



# Vocalize

DECEMBER 2013

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR DECEMBER 19 WINTER CHOIR CONCERTS

The fine tradition of the Armstrong High School Choral Program lives on as all Armstrong Choirs present their Winter Concert on Thursday evening, December 19, 2013. Performance times are 6:00 and 8:00 pm. You won't want to miss this opportunity to hear all the choirs showcase their musicianship and talent.

Please refer to the following to clarify which ensembles are scheduled to perform at each concert.

### Call times

Students will be notified of their call times in class. Freshman choirs will be excused after the first concert. Varsity Choirs will not attend the 6:00 pm concert and will arrive in time to robe and warm up for the 8:00 concert. The exceptions to this are the Freshman and Varsity Madrigal singers who will perform at both concerts.



### 6:00 pm Concert

Freshman Choirs  
Freshman Madrigals  
Varsity Madrigals  
Cantori  
Chamber Singers  
Concert Choir

### 8:00 pm Concert

Freshman Madrigals  
Varsity Men and Women  
Varsity Madrigals  
Cantori  
Chamber Singers  
Concert Choir



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## CHAMBER SINGERS BEGIN A BUSY SEASON

The Armstrong Chamber Singers have been working since the beginning of the year to prepare for the winter season. They are performing a wide variety of selections for many public and private venues throughout the season.

The Chamber Singers will perform their entire winter program at the **Wassail Concert - Tuesday, Dec. 17 at 7:00 pm at Armstrong.**

It is free and open to the public.

Please join us for any of these listed performances.



### Chamber Choir Schedule - Public Performances

Dec. 7 - Lunds, Plymouth  
11:00 am - 1:00 pm

Dec. 8 - Old Fashioned Christmas  
Plymouth Creek Park 2:30 - 3:30pm

Dec. 13 - Guthrie Theater  
6:45 - 7:20 pm

Dec. 14 - Shoppes at West End  
3:00 - 4:00 pm

Dec. 14 - Crowne Plaza - Plymouth  
6:00 - 8:00 pm

Dec. 15 - Prism Concert  
4:00 - 5:00 pm

Dec. 15 - MN Mormon Chorale  
7:00 - 9:00 pm

### Armstrong Choir Boosters' Mission Statement

Armstrong High School Choir Boosters provide visibility, communication, and support for the choral music program at AHS with resources that ensure growth and development for all students.

## CHOIR NEWS, CONTINUED

### GUIDE FOR THE PERPLEXED CHOIR PARENT: WINTER CONCERTS

**By Stephanie Trump, AHS Choral Director**

The busy December season is upon us. With it comes the Winter Choral Concerts at Armstrong. I hope your student(s) has already told you about their specific responsibilities for December 19. If not, allow me to fill you in!

- There are two performances that evening, at 6:00 and 8:00pm. Please see the article on page 1 which explains the format for the evening .
- Cantori and Concert Choir students are required to attend the entire evening’s event as a part of their performance requirement for class. Freshman and Varsity Choirs will attend only the concert in which they perform (with the exception of Madrigal groups who perform in both concerts). This is a graded concert event as indicated in the Armstrong Choir Handbook and it is the ONLY “homework” for the entire semester for most of our ensembles as therefore, attendance is required.
- **PERFORMANCE ATTIRE** Students must wear formal concert dress. Concert Choir, Cantori, and Varsity Choirs wear their choir robes. In addition, men must wear black pants, black socks and dress shoes. Women must wear black concert shoes - closed toe, closed heel, open foot (not boots)- and black nylons.. Freshmen are required to wear the Official Choir shirt, black dress pants, black socks, black shoes (closed toe, closed heel). **NO TENNIS SHOES!!**
- Final call times for each choir will be given on the day of the performance; however each choir will be given an estimated call time within the next few days.

Please communicate any concerns or questions about the concert to the Directors prior to the week of the performances. On the concert day, there is little opportunity for us to return email or voicemail regarding concert details.

We are grateful for the diligence of our students in preparing for this wonderful event. It is certainly a program highlight for us and represents a large time commitment for the students and the Directors. We are also indebted to the Armstrong Choir Boosters for the ongoing assistance they provide to our program. Our concerts would not happen as well as they do without the support of our parents and volunteers.

