

All American Newsletter

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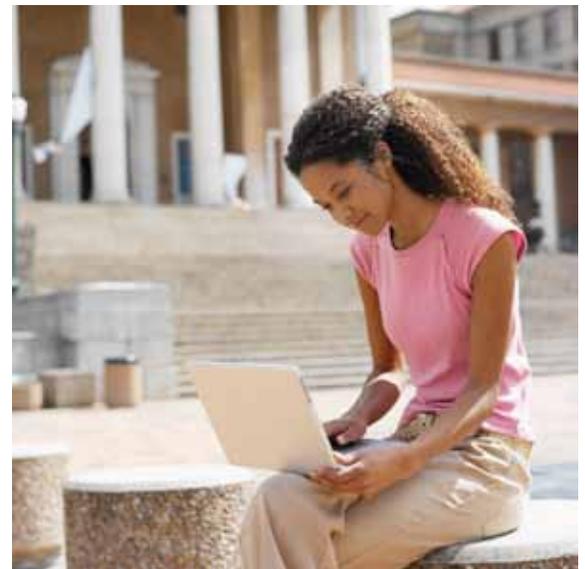
May - June 2014

American School Adds 22 New Online Courses to Curriculum

American School recently added 22 new online courses to our curriculum, many of them in subjects we've never offered before. A complete list is available on the Online Learning page of our web site. The first thing you may notice on that page is that some general subject areas have changed. We've combined several smaller subject areas into one larger subject area called Business, Career and Technical Education. Introduction to Culinary Arts, Introduction to Social Media and Thinking and Learning Strategies are just three of the eight new courses added to that subject area. We've added Journalism and Public Speaking to our English courses and Art 1: World Cultures to our Fine Arts courses. New Science courses include Anatomy and Physiology, Biology, Chemistry and Physics, and new Social Science courses include United States History and World History. You can see all of our online and paper-based courses by visiting our Course Descriptions web page.

We also recently added online exams to paper-based versions of French 1 and French 2, bringing the number of paper-based courses with online exams to 44, far more than half of our paper-based curriculum.

We are thrilled with the addition of these new online offerings, but we're not stopping there. We plan to offer many more online courses and begin offering a full online high school diploma program later this year.



American School Receives MSA-CESS Accreditation

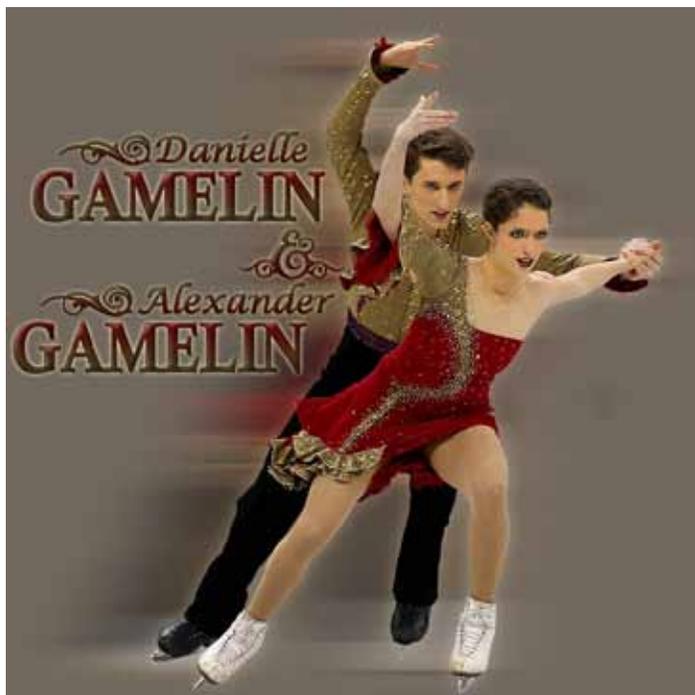


American School recently received accreditation by the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools/Commissions on Elementary and Secondary Schools (MSA-CESS). The Commissions on Elementary and Secondary Schools accredit early-childhood through post-secondary, non-degree granting public, private, faith-based educational institutions including special purpose schools, supplementary education centers, learning services providers, and distance education institutions.

Shown holding our accreditation certificate from MSA-CESS are Executive Committee members **Vince Immordino**, **Gary R. Masterton**, **Rene Villalva** and **Marie Limback**.

We are happy to add this accreditation to the ones we received last year from Ai and NCPSA and look forward to being affiliated with these organizations for years to come.

In Their Own Words: Ice Dancers Danielle and Alexander Gamelin



Ice dancing was a popular sport at the recent Winter Olympics in Sochi, Russia. An American team, Meryl Davis and Charlie White, won the United States's first gold medal in this sport, and two of their competitors at the U.S. Figure Skating Championships in Boston were American School graduates. **Danielle Gamelin** and her brother **Alexander** both graduated from American School in 2013 and have been competing in ice dancing for several years. We're proud of their academic and athletic accomplishments and are proud to have them share, in their own words, how American School has impacted their lives.

Danielle writes, "My twin brother, Alex, and I are a competitive senior ice dance team. To remain competitive, we needed to devote 30 hours a week to training throughout our high school years. Our public high school wouldn't modify our class load or class schedules, so we needed an alternative. We started with another accredited distance learning program before we transferred to American School, but with that school we still had to complete each course's chapters and take tests according to a schedule set by the school. What made American School the right fit for me is that it didn't impose set course completion deadlines. For me that was huge. If

I had a particularly busy week preparing for competition, I didn't have to worry about getting behind in school. Attending American School enabled me to meet the demands of training for competition and pursue my academic goals at the same time. It was the right choice."

