



Dear Armstrong Families,

Welcome to John S. Armstrong Elementary School's 107th year! I am delighted to serve as the 2021-2022 Parent Teacher Association (PTA) President. Our school year theme for 2021-2022 is "Camp Armstrong, Adventure Awaits!". We have so many fun and engaging events and activities planned for our families and students this year and we are ready for the adventure to begin!

John S. Armstrong Elementary first opened its doors in 1914 as the first school in the Highland Park Independent School District. Today, Armstrong continues to provide a uniquely positive and nurturing educational environment that allows each child to reach his or her individual potential and foster a lifelong love of learning.

The mission of the Armstrong PTA is to partner with teachers, staff, and administrators to maintain Armstrong's 107 year tradition of excellence in education. You can help continue this tradition by volunteering your time and by supporting our fundraising efforts throughout the school year.

There are several opportunities for parents to become involved and connect with the school, other parents, and your children including: Auction, Cafeteria, Carnival, Field Day, Garden, Community Outreach, New Families, Open House, Teacher Appreciation, Eagle Store, Teacher Workroom, Yearbook, Room Parent, and many more!

We also have a wonderfully involved Dads Club! They host several social events throughout the year, and they support Armstrong in several ways including funding teacher appreciation luncheons and gifts, serving sno-cones on the first and last days of school, opening our car doors during morning carpool, and serving lunch in the cafeteria. Please reach out to Nick Silva (nsilva424@gmail.com) for more information.

Part of continuing Armstrong's longstanding tradition of excellence in education requires fundraising for our school. Almost 70% of every property tax dollar in HPISD is recaptured by the state and redistributed to other school districts across Texas. This leaves Armstrong with a significant budgetary shortfall. The PTA helps bridge the gap between the budget shortage in state funding and the cost to educate each student. The PTA raises funds through the Back to School Family Giving Campaign, Auction, Armstrong Reads, Carnival, and several other sponsorship opportunities.

Gifts from the Armstrong PTA cannot be recaptured; each gifted dollar goes directly to Armstrong to benefit our students and staff. The PTA funds ongoing expenses like:

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| -Instructional Assistants | -Technology and Science Supplies |
| -Building enhancements | -Computers, tablets, interactive panels, and software |
| -District salary support | -Sports Equipment |
| -Copier leases and supplies | -Garden Instructors and Supplies |
| -Classroom Supplies and Books | -Professional Development and Masters Programs |
| -Teacher Appreciation | -Passport to Spanish program |

Our families also give back by volunteering their time and talents, saving the district hundreds of thousands of dollars annually. The PTA operates, funds, and staffs our cafeteria in partnership with HPISD. This requires 160 parent volunteers each month to ensure the cafeteria runs smoothly. Armstrong parents have volunteered in the cafeteria since 1924; please consider becoming part of this longstanding important and fun tradition!

By coming together as a parent community and sharing our time, talents, and donations with Armstrong, we can ensure that each student receives the outstanding and meaningful education that they deserve. Thank you for your support; YOU help make Armstrong the uniquely wonderful school it is, and we appreciate your dedication to our Armstrong Eagles. Adventure Awaits! "The Greatest Adventure is what lies ahead." JRR Tolkien

Sincerely,

Suzie Curnes, PTA President 2021-2022
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