We look forward to seeing you on December 19 at either 6:00 or 8:00 pm for an outstanding performance. It is our hope that you hear academic progress and find joy in the endeavors of your students. We most certainly do!



### VALUABLE TIPS FOR THE WINTER CONCERT-GOER

**Tip #1: Freshmen**

Freshman will sing from the balcony on the **right side of the auditorium**. If you want to “see” your student sing, it would be advised to enter the auditorium and sit on the right side.

**Tip #2 -Parking**

Remember both parking lots at Armstrong will be extremely full on Concert nights. Plan **extra time** for dropping off elderly, parking, getting into the auditorium and finding a seat.



### CONCERT ETIQUETTE

Student concerts are the culmination of entire terms of preparation. In an effort to provide both performers and audience with an enjoyable concert experience, we offer these guidelines for audience etiquette

- ⇒ No talking during the performance
- ⇒ Audience members should attend the entire performance out of respect for each of the performing ensembles
- ⇒ Enter the auditorium ONLY between selections
- ⇒ Applause is the only appropriate response to a quality performance
- ⇒ Each musical selection is over ONLY after the conductor lowers their arms
- ⇒ Turn off all electronic devices.

We hope you fully enjoy the performance of your own singer’s ensemble. Please allow all other audience members the same opportunity.

### HELP WANTED - WINTER CONCERTS

**Ushers/Donations -**

Volunteers are needed at the winter concerts to usher and take donations. Please email Becky Lowry at [becky\\_lowry2002@yahoo.com](mailto:becky_lowry2002@yahoo.com) if you can help.

**Robes -**

Volunteers are needed both before the first concert and after the second concert to facilitate distribution and re-storing of choir robes. If you can help, please contact Carlotta Rosebrock at 763-544-0788. or Jane Pellizer at 763-443-2529.

**CHOIR NEWS, CONTINUED**

**2013-2014 VOCAL ENSEMBLES**

Congratulations to those students listed below who have been selected to perform in their ensemble's chamber group. The audition process is extremely competitive. Our sincere thanks to all students who auditioned.

**Varsity Madrigals**

**SOPRANOS**

- Colleen Bur
- Leyla Mahabadi
- Emilie Bukowski
- Jaclyn Connors
- Katie Braunwarth
- Rebekah Charles
- Isa Torres
- Rachel Hammer

**ALTOS**

- Alexa Johnson
- Imani Madigan-Noble
- Elle Obermeyer
- Claire McManus
- Solveig Haines
- Emily Roth
- Jordyn Massop
- Sophia Norwood

**TENORS**

- Jon Sheldrup
- Gabe Russell
- Scott Ruechel
- Josiah MacFarlane
- Joseph Freeman
- Colton Erickson
- Lukas Lysne

**BASSES**

- Taylor Blustin
- Blake Shiebe
- Ben Gallup
- Brandon Mersereau
- Lathan Jerde
- Kjell Hokanson
- Tommy Larson

**Freshman Madrigals**

**SOPRANOS**

- Anna Keller
- Sophia Handzel
- Heather Lee
- Josie Nilsen
- Kristina Ostiek
- Xiomara Santos
- Ellie Spadiccini
- Allyson Spartz

**ALTOS**

- Ellie Bawek
- Hannah Bachmeier
- Sewit Eskinder
- Alexandra Hurst
- Abby Shiff
- Alex Schneider
- Sydney Tupy

**TENORS**

- Nate Kuelbs
- Elliot Olson
- Odera Onwualu
- Micah Schultz
- Ben Strauss
- Nick Tiemens

**BASSES**

- Alec Barberg
- Henry Foreman
- Ben Ungar
- Brennan Palony
- Thomas Paun
- Nicklaus Trump
- James Young
- Joey Zhang

**2013- 2014 Chamber Singers**

**SOPRANOS**

- Erin Anderson
- Karen Clark
- Kymmi Hatlestad
- Haley Lewis
- Jennifer Lowry
- Chloe Paavola

