**Artistic Residency with The Rose Ensemble**

Next October (16-18), Bellaire High School will be bringing to our campus the award-winning, internationally acclaimed vocal group, The Rose Ensemble, as artists in residence. Beginning Friday afternoon (3 hrs) and continuing all day on Saturday (6 hrs), members of the Bellaire Varsity Choir will have the rare opportunity to work and study with the professional musicians of The Rose Ensemble, who will introduce them to sacred, secular, folk and classical music from “The Land of Three Faiths” – 15th century Spain and beyond. Students will be taught in the traditional manner – by rote (orally) – Latin and Hebrew chants, Sephardic ballads sung in Ladino, and Arabic/Andalusian *muwashahat* (strophic songs). They will also study, from musical scores, Spanish Renaissance polyphonic choral works. While learning about the distinctive vocal styles and performance practices associated with this diverse collection of music they will also gain insights into the rich cultural and musical exchanges that took place between Jews, Christians and Muslims during the Hispano-Arabic Middle Ages. As a culmination to the residency, the Varsity Choir will *perform* *with The Rose Ensemble* on Sunday, October 19. This doesn’t mean simply appearing on stage with The Rose Ensemble; the young women and men of the Varsity Choir will be performing alongside the members of The Rose Ensemble throughout the program, culminating in a grand finale of combined voices.

**About The Rose Ensemble**

The Rose Ensemble is dedicated to uniting virtuosic vocal artistry with scholarly research to create musical performances and educational programs that connect audiences to compelling stories of human history, culture, and spirituality from around the world. Now celebrating its 20th anniversary season, The Rose Ensemble has achieved an international reputation as a premiere American early music ensemble. Each performance illuminates centuries of rarely heard repertoire, bringing to modern audiences research from the world’s manuscript libraries and fresh perspectives on history, culture, politics and spirituality from around the globe. With ten critically acclaimed recordings and a diverse selection of concert programs, the group has thrilled audiences across the United States and Europe with repertoire spanning 1,000 years and over 25 languages. The recipients of numerous awards, The Rose Ensemble received first place in both the secular and sacred categories at the International Choral Competition inTolosa in 2012. In 2010, Chorus America recognized the inspired leadership of founder and artistic director Jordan Sramek with the Louis Botto Award for Innovative Action and Entrepreneurial Zeal.