



Dear Armstrong Families,

Welcome to John S. Armstrong's 2019-20 school year! I am honored to serve as this year's PTA President. The mission of the PTA is to partner with teachers, staff, and administrators to maintain Armstrong's 105-year tradition of excellence. You can help continue this tradition in two ways: (1) volunteer and (2) support fundraisers throughout the school year.

The PTA plans many exciting events for our students and parents during the school year. Our events could not happen without our parent volunteers. There are countless opportunities to volunteer at Armstrong, such as in the cafeteria or Eagle Store, serving on many special event committees or as a room parent.

Part of continuing Armstrong's longstanding tradition of excellence requires fundraising for our school. **A large percentage of Highland Park Independent School District's (HPISD) tax dollars are "recaptured" by the State of Texas every year, which leaves Armstrong with a budgetary shortfall.** In order to maintain the caliber of education in our District, the PTA helps bridge the gap between the budget shortage in state funding and the cost to educate each HPISD student. The PTA raises funds through the Family Giving Campaign, Auction, Armstrong Reads, and Carnival.

**Last year the PTA gifted over \$400,000.00 to Armstrong.** The PTA funds ongoing expenses like:

- Instructional assistants to help students one- on -one
- District salary support
- Copy machine leases
- Faculty professional development programs
- Teacher masters programs
- Literacy Coaching
- Technology supplies and science supplies
- Computers, tablets, interactive television panels, and software

In addition, the PTA operates and staffs our cafeteria in partnership with HPISD. The PTA provides 160 parent volunteers a month to serve in our cafeteria. Your participation is vital to continuing to provide the best cafeteria experience for our students. **Please volunteer in the cafeteria and join this tradition of service since 1924!**

Through your generosity, Armstrong students are receiving the outstanding education they deserve. Thank you for your support in making this a Record Year for Armstrong!

Sincerely,

Jenny Merkle  
Armstrong PTA President, 2019-20