**ALTOS**

- \*Cierra Buckner
- Maddy Dahl
- Meghan Hayden
- Sophia Pellizer
- Ellie Sjoldal
- Courtney Yung

**TENORS**

- Nick DeLaPoine
- Kirk Folen
- Luke Jarzyna
- \*Duncan Schulte
- Peter Schultz

**BASSES**

- Kevin Dye
- Ryan Hipsher
- Matthew Holten
- Michael Jaeger
- David Laansma
- Tyler Tapio



**ACDA-MN GRADE 9-10 HONOR CHOIR RESULTS**

We are pleased to announce that five 10<sup>th</sup> grade singers will represent Armstrong in the ACDA-MN Gr. 9-10 Honor Choir after being carefully selected as outstanding young choral musicians from hundreds of applications. Our singers will rehearse with students from all regions of MN with a fabulous guest conductor to prepare a public concert in downtown Minneapolis on [February 13, 5:30 PM](#) at [Central Lutheran Church](#). We thank all those who auditioned and congratulate the following students:

**Emilie Bukowski, Ester Onami, Julie Oman, Colleen Bur, & John Scheldrup**



## FUNDRAISING

One of the main functions of Armstrong Choir Boosters is to facilitate fundraising efforts throughout the year. Some fundraisers support the choirs in general, but most of the fundraisers provide opportunities for each choir member to raise funds for their individual accounts.

Each student has the opportunity to raise funds for their own use on choir related expenses, such as choir tours, voice lessons or extra choir fees. The Choir Booster Treasurer keeps track of what each student has earned from each fundraiser and deposits those earnings into the student's account. Even freshmen are encouraged to participate in fundraisers and begin an account from which they can reduce future costs. Unused funds may be transferred to siblings or friends. All students on scholarship for lessons, tour, or any other needs are expected to participate in all fundraising opportunities.

### SUMMARY OF FUNDRAISING OPPORTUNITIES

#### General Fundraising

**(Benefits entire choral program)**

Concert Choir Benefit Concert

Hi-Note Certificate Books

(first book sold by each student)

Restaurant "Nights Out"

#### Individual Fundraising Opportunities

**(Deposited into student's Individual Choir Account to use for tour payments, voice lessons & other expenses)**

Hi-Note Certificate Books

(second book sold and beyond, Fall)

Flower Sales (Fall, Winter and Spring Sales)

Cookie Dough, Pizza Sales (Fall)

Soy Candle Sales

Bagging at Cub Foods

Consumer Taste Testing (all year)

Scripts - retail gift cards (Fall, Spring)

Other opportunities as they arise

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW FOR THE ANNUAL CHOIR BENEFIT

It's time to start making plans for this year's Concert Choir Benefit, one of the most "fun-filled" fundraisers of the year. Plan to come for an evening of great entertainment by our choir students. The event will be held on Friday, April 11, 2014. The students do most of the work that evening and it is their way of giving back to the choir program. We are in need of volunteers! If you're interested in helping out (there are lots of ways!), join us for upcoming choir booster meeting in January to find out what it's all about!

## EAT TO EARN WITH CONSUMER TASTE TESTING!

Your opinion counts when food companies create new products or change existing ones. Anyone 18-65 may sign up to participate in taste tests to earn money for your student's account. Go to [www.foodperspectives.com](http://www.foodperspectives.com) to register. Click on "Respondents". Fill out the form, typing "Armstrong Choir Boosters" under organization. You will be recruited for taste tests, many of which are conducted at a facility on Hwy. 55 & Vicksburg. You will be paid a portion of the earnings directly (\$15-26), while another \$10 will be sent to Armstrong for your student's choir account.

If you have previously signed up for Food Perspectives taste testing for another organization and would like to change it to Armstrong Choir Boosters, please call Customer Care at 763-354-2776 to make the change.

If you sign up (or change your organization to Armstrong Choir Boosters), please be sure to send a short email to the Choir Booster Treasurer, Kris Thorp, at [AHSSINGS@gmail.com](mailto:AHSSINGS@gmail.com) indicating the name(s) of the participant(s) and which student should be credited with their earnings. There have been times when we have received a check for taste testing but did not know which student should be credited!

