



Gator Family embraces new leadership

BY: MADELYN LONG
Gata Data Reporter

This summer, St. Amant High School welcomed Christina Carter to her new Head Principal position. Carter has been working as a part of the school's administration team since 2013 as an Assistant Principal, then became Associate Principal in 2020. While serving in this position, she worked with Freshmen to assist them in their first year in high school. Recently, former STA Head Principal Beth Templet was promoted to the district level, leaving the position open for Carter.

Through the start of the school year, Carter has been working through the changes that have come with her new position. She states, "I'm definitely channeling my inner learner, to learn new programs, policies, procedures." Not only is Carter new to her position, but so is most of the STA Administration Team. Tara Jones and Amie Navarre were appointed Assistant Principal positions and Kellie Gonzales was appointed to Associate Principal. Carter adds that she is learning her new responsibilities alongside the other administrators, which helps

ease the transition.

Carter plans on working closely with faculty and staff to fulfill a common vision they have for STA: for students to be successful. "But more importantly," Carter adds, "I want them to have experiences on campus that will help them achieve whatever goal they have when they leave us." To achieve this, Carter believes in supporting teachers because they have the most direct impact on students. In addition, community and student input through surveys and forms is helping STA administration get an idea of what they can best do to meet the needs of the student body.

Carter expresses that she is thankful for the support that she has received after her promotion. She has had to adapt to many changes, but the support from the people around her has let her know that she is moving in the right direction and making a difference on campus. She stated that the support "from the students is extra special because my promotion happened over the summer. It was very rewarding for me to come back

to preplanning and teachers genuinely being excited...but, more so with students that were congratulating me when I saw them on the first day." The STA community has positively impacted Carter throughout her time here. She said, "I have worked at other schools, but I have never felt the sense of family that I feel at this school. I feel like this is really my family and that we are all in this together and genuinely like each other and support each other and do whatever we can to support the next person." Carter's experience as Associate Principal and her transition to become the new face of St. Amant High School has taught her a valuable lesson that she imparts



PHOTO BY ASCENSION PARISH SCHOOLS

to the student body: "No plan is perfect. It's great to have a plan, but when that does not happen or come to fruition, just know that that is part of life. You brush it off and just keep moving."

2023 Homecoming Queen is crowned

BY: Gata Data Staff
Gata Data Reporters

St. Amant High School's 2023-2024 Homecoming Queen and King were announced this past Friday at the Pit. Jordan Lobell and Holden Daigle had the honor of receiving these titles.

Jordan Lobell, STA's Homecoming Queen, decided to run for Homecoming court for the experience. She said, "I wanted to show my love for St. Amant." Lobell shows her STA pride by cheering on the sidelines of football games, and broadcasting news as a member of GNN. After being crowned, she said, "It makes me feel happy that people feel that I represent school in a good way." She advises the girls who are on Homecoming court next year to let every moment sink in, "It goes by fast, so have fun with it and be in the moment."

Every girl on Homecoming court got to shine throughout the week, with games at the Pep Rally, a parade and a celebratory moment on stage at the dance. Each of them shared their thoughts, prior to the festivities, about why they decided to run and their outlooks on what was to come.

Jesslyn Allen ran for Homecoming court because of the previous winners, whom Allen looks up to. She said that she was most excited to dress up and walk on the field during the Pep Rally, "It's going to be unbelievable." As a member of Talented Band, she likes to show her Gator pride at games. Allen says, "Whenever I play my drum, I can get really loud and have lots of spirit."

Gracie Bercegeay ran because she dreamed of being part of this memorable experience since she was little. She said, "I am excited for the memories that I will make with the

girls on the court." Gracie shows her Gator pride by participating in clubs, dress-up days and sports events. She loves the staff members at STA, "The staff is very helpful with students and do their very best to help us succeed."

Asia Beverly Jackson has participated in student aid, bowling, track, and band. She decided to run for Homecoming court because she thought it would be a fun experience. She said, "For dress down I donate my two dollars, I do spirit week, and I go to everything I try to". Jackson added, "I love doing all the school activities and I like being involved in everything."



