

All American Newsletter

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American School Reminds Students of Academic Integrity Policy

American School's commitment to academic integrity is very important, so much so that Assistant Principal **Eve Tselepatiotis** recently gave a presentation on it at the 30th annual Conference on Distance Teaching and Learning in Madison, Wisconsin.

From time to time we like to remind students of our Academic Integrity Policy. Although you may benefit from the exchange of ideas with other students, friends or family members and use your textbooks, study guides and other resources when you do your exams, any work on the exams is expected to be your own thoughts and ideas. All essay and short answer responses must be stated in your own words. Using your own words demonstrates your understanding of the material. You may briefly quote a source in your response, but you must put the quote in quotation marks and properly cite the source. You will not receive credit for an answer copied from an outside source, such as an Internet homework help site.

If you do not adhere to the Academic Integrity Policy, disciplinary action will be taken, which may include requiring you to retake an exam or take an alternate exam. Repeated violations may result in your withdrawal from a course and/or dismissal from American School, including invalidation of any exam grades.

All materials printed by American School are copyrighted. Supplying copies of questions and answers to other people is a violation of federal laws forbidding infringement of copyright and may be prosecuted thereunder. Therefore, you may not provide answers on examinations to other people, whether they are students of American School or not.

We are aware of several internet sites where students go to exchange answers. If you are caught using one of those sites, you can expect to receive the type of disciplinary action described above. Our best advice would be to not even attempt to cheat, but rather to contact your instructor if you need assistance. We are here to help you do your best. Thank you for your cooperation.