## CHOIR MERCHANDISE AVAILABLE AT THE CHOIR MARKETPLACE

We certainly feel pride for being in choir, now you can show it! Visit our Choir Marketplace Order Form on our choir homepage or have your student pick up a copy in the choir room.



Students' favorite pick is the Armstrong Choir Hockey Hoodie, but we also have bargain prices for Long-Sleeved Henleys and the remaining (limited) stock of Section and Choir Nerd T-shirts. New for this year is an Armstrong blue Fleece Full Zip-Up with embroidery (Armstrong Choirs). These are styled similar to the Concert Choir/Chambers/Cantori fleece, but are appropriate to be worn by any choir member or parent. Limited sizes of these items will be available at the Winter Concert, but feel free to place your order now!

For more information on fundraising opportunities, go to [www.armstrongchoirs.org](http://www.armstrongchoirs.org)

**STEERING COMMITTEE PERFORMANCE CALANDAR**

Position	Name	Contact Information
President	Christina Schulte	cschulte55427@yahoo.com
Vice-President	Karen Brehmer	612-799-7069 karen.brehmer@comcast.net
Secretary	Beth Hammer	763-522-7458 knbhammer@hotmail.com
Treasurer	Kris Thorp	763-557-1061 pkthorp@aol.com
Upper Choir Liaison	Cathy Schmidt	763-258-6667 cschmidt4120@gmail.com
Varsity Choirs (combined) Liaison	Sara Anderson	612-270-270-5967 sara.anderson1014@gmail.com
Freshman Choir Liaison	Stephanie Gonrowski	sgonrowski@msn.com
Concert Chair	Becky Lowry	becky_lowry2002@yahoo.com
Concert Program Ad Sales	Deb Johnson	763-559-8417 Johnson6pk@comcast.net
Choir Robe Coordinators	Carlotta Rosebrock Jane Pellizer	ckrosebrock@earthlink.net 753-443-2529 valley4@comcast.net
Choir Shirt/Apparel Orders	Christy Haider	763-242-2199 haider4@usfamily.net
Newsletter Editor	Deb Johnson	763-559-8417 Johnson6pk@comcast.net
Web Master	Deb Johnson	763-559-8417 Johnson6pk@comcast.net
Benefit Co-Chair #1	Terri Greenstein	612-723-1628 terimike@msn.com
Benefit Co-Chair #2	Open	
Hi-Note Books	Tony Rangel	763-504-8856 tony_rangel@rdale.org
Pizza/Cookie Dough	Kris Frey	612-201-6073 krispk2@comcast.net
Plant Sales	Karen Brehmer	612-799-7069 karen.brehmer@comcast.net
Restaurants Nights Out	Open	
Soy Candles	Heidi Haines	763-522-7458 jeffheidi@comcast.net
Greeting Cards	Mark Trump	763-550-7993 mltrump@yahoo.com
Grocery Bagging	Stephanie Gonrowski	sgonrowski@msn.com
Cantori Breakfast Fundraiser	Open	
Director	Stephanie Trump	763-504-8857 stephanie_trump@rdale.org
Director	Tony Rangel	763-504-8856 tony_rangel@rdale.org

