



# All American Newsletter

[www.americanschool.org](http://www.americanschool.org)

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## American School Adds Online Exams in Paper-Based Courses

The American School is pleased to announce the release of online exams in British Literature, English 4: Composition and Grammar, Spelling, Writing 1B, Spanish 1, Home Planning and Decorating and United States/Illinois Constitution (for students living in Illinois only). New in this batch is the use of the plagiarism detection service Turnitin in British Literature and English 4. Turnitin also helps our instructors grade essays more efficiently and effectively.

In early 2014, we plan to release of online exams in eight additional courses. Students in French 1, French 2, Literature 2, Literature 4, Journalism, Fundamentals of Electricity, World Geography and Clothing will have the option of taking their exams online or doing them on paper as they have before.

In addition to the 43 paper-based courses with online exams, the American School plans to offer more online learning offerings throughout 2014 while at the same time continuing to offer a robust curriculum of paper-based courses.

We hope you will enjoy the convenience of doing your exams online in these subjects!



## Forget Your Password? This Link Can Help!

One of the most common requests we receive is to resend student, guarantor or school passwords. We are happy to honor those requests, but in most cases there is a quicker way for you to receive your password than waiting for it to arrive in the mail. Recently we added a "Forgot Your Password?" link to the Online Student Center and Online Counselor Office. You can click on the links that are located on each page, enter the email address associated with your particular account, and your password will be emailed to you shortly. If you experience any difficulty with this process, write to [publicrelations@americanschool.org](mailto:publicrelations@americanschool.org) if you are a student or guarantor, or [independentstudy@americanschool.org](mailto:independentstudy@americanschool.org) if you are a school official.

### Student Center

Welcome to the American School's Student Center

To enter the Student Center, click on a button below, then enter your access codes provided to you by the American School.

Student Login

Guarantor Login

[Forgot your password?](#)



## Method Test Prep Set to Celebrate ACT Prep Week



Our partners at **Method Test Prep** have scheduled ACT Prep Week from January 29 to February 6. Visit [www.americanschool.org/actsatprep](http://www.americanschool.org/actsatprep) for information on how our partnership with Method Test Prep works and to be linked to Method Test Prep's home page. From there, you can enroll in Method Test Prep's self-paced or teacher-led courses. Should you choose the latter and enter **AMERICAN** at the time of enrollment, you will receive a discount off your purchase. Method Test Prep also offers many free resources that may benefit you as you plan to take one or both exams.

## Graduation Photos Wanted



If you are an American School graduate—whether you graduated recently or not-so-recently—and would like your graduation picture posted on our social media sites or in the *All American*, please send your photos to [publicrelations@americanschool.org](mailto:publicrelations@americanschool.org). Sending your photo gives us permission to use your image, first name and hometown in official American School publications in print or online.

## AMVETS Scholarships Available

The **Illinois AMVETS Service Foundation** and the **Illinois AMVETS Ladies Auxiliary** have released information on their 2013-2014 scholarship programs. The Illinois AMVETS Service Foundation will award four separate one-year scholarships to Illinois residents, and the Illinois AMVETS Ladies Auxiliary will award two one-year scholarships to Illinois residents. Dollar amounts vary for each award. Visit [http://www.ilamvets.org/prog\\_scholarships.cfm](http://www.ilamvets.org/prog_scholarships.cfm) for eligibility requirements and more information about these awards, as well as a link to AMVETS' national scholarships program.



## Counselor's Corner: It's FAFSA Time

Even though college application season isn't over just yet, it's already time to start thinking about financial aid!

January 1st marks the beginning of the FAFSA application season. What is the FAFSA? It stands for Free Application for Federal Student Aid. Everyone who plans to attend college for the school year starting Fall 2014 should apply—it's a free application for money from the government! It's important to complete the application as soon as possible after January 1st because in many instances money is awarded on a first come, first served basis.

While filling out the Student Demographics section of the FAFSA there are two opportunities for confusion. In the second set of Student Eligibility questions, students are asked about their high school completion status. Please make sure to choose "High school diploma". Even though our students study at home, they receive a state recognized high school diploma from an accredited high school.