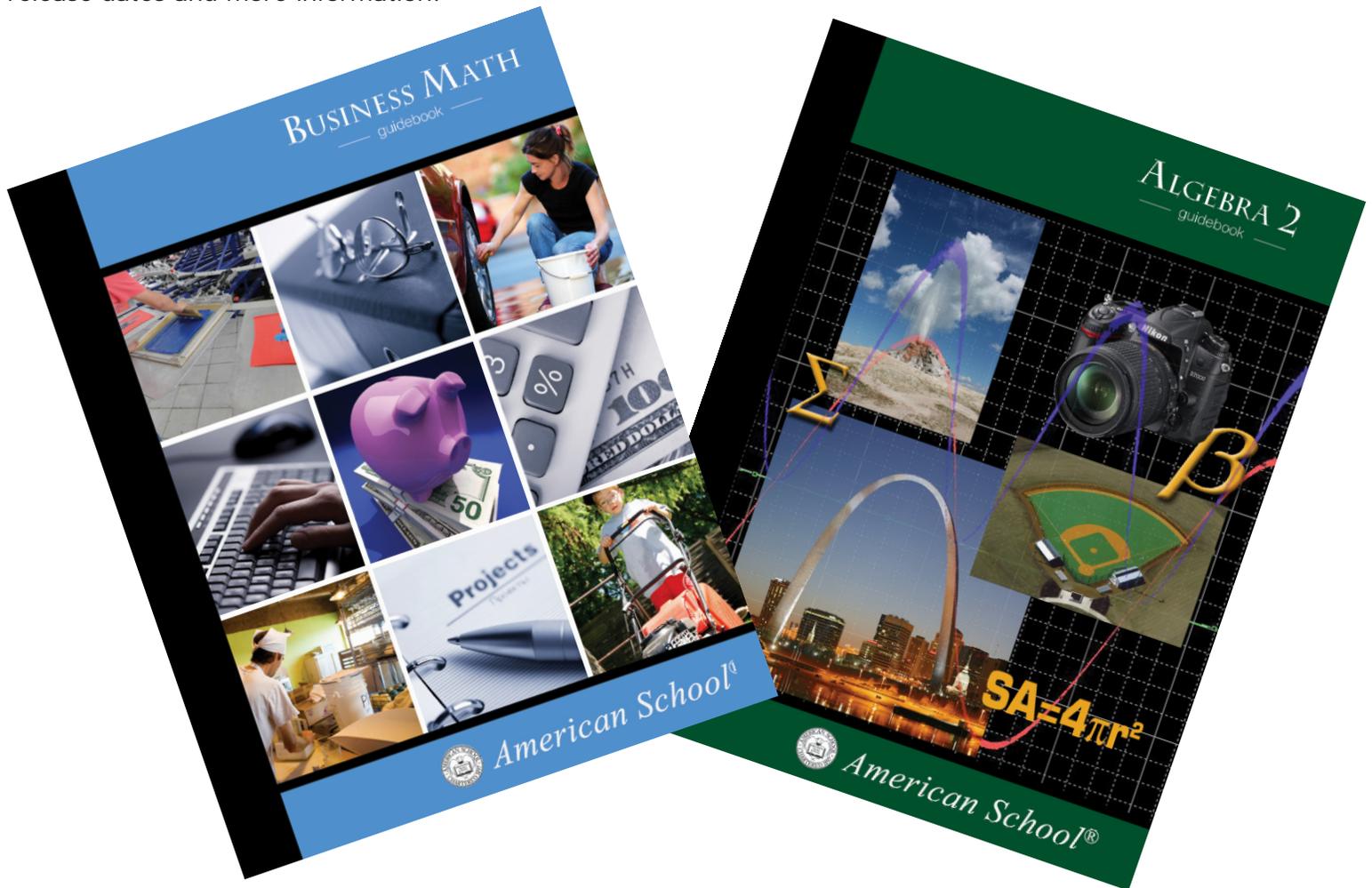


American School Releases Two New Courses, Makes Plans for Many More

American School recently released revised versions of our paper-based Algebra 2 and Business Math courses. The new full-unit Business Math course replaces the previous half-unit course. Students in this new course will learn to make calculations involving personal income, use various bank accounts and products, apply math and knowledge to shopping, work with various types of insurance and investments, and receive some pointers on how to start, manage and grow a business.

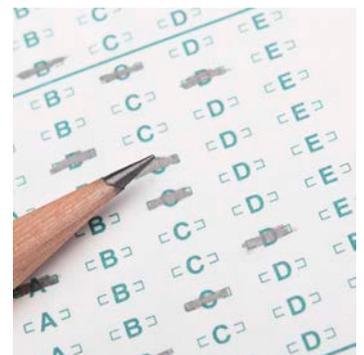
Please note: Students who were scheduled to take the previous half-unit Business Math course will receive a letter detailing options for taking the first semester of the new course or adding the entire full-unit course to their curriculum.

These revisions are proof that we are committed to offering the best paper-based courses we can while at the same time continuing to expand our online learning offerings. Stay tuned to our blog and social media pages for course release dates and more information!



Method Test Prep Debuts New Subscription Options

Our friends at Method Test Prep recently debuted new subscription options for their self-paced courses. Instead of a monthly pay-as-you-go model, Method Test Prep is now offering two-month, five-month and twelve-month subscription options. If you are currently enrolled under the previous monthly pay-as-you-go model, you can continue with that model for the remainder of your subscription. Visit www.americanschool.org/actsatprep for more information, and remember to enter AMERICAN as your code word to receive a discount on your order. We hope you will enjoy Method Test Prep's self-paced courses or teacher-led classes as you prepare for your ACT or SAT.



Our Fab Four: Quartet of Cespedes Sisters Earn American School Diplomas

The *All American* has introduced you to many families who have had several children attend and graduate from American School, but few are as impressive as the Cespedes family of Canyon Country, California. Four sisters earned their American School diplomas at an early age, and all four are on track to earn at least one college degree from Thomas Edison State College before most of their peers earn their high school diplomas.

Oldest daughter **Ivana** earned a Bachelor's degree at age 17 and is currently in a Master's program in nutrition.

Belicia graduated with a Bachelor's degree in accounting and recently passed the entire CPA exam at age 17, making her one of the youngest people ever to pass all four sections of the test.



Briana completed all the requirements for a Bachelor's degree in business at age 15 and plans to have a career in real estate.

Finally, youngest daughter **Giana** earned her American School diploma at age 11 and at age 14 is currently working toward a Bachelor's degree in American Sign Language.

All four sisters and their parents, **Vicki** and **Jan**, credit American School for allowing students to work entirely at their own pace while providing a solid foundation for post-secondary classes, first at College of the Canyons and later at Thomas Edison State College. We congratulate them and wish them well in all their future endeavors.

Grandmother and Grandson Graduate Nearly 60 Years Apart

It's not uncommon for families to have multiple American School graduates, but most of the time they are brothers and sisters. Not so for **Adeline Marie Bylsma** and **Hamilton Ogden**. Adeline graduated from the American school in 1955, and her grandson Hamilton graduated earlier this year. They are shown at right with their diplomas.

As you can see, the shape and look of our diplomas have changed over the years, but our commitment to offering high-quality distance education has not. We are pleased to count Adeline and Hamilton among our graduates and wish to thank **Wesley Ogden**, Adeline's son and Hamilton's father, for sharing their story with us.



