ability to work at her own pace, gave Nicole time to work



on her essay for this year's competition and will benefit her next year, when she plans on writing and submitting a novel into the competition. Should she win college scholarships in the competition, the self-professed drama lover plans to use those funds at a school where she can study journalism and theatrical makeup.

All of us at the American School are proud of Nicole and wish her the best in the Scholastic Art and Writing Awards competition!

Wall Street Journal Reports on U.S. Graduation Rates

A recent *Wall Street Journal* article reported some important statistics on high school graduation rates. A study commissioned by Harvard economist Richard Murnane found that, after years of being stagnant, high school graduation rates in the United States are on the rise. That's the good news. The bad news is that one in five men between ages 20 and 24 and one in seven women between ages 20 and 24 still do not have a high school diploma. There are any number of reasons why a person might want a high school diploma, including being able to attend the college or university of his choice, getting the higher-paying job she wants, or even simple personal satisfaction. Whatever your reason, the American School is proud to be your high school, and we applaud you for taking steps to ensure that high school graduation rates will continue to rise.

Anna Tatishvili Graduates During Australian Open

Anna Tatishvili may have lost in the first round of the Australian Open but she earned something even more important than a Grand Slam title that week. Within hours of her 6-3, 6-3 loss to Ayumi Morita of Japan, Anna's American School diploma was mailed to her. It is the result of Anna's ability to balance both academics and her rising tennis career, which included a fourth round showing at last year's U.S. Open. We congratulate Anna on earning her diploma while competing on the WTA Tour and look forward to her next Grand Slam appearance at the French Open, which begins in late May in Paris.



Travis Pastrana Takes Green Flag on Nationwide Season

Travis Pastrana is doing his part to make sure Danica Patrick isn't the only NASCAR newcomer to garner media attention in 2013. After racing part-time on the Nationwide circuit a year ago, Travis has committed to running a full season of Nationwide races for Roush Fenway Racing.



"I am extremely excited about making the move into full-time NASCAR competition in 2013 and equally thrilled to have the opportunity to make that move with Jack Roush and the team at Roush Fenway Racing," Pastrana, a four-time rally champion, motocross champion and multiple X Games gold medal winner, told roushfenwayracing.com.

Roush Fenway Racing has won back-to-back series championships, and Travis's #60 car could make it three in a row. Check him out when he runs his first Nationwide race of the season February 23 at Daytona International Speedway.

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Eve Tselepatiotis, Double Decade Club Celebrate

Assistant Principal **Eve Tselepatiotis** (pictured with members of the School's Executive Committee) is the most recent inductee into the American School's Double Decade Club, which recognizes full-time employees with 20 or more consecutive years of service to the School and its students.

As assistant principal, Eve says she has "kept our programs and students first in my priorities and have dedicated my efforts to the continued improvement of our educational offerings." She is also very excited about the American School continuing to expand and transition into online education.

Late in 2012, Eve presented *Successful Strategies for Addressing Academic Integrity Issues with Parents and Students* at the USDLA-IFWE conference in Bonita Springs, Florida. She has been a member of the School's accreditation team for more than a decade and is also an AdvancED Quality Assurance Team Member, which permits her to participate in accreditation visits to other schools located in Illinois.

Prior to becoming assistant principal in 2006, Eve served as an English instructor, assistant English department chair and English department chair. In those roles, Eve not only graded exams but also collaborated with the Curriculum department to develop course content and revise exams. She also served as editor of the *All American* for many years, calling it "one of my favorite responsibilities."

Congratulations to Eve and the other members of the Double Decade Club who gathered for a luncheon in early 2013 and are pictured below.



Eve Tselepatiotis (center) with Executive Committee members Marie Limback, Rene Villalva, Vince Immordino and Gary R. Masterton.

Members of the American School's Double Decade Club gather at the Lansing Country Club to celebrate their many years of dedicated service to the American School and its students.