Paisley Whiddon has aspired to be on Homecoming court since she was young, looking up to the court girls in the past. Along with being a Gatorette, she likes to attend football games and other school events. "It's a really cool experience. I'm very lucky to get to do this," she says. She adds that throughout the week, the nominees have formed a unique bond with one another.

Lexi Brignac decided to run for homecoming court because she's always wanted to be a maid since she was a little girl. She says, "I love the teachers on this campus and how supportive everybody is." Brignac shows her gator pride as a part of the volleyball team and the Pit Crew, and attends as many sports events as possible.

She was most excited to be able to ride in her dad's car, which she grew up watching him build.

Sarah Faulkner is a four year member of the Lady Gator Soccer, and Track and Field Team. Faulkner is also a member of GNN, BETA, Gator to Gator, Rho Kappa and Lady Gator Talk. Faulkner loves the St. Amant community, "The friends that I've made here will last a lifetime and the teachers always support me," she adds. Faulkner plans to attend Louisiana State University and major in chemical engineering.

Gracie Fontenot says she loves STA because she met her best friends here. Gracie shows her school spirit by cheering on the Gators on Friday nights at football games. Fontenot was most excited to ride in the Homecoming parade and she looked forward to watching her friends and family cheer her on.

What Karsyn Guidry loves most about STA is the friendships and opportunities the school has provided her. She shows her gator pride by cheering on the sidelines of football or basketball games as a St. Amant High School Cheerleader. Guidry was most excited for the Homecoming parade and Pep Rally.



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ACT tutoring is back at STA

BY:SAVANNAH MATLOCK
Gata Data Reporter

St. Amant High School’s ACT tutoring is back for the 2023-2024 school year. Every tutoring session is held with Kristen Feigles on Tuesdays, in room 224 from 3-4 p.m.

The ACT is an entrance exam used by most colleges and universities to help make admission decisions. With four timed sessions, English, Math, Reading, Science, and an optional writing portion, every test, while differing in questions, are alike in style.

Feigles, familiar with the format of the test, prepares students for the ACT every week by familiarizing them with the types of questions, answer choices and strategies that can help them approach the test. In

each session, students go over one of the four main skill areas, typically going in the order in which the test is given - English, Math, Reading then Science. “If we have small groups then I can help to kind of specialize to their needs,” Feigles says.

ACT tutoring is open to all students at STA and Feigles encourages anyone to attend. “Anybody that wants to improve their ACT score or maybe get some extra practice can join,” says Feigles.

The ACT can be a challenge that most high school students face at some point, but with the help of Feigles, the test becomes approachable and students develop the confidence that can hold the ability to raise



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AP vs. DE

BY: AVERY LAMBERT
Gata Data Reporter

At St. Amant High School, there are several Advanced Placement(AP) and Dual Enrollment (DE) courses provided for students who are looking to advance their future college career. However, most students are unaware of what these classes are about and the benefits they have.

AP, advanced placement classes, allow for students to earn college credit prior to graduation. With these courses, students will learn about a college-level class for a semester with their high school teacher before taking a final exam that will determine whether or not they gain the college credit.

With DE, dual enrollment classes, students are also able to earn college credit and get a head start with gaining college credit while still being in high school. However, with the DE courses, students are given an actual college instructor who will assign college quizzes and assignments. Instead of focusing on one college class like AP, in DE you take your regular high school class along with your college class.

Junior Jacob Angel, a student who’s taken both AP and DE courses, focuses on the advantages of taking these challenging courses while in high school. “Having a high school teacher focus on a small group,” Angel says, “is so much easier than having 600+ students in your class.”

Angel also mentions the similarities between the courses. “The workload is almost the same with both involving very difficult questions. I’d say the people in your classes are also the same in the sense that only a portion of kids take AP and DE courses.”

Kristen Feigles, a teacher at STA, teaches AP Language and Composition, English DE 101 and ACT Prep. When asked about the educational benefits of taking AP and DE classes, Feigles says, “It’s the challenge that it presents to students and they are better prepared for the college environment and experience as far as rigor and deadlines.”