Alexander writes, "Achieving my educational goals and my goals as a competitive ice dancer, with World and Olympic aspirations, always have been equally important to me. Making gains in each of these areas throughout high school is no easy task when training as an ice dancer consumes a good 30 hours a week. As a graduate of American School, I can say that I found all the teachers to be very enthusiastic about their work and their students. My Latin teacher knew of my keen interest in foreign languages. He was always extremely supportive of my academic plans and overjoyed to help me in my studies. I also liked the fact that with American School we had textbooks for each of our courses rather than e-learning. Staring at a computer screen to read and do homework can get really tiring. I felt a greater sense of accomplishment completing a long chapter in a textbook than I would have tracking my progress using the computer scroll bar. Attending American School was a rewarding experience for me."

We are grateful for those comments by Danielle and Alexander. Like so many of our students, they appreciate the ability to work at their own pace and complete their schoolwork around a busy schedule. They also appreciate the ability to learn in a format that suits them best. That's why we're continuing to make our paper-based courses as robust as possible while at the same time adding to our online learning offerings. And speaking of online, the next time you're on the internet, you can watch a video of their performance in Boston at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oKHPZbal3qE> or learn more about Danielle and Alexander by visiting their web site, www.icetwins.com.

American School Criss-Crosses Country Attending Conventions

American School continued its busy spring convention season by attending events in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania; Washington, D.C.; Kissimmee, Florida; Richmond, Virginia; Ontario, California; Puyallup, Washington; Dallas, Texas; and Orlando, Florida. As you can see, we are going coast to coast, from the Pacific Northwest all the way down to the Deep South, to spread the word about American School and our programs. In July we'll be attending events in Phoenix, Arizona; The Woodlands, Texas; Columbia, South Carolina; and Atlanta, Georgia. Check our blog, Facebook and Twitter pages for specific information as the events get closer. By all means, if you're attending one of the conventions at which we're exhibiting, stop by and say hello. We'd love to meet you, and we may even have some booth freebies for you to take home!



American School Welcomes Two Generations of Students and Graduates



American School enjoyed hosting eight past, present and future American School students when **John Broman**, his wife **Jenevieve** and their six children visited us from Cerritos, California last year. John graduated from American School in 1969 and his wife graduated in 1974. While Jenevieve holds down the fort at home, John works on different educational projects in the United States and several countries in Asia. Their daughters **Joy** and **Jane** earned their American School diplomas last year and currently work at a school and software company in Japan. They plan to work for a couple years before beginning college studies. Sons **James**, **John Jr.**, and **Jason** are continuing their American School courses while working in a Christian evangelization outreach program. They'll soon be joined as American School students by younger sister **Judith**, who, along with her older siblings, plays the piano and studies four languages—English, Mandarin Chinese, Spanish and Japanese. We are proud to serve two generations of Bromans and appreciated them taking time out of their Chicagoland trip to visit us.

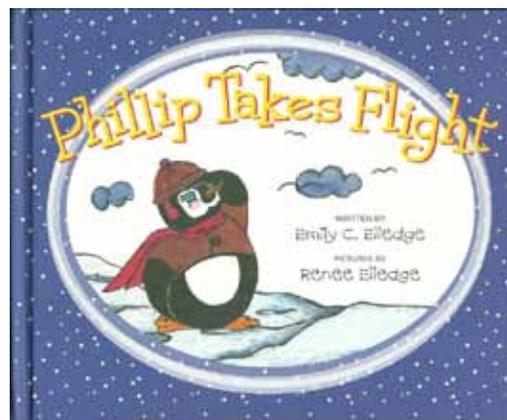
American School Student's Literary Career Takes Flight

After receiving outstanding grades in Understanding English 2 and Writing 1, it should come as no surprise that current student **Emily Elledge** enjoys writing. You might even say her writing career is taking flight with the publication of her first book, *Phillip Takes Flight*, a tale of a penguin who dreams of flying.

"I thought up and wrote the book when I was fourteen and self-published it and had it professionally printed a year later," Emily wrote. "The lesson is one of self-acceptance while still believing nothing is impossible."

In the hardcover book, which is in the format of a poem, a penguin named Phillip dreams of flying but does not have any luck. He consults his family and friends, including his sister, Petunia, and Sir Henry the Walrus, but they scoff at his dream. Ultimately Phillip meets Madam Yelena, a wise snowy owl who believes in him and teaches him to be himself.

Perhaps best of all, Emily is donating 100% of the book's proceeds to the Shriners Hospitals for Children, which specialize in orthopedics, cleft lip and palate conditions, spinal cord injuries and burn treatments.



You can find more information about Emily and her book at www.facebook.com/philliptakesflight.



This *All American* newsletter features several interesting students, including the Gamelin Twins, the Broman Family and Emily Elledge (shown at left). The next *All American* will feature biographies of 18 graduates who were selected to receive post-secondary scholarships at American School's 76th annual Scholarship Meeting which was held in mid-June.

If you have an interesting hobby or talent, or if you have a unique story of how you heard about American School or why you wanted to earn your accredited high school diploma through us, please tell us about it. We enjoy profiling our students and graduates and believe you are an inspiration to students who are currently taking our courses.

Send your information to publicrelations@americanschool.org or to our postal address, Public Relations Department, American School, 2200 East 170th Street, Lansing, IL 60438. We look forward to hearing from you!

American School Celebrates Spring and Milestone Anniversaries

In addition to bringing warmer temperatures and blossoming flowers and trees, spring brought milestone anniversaries to six American School employees. **Carole King** (1.) and **Nikki Norden** (2.) both celebrated 15 years of employment. **Marie Limback** (3.) and **Nickey Kasperek** (4.) both celebrated 10 years of employment. Finally, **Fran Marrero** (5.) and **Peggy Strouzas** (6.) both celebrated five years of employment. Congratulations to all of you, and thank you for your combined six decades of service to our students.

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