The page that follows asks for high school information. Please enter our school name correctly- American School. Type Lansing for our city and select Illinois as our state. **DO NOT CLICK CONFIRM**. FAFSA does not have an exhaustive list of schools, so we will not show up as an option. After you've entered our school's information, you can click Next to continue to the next part of the application.

You can then complete the rest of the FAFSA. For more information about the process or to start your application, visit [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov). You can also call or email Amanda Giordano, our School Counselor, at (708) 418-2861 or [guidance@americanschool.org](mailto:guidance@americanschool.org).

A screenshot of the FAFSA application website. The page is titled "Student Eligibility continued". It has a navigation bar at the top with tabs for "Student Demographics", "School Selection", "Dependency Status", "Parent Demographics", "Financial Information", "Sign & Submit", and "Confirmation". The "School Selection" tab is active. The main content area asks for high school information. It says "Enter the name, city, and state of your high school, then click Confirm." Below this are three input fields: "What is the name of your high school?" with "American School" entered, "In what city is your high school located?" with "Lansing" entered, and "In what state is your high school located?" with "Illinois" selected from a dropdown menu. A "CONFIRM" button is visible, but it is crossed out with a red 'X'. A red arrow points down to a "NEXT" button. At the bottom of the page, there are buttons for "NEED HELP?", "SAVE", "CLEAR ALL DATA", "VIEW FAFSA SUMMARY", and "EXIT". On the right side, there is a "Help and Hints" sidebar with a "Question 27" section that provides instructions on how to enter school information.

## American School Holds 116th Annual Meeting

The American School's 116th Annual Meeting, held as a special meeting of the Board of Trustees and Members of the Corporation, was an occasion for those present to review the past year's activities and look ahead to the future. A major accomplishment of the past year was the School securing new accreditation by Ai (Accreditation International) and NCPSA (the National Council for Private School Accreditation), an achievement which received special recognition from the Board of Trustees.

The Board of Trustees, which consists of **Roberta Allen, John Kemp, Gary R. Masterton, John McCulley** and **Mary McKeown**, elected officers for the upcoming year, including President **Gary R. Masterton** and Executive Vice-Presidents **Vincent J. Immordino** and **G. Marie Limback**, who, along with Principal **Rene S. Villalva**, will form the School's Executive Committee.

Those present also elected four new Members of the Corporation: **Sunila Samuel, Valerie Riley, Judy Piscione** and **Cher Tufly**, who are pictured from left to right in the photo to the right.

The Annual Meeting may be over for another year, but our work of striving to offer our students the best and most affordable education in both paper-based and online formats continues every day. We look forward to working hard in the upcoming year to ensure the 117th Annual Meeting on October 28, 2014, will be as successful as this year's.



## The Weather Outside Might be Frightful!

Winter is here, and with it comes the possibility of ice and snow in addition to colder temperatures. If the American School is closed because of weather, we will post information on our phone system and Facebook and Twitter pages as soon as possible. Remember that, although our office may be closed because of weather, the Online Student Center is open around the clock. Log in using your code and password to work on your online courses or online exams, view your academic records, and receive access to help sheets, a list of homework web sites and a list of departmental email addresses.



Challenge yourself and see how many you find across, down, diagonally, forward and backward!



L E N Y B G F C D O T U F A M I L Y  
Z N E C A X I S T N E V E M B K K V  
Q G S O L R W G D S T R E A M E R S  
U A E N L S K R O W E R I F W E L L  
R P I F O R S E D A R A P F J R Y X  
S M B E O E A Y P U N C H I N Z R T  
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T D A A A N L C K K N O I S A C C O  
A Z T L S R E N N A B J C O S E U M  
H D E H T H G I N D I M P N Z D D P

Appetizers  
Babies  
Balloons  
Banners  
Buffet  
Celebrate  
Champagne  
Confetti  
Dance

Decorations  
Events  
Family  
Feast  
Festivities  
Fireworks  
First  
Friends  
Hats

Holidays  
Horns  
January  
Kiss  
Midnight  
Music  
Noisemakers  
Occasion  
Parades

Party  
Punch  
Resolutions  
Singing  
Streamers  
Tiaras

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