

Choir students find their voices through song

AN VU
Staff Writer

Pius X's choir programs are hitting all the right notes this year, preparing for competitions, concerts, and things as simple as school Mass that display their talent and teamwork.

Choir programs offered at Pius X include men's and women's choirs, show choir and a variety of other choirs.

From freshmen to seniors, many students are in a choir program Pius X offers, including siblings freshman Maura Anderson and senior Will Anderson who are both in men's and women's choir and show choir.

"I joined choir because I like music and my parents and older sisters did it," Will Anderson said. "I've been singing in a choir since fifth grade, and I've liked singing as long as I can remember."

Many choir students have had a long love for singing, including freshman Makayla Metzner.

"I have been singing for almost my whole life," Metzner said. "I have always loved singing and sang multiple times a day. I was in my middle school choir for one to two years and now I am in women's choir here at Pius."

For these students, choir isn't only music, it's a place to build relationships, gain confidence, and make meaningful memories.

"Choir has really made me a lot of new friends and meet new people," Maura Anderson said. "So that's helped me through my high school experience."

For Will Anderson, it's one of his favorite parts of choir.

"My favorite part about being in show choir is the people you get to know more and the competition," Will Anderson said.

While relationships and connections are important, the choir experience also helps students grow spiritually and emotionally, especially Metzner.

"My favorite thing about choir is how we all sing together," Metzner said. "If I

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-Makayla Metzner, freshman

think about what we're singing and try my best on the song, I can really feel God working in my heart."

Choir has also been a source of personal growth for Metzner.

"Choir has changed me in a person through the work I do in singing, God moves through me and is changing me, I have to want him to change me though," Metzner said. "Through the help of Mrs. Sorenson, I have gained a better respect for work ethic, positivity, compassion and love."



Choir students sing during All Souls Day Mass. "I've liked singing as long as I can remember," senior Will Anderson said. Photo by K. Tran

Color guard ends 2025 season with superior rating

ROXIE PRUNTY
Staff Writer

Color guard ended their season with a bang by winning a superior rating in their last competition.

"It was really exciting to win a superior," senior Macy Konz said. "We have been working hard, and it was great to see our work pay off."

Although this is not their first time earning a superior rating, it is the first time this season.

"We got a two at our competition before that," Konz said. "It was disappointing, but we just let it go and kept practicing as hard as we could."

While color guard practices with the marching band, they are scored separately. The group practices multiple times a week, including

early morning practices and evening practices.

"We practice most mornings and after school," senior Addie O'Neill said. "We tried to put a focus on being on time with each other and making sure our throws were good."

Throughout the year, color guard has had a focus on being coordinated with one another. They also wanted to continue to be more consistent in their choreography.

"After getting a division two award, we put in a lot of work timing-wise, making sure we were all together and that everybody knows their choreo and how it should look," junior Meg Cunningham said.

The color guard looks back on the wins and losses of their season,

especially the seniors. One of the wins they recognize is the friendships they have all gained in the team.

"I have made some of my best friends through color guard," O'Neill said. "It is nice because it is like we are just a big friend group that spends a lot of time with each other."

Seniors also recall how color guard has changed each of them in ways that they would not have thought.

"I joined color guard so I could just try something new but now I love doing it," O'Neill said. "Color guard has made me a braver person and more confident in myself. If I could talk to my freshman self, I would tell her to not give up because it gets easier the harder you work."



The color guard gathers before a halftime performance to get a pep talk. "It was nerve-wracking, but I knew our choreography, and I just hoped all the work we put in would pay off," senior Macy Konz said. Photo from A. O'Neill

Music plays between passing periods on last Fridays of month

SARAH VOLKMER
Staff Writer

On the last Friday of every month, students walking through the halls between classes may have noticed music drifting from the speakers.

The songs are chosen by student council. They choose songs that are trendy or that most people know. Student council vice president Katelyn Tran does the most planning with the Friday music.

"I usually just go through my playlist or trending music, and then I put them all into a playlist of songs that are exciting and hype and that people know the words to," Tran said.

The songs must be approved by administration before being played.

"I have to put them into a spreadsheet for Mr. Kirkwood and other administrators to approve," Tran said.

The music is played over the intercom through Tran's speaker.

"In the past I was able to plug my phone directly into the bell system," Tran said. "The last time I did it, I just connected

my phone to a Bluetooth speaker and played the music through the speaker."

Senior Justin Cornelius is not a fan of the music, but he appreciates the mood of the school.

"It's not the best music, but I enjoy the vibe, and I think it makes other people very happy," Cornelius said.

Without music, Fridays feel like unimportant days.

"I think with the music it gets people in a better mood and without, I think it's a little more boring," Cornelius said. "It feels like a normal day."

Junior Tatum Schell said she wished the music was played on Fridays more often.

Sophomore Sophia Wesseln likes the atmosphere of the school those days.

"The Fridays with music make it more exciting, and you can just feel it throughout the school," Wesseln said.

Some students think that Fridays feel shorter with music between classes.

"Without music, it makes the week and day feel a lot slower, but when we do have music, the day goes by a lot quicker," sophomore Addie Zlomke said.



Graphic by S. Volkmer

Marching band brings back tradition from 1980s

THANH NINH
Staff Writer

The "lights out" show brings back memories, smiles and shining lights.

The Rolling Thunder marching band brought back the lights out show after about 45 years on Oct. 24. They performed a halftime show during the last home football game.