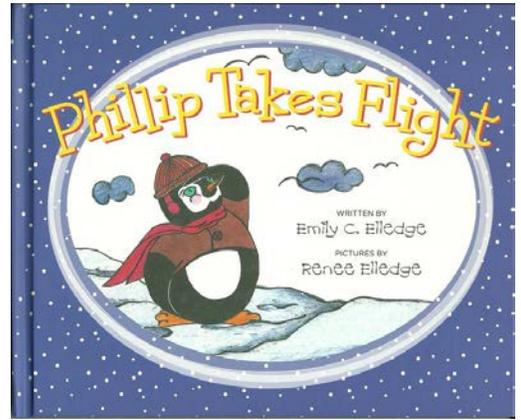
Share Your Story With Us and Your Fellow American School Students!

As always, we invite you to share your story with us. We are always excited to hear interesting stories from our students and graduates and would love to feature you in an upcoming *All American*. Simply send your story and a picture to the email address on the back of this newsletter. You could see yourself in a future issue!

Emily Elledge's Writing 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.

Editor's Note: Due to a production error, we are reprinting our earlier article about Emily and her book in its entirety.

Be Cool (or Freezing Cold) and Take the Ice Bucket Challenge

It's Waiting for You

#IceBucketChallenge
#StrikeOutALS

The ALS Ice Bucket Challenge swept social media and the nation by storm this summer, so you knew it wouldn't be long before American School got involved. American School President **Gary R. Masterton** accepted the challenge and then challenged American School students and staff to join him. Visit our Facebook page to see the video. Then it's up to you to accept the challenge and/or donate to ALS or the charity of your choice.



Bethany Hamilton Appears on CBS's *The Amazing Race*

Former American School student and champion surfer **Bethany Hamilton** and her new husband have joined *The Amazing Race*. At press time, they are in second place with seven couples still participating. You can follow their progress by watching new episodes of the reality show Friday nights on CBS as well as by visiting the show's web site, www.cbs.com/shows/amazing_race/. For more information on Bethany and her inspirational story, visit her web site, www.bethanyhamilton.com.

Ryan Hartman Sets (and Scores) Goals as Rising Hockey Star

Former American School student **Ryan Hartman** is listed as the Chicago Blackhawks' #2 prospect in *The Hockey News'* annual yearbook on sale on newsstands throughout the United States and Canada. Last season, playing primarily for the Plymouth Whalers of the Ontario Hockey League, Ryan scored 25 goals and had 53 points in 52 games. He also played nine games for the Rockford Ice Hogs of the American Hockey League and tallied four goals and seven points in those contests and spent time as a member of the United States' Under-20 national team, where he scored two goals and had four points in five games. This season Ryan is expected to be one of the Ice Hogs' best players and is on track to join the Blackhawks full-time in 2015-2016. We wish Ryan the best as he strives to reach all of his professional goals.



Speak Up and Let Your Voice Be Heard!



The Speak Up National Research project annually polls K-12 students, parents and educators about the role of technology for learning in and out of school and represents the largest collection of authentic, unfiltered stakeholder voice on digital learning.

As we continue to add more online learning offerings to our curriculum, your opinions are more important than ever before. We invite you to complete the survey before December 19, 2014, by going to www.speakup4schools.org/speakup2014.

When you're on that site, you'll see buttons representing your current role in education. Students should click the large green button, while parents are invited to click the smaller light blue button.

Once you have clicked the appropriate button, you should search for American School by entering our state, Illinois, or by entering our zip code, 60438. If you select state first, you will have to enter our name or town later. Either way, American School eventually will appear on your screen. After it does, select us from the school list and move on to the next screen.

When a screen asks for your grade, select grades 9-12, and when a screen asks you for a secret word, enter American exactly as it is typed in this article, with the A capitalized and the rest of the word in lowercase. Then you'll have access to the survey.

The entire survey should take no longer than 10 minutes to complete. Please know that we value your opinion and look forward to receiving survey results in February 2015.

Just as important, please know also that no personal data will be collected during the survey, so feel free to be completely honest. Your input will help us create a better school not only for you but for future American School students and graduates.

American School's Longest Tenured Employee Retires



Sharon Maco recently retired after more than 45 years of service to American School and its students. Those of us who worked with Sharon will miss her cheerful disposition around the office but wish her nothing but the best in her well-deserved retirement.

Four Employees Celebrate Milestone Anniversaries

Four American School employees recently celebrated anniversaries and have combined for 60 years of service. **Fran Di Giuseppe** celebrated her silver anniversary, while **Yen Kapitan** marked 15 years of employment. Meanwhile, **Kathy Peters** and **Nancy Gentry** are halfway to joining the School's Double Decade Club. Congratulations to each of you, and thank you for all that you do for our students.



From left: Gary R. Masterton, Fran DiGiuseppe, Nancy Gentry, Vince Immordino, and Marie Limback



From left: Vince Immordino, Kathy Peters, Rene Villalva, and Marie Limback

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