

# Freshman Choirs Syllabus

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TEACHER(S): Tony Rangel and Stephanie Trump

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**COURSE DESCRIPTION:** Armstrong's **Freshman Choirs** during 4<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> hours offer our 9th grade students a comprehensive choral experience featuring two annual performances. Students will learn techniques for healthy vocal production and perform quality and comprehensive choral literature as they improve their skills to become independent musicians.

**FEE:** An annual \$20 Freshman Attire Fee will be collected each year to purchase a uniform choir shirt. Additional fees may be applicable for any added events.

**ATTENDANCE & GRADES:** Students are assessed by skill testing/exams, daily work in rehearsal, and concert performances. Participation in all concerts and events is required. Grades are weighted as follows:

Rehearsal participation - 50%; Skill Testing/Exams - 20%, and Performance Participation - 30%.

**MUSIC & FOLDERS:** Freshman Choir members are assigned a folder with music that belongs to Armstrong High School and must be returned at the end of the semester. The loss of music/folder will result in a fine for the student.

**CONCERT ATTIRE:** AHS Freshman Choir shirt, black dress pants, black socks, & black dress shoes (closed toe/closed heel/no tennis shoes; no yoga, track, jean, etc. pants)

**Performance Participation:** Armstrong Choirs perform in several concerts per year. Each of these performances are considered CURRICULAR events, therefore attendance is mandatory. Performance of the music is considered the final exam for a music course, even if the performance does not coincide with the term's grading deadlines. Due to the fact that each performance is unique, and cannot be recreated, there is no opportunity to "make-up" the concert experience. Performance grades include, but are not limited to attendance, vocal performance, performance etiquette, quality, behavior, active listening throughout the concert, off stage behavior, and appropriate performance attire.

Every effort is made between the directors and coaches to avoid conflict with performance dates and other Armstrong activities. When this is not possible, the coaches and directors compromise based upon the students' responsibilities to the performing organization and position on the team. We will not put the student "in the middle;" instead, we work collaboratively with coaches to balance the choir's curricular performance requirements and extra-curricular responsibilities.

*Detailed information on the topics above can be found in the Armstrong Choir Handbook at [www.armstrongchoirs.org](http://www.armstrongchoirs.org)*

**LEARNING GOALS:** Although membership requires dedication, membership should be a rewarding and positive experience.

**Students will learn...**

- \* to sight-read music
- \* to demonstrate individual vocal growth
- \* to demonstrate cooperative effort
- \* to listen critically of music
- \* to communicate expressively through musical performance
- \* to experience exceptional musical performances

**CLASS ROOM EXPECTATIONS:**

**Students Must Demonstrate...**

- \* A respectful and positive attitude.
- \* A personal commitment to excellence
- \* An understanding of their musical contribution to the ensemble
- \* A spirit of cooperation with the director and fellow classmates