Date & Time	Concert or Event <i>Choirs participating</i>	Location
Tues, Dec. 17 7:00 pm	Wassail Concert <i>Chamber Singers</i>	AHS Auditorium
Thurs., Dec. 19 6:00 & 8:00 pm	Winter Concert <i>All Choirs</i>	AHS Auditorium
Thurs., Jan. 30 7:00 pm	Showcase Concert <i>Concert Choir</i>	AHS Auditorium
Mon., Feb 3 All Day	Northwest Suburban Conference Music Festival <i>Concert Choir</i>	Champlin Park HS
Tues, March 4 7:00 pm	Masterworks Concert <i>Varsity/Cantori/Concert Choirs/Ensembles</i>	AHS Auditorium
March 6-9	Concert Choir Performance Tour	TBA
Mon., March 10	Region 6AA Choral Contest <i>Varsity/Cantori/Concert Choirs</i>	St. Louis Park HS
Tues., April 8	Local 6AA Solo/Ensemble Contest	AHS
Friday, April 11 6:30 pm	Choir Benefit Event <i>Concert Choir</i>	BSLC
Tues, April 15	Region 6AA Solo/Ensemble Contest	AHS
April 25-26	Cantori Performance Tour	TBA
Mon., May 19 7:00 pm	Spring Concert <i>Freshman &amp; Varsity Choirs</i>	AHS Auditorium
Thurs, May 22 7:00 pm	Spring Concert <i>Cantori &amp; Concert Choirs</i>	AHS Auditorium
Thurs., May 29 6:00-9:00 pm	Chamber Auditions	AHS
Mon., June 2 6:30 pm	2014-15 Mandatory Cantori/Concert Choir Parent Meeting	AHS Auditorium
Tues., June 3 6:00 pm	2014-15 Mandatory Chamber Singer Parent Meeting	AHS
Thurs., June 5 7:00 pm	Commencement <i>Concert Choir and Seniors</i>	AHS

**IT'S ALMOST 2014!  
DON'T FORGET.....**

Mark important choir dates on your 2014 calendar!

## CHOIR NEWS, CONTINUED

### NEW - PAY YOUR CHOIR FEES ONLINE

There is now a way for you to pay for your choir fees for touring groups on our website [www.armstrongchoirs.org](http://www.armstrongchoirs.org). Look for the Donations/Payments tab.

If you would like to make a donation to a student's individual account or to the general choir program, you can visit the same tab.

We will continue to look at options for payments that could be made through PayPal. There is a nominal fee for using this service. You can always contact us at [ahssings@gmail.com](mailto:ahssings@gmail.com).



### CONCERT & CANTORI CHOIRS SING IN FALL FESTIVAL

On Monday, Nov. 11th, Cantori and Concert Choirs took part in a spectacular performance at the newly renovated Orchestra Hall as part of the Robbinsdale School District Fall Festival (left). The festival was made up of more than 600 students from the combined choirs and symphonic orchestras of Armstrong and Cooper High Schools as well as the All-District Elementary Choir.

The Concert Choir performed *Requiem* by John Rutter and Cantori performed Kitaro Sato's *Veni Sancte Spiritus*. Guest Conductor for the evening was Dr. Mary Kay Geston, Professor of Music at the University of Northwestern, St. Paul, MN and Artistic Director and Conductor of Great River Chorale in St. Cloud, MN.

A huge thank you to the district staff and parent volunteers for making the event a resounding success! Way to go, students...you make Armstrong proud!

## CHOIR BOOSTERS

### FROM THE BOOSTER PRESIDENT . . .



Congratulations to all the students who participated in our Fall Fundraising Efforts. This includes Gertens, Soy Candles, Pizza/cookie dough, Scrips Gift cards and Cub Food Bagging. The numbers are just in and our students earned roughly over \$8,500.00 to put into their individual choir accounts. (Insert "hand clapping" sound here) Wow!

**Attention all Freshman and Varsity parents** – every little bit of fundraising helps! My goal when my student started in the choir program was to not have to pay for voice lessons, fees, or tour by his senior year. So we picked a few fundraisers each time we had the opportunity and guess what—I am living the dream. Start now. By having your student participate in just a few fundraisers you teach them to learn the meaning of "earning" and it helps your household's bottom line.

The spring is shaping up to be an action-packed and if you have not attended a Booster Club meeting, I encourage you to attend. It is a great way to get involved. We have a big benefit in April that will require many helping hands so please consider volunteering.

We look forward to hearing all the work our students have done at the Winter Concerts. I hope to see you all there. Remember—make good choices and have a great holiday season.

Christina Schulte  
President, AHS Boosters

### CHOIR BOOSTERS' MEETING SCHEDULE

ALL MEETINGS ARE IN THE  
AHS CHOIR ROOM  
AT 7:00 PM

Monday, January 16  
Thursday, February 13  
Thursday, March 13  
Monday, March 31 -  
(Choir Benefit Planning)  
Thursday, May 15