"We brought this halftime performance tradition back where we attach an LED light to our left foot, most of the stadium lights turn off, and we march in the dark," senior drum major Matilda Hayes said.

Band director Jared Wilhelm has gotten requests to bring back the tradition.

"It was so important to many people who were and weren't in the marching band," Wilhelm said. "It seemed like one of those traditions that now that we have the ability to bring it back, we should try it."

The lights out performance brought

a sense of excitement, it was different from the usual halftime performance, and many people enjoyed it.

"I think it was really cool, it was something different that we haven't done before," Hayes said.

Color guard members also performed with the band members for the lights out performance. They attached lights at the ends of their poles.

Senior color guard captain Addie O'Neill enjoyed the show. She thought it was a fun and different experience.

"I think that this tradition will keep going because the people really liked it, and the band enjoyed performing as well," O'Neill said.

The band and color

guard team had to practice marching and dancing in the dark. This brought about possibilities for challenges.

"There was a concern of people running into each other, but I think that everyone knew the routine well enough that no one ran into each other," Hayes said.



Color guard performs with lights on their flags. They performed at the last home football game of the season. "I think that this tradition will keep going," senior Addie O'Neill said. Photo by K. Tran

Mariachi band brings culture, rhythm

GABBY AUGUSTINE
Staff Writer

Mariachi bands have spread to the United States as a symbol of the deep rooted culture from Mexico. Pius X will soon have their very own after school mariachi band.

Sophomore Enrique Duarte likes the idea of adding a mariachi band to show diversity throughout our school.

"It really brings out the Mexican culture and really shows people a different taste of music," Duarte said. "It shows a lot of Mexican culture. It is like a really good type of music."

Sophomore Iris Sanchez says that joining the mariachi band will allow herself and other Pius X musicians to express themselves through music and learn new instruments as well.

"It is a good way for people to learn new different instruments like other than what you know like violin, cello, flute, clarinet," Sanchez said. "It is inclusive for different cultures."

Junior Luna Rida advocates for people to join the mariachi band to enjoy different aspects of new cultures.

"Pius is presenting a diverse introduction to different music genres," Rida said.

Pius X may have the mariachi band play at different events for school and Cristo Rey parish.

"I think we might play at the culture day for Pius, do some performances, and maybe in the future playing at Cristo Rey," Duarte said.

As the band continues to grow, Duarte is eager to share his musical talents with the public outside of Pius X.

"I would like to play in churches and bring this club out to other places like maybe restaurants," Duarte said.

There are many different music classes Pius X students can choose from to pursue their music career.

Mariachi band will most likely be an after-school event or club just like jazz band.

"Mariachi is kind of like concert band, and then we have like jazz band, mariachi, and orchestra gets to have concerts too," Sanchez said.

Sanchez explains that she plays trumpet but is open to learning new instruments and other students can learn new instruments by taking classes with a student or the music teacher.

"I want to grow in my musical range and try new pieces that other people might not want to try," Sanchez said.

As of now, few people are in mariachi band, but students

hope that more people join to enhance the fun in the band.

"I am definitely looking forward to more people joining and watching how the band grows," Rida said.

Rida expresses that everyone is welcome to join the mariachi band and learn about new music.

"Everyone's welcome, and we're always eager to learn about more cultures and honor them," Rida said.



Graphic by G. Augustine

Barbershop Club students learn tags during study halls

GRETCHEN BRODERSEN
Staff Writer

Barbershop is a club where girls and guys from all grades come together during their study halls to learn a short song called a tag. A tag is a chorus or the end of a barbershop song.

"You can have anywhere from four people to maybe eight people, so two people for each part," sophomore Eleanor Pfeiffer said. "Basically, we come and we learn a quartet, which is a short song with only a few measures."

The students will warm up with a tag from the previous week and learn a new one within 10-15 minutes. Then they polish up the song and perform it.

"It's acapella, so there's no instrumentals behind it," junior Ben Unger said. "It has really crunchy cords and harmonies."

The students have a lot of fun in the club, and they get to enhance their musical and vocal skills.

Choir director Todd Krier explained that it trains the students' ears because they don't have to be able

to read music to do it. They can just come in, listen and sing. He also said it teaches them to be vocally independent and to grow in confidence in a short amount of music.

Barbershop not only helps students develop their skills, but gives them a great group of friends to sing with.

"I love it because of the community," sophomore Charlotte Ekelar said. "You're just like a mini family."

Students and teachers alike love hearing the results pay off after their hard work.

"My favorite part is seeing the students' faces light up when it's really good," Krier said. "They are like 'wow!' and get these big eyes. Also seeing students when they start, because it is really hard when you start, and I go really slow then one day it just clicks and they crush it."

While Barbershop club started out mainly as a guys' thing, it has evolved into girls groups, boys groups and mixed groups as well. The girls have caught on quick despite their brief time as a part of Barbershop.



Students and alumni practice singing a tag during Barbershop Club led by director Todd Krier. They practice every week to master new songs. Sophomore Kennedy McCarville said, "It's so much fun, it doesn't even matter if you think you're good or not." Photo by G. Brodersen

Lincoln Pius X

Topic: Music at Pius X

Students: An Vu, Roxie Prunty, Sarah Volkmer, Thanh Ninh, Gabrielle Augustine,
Gretchen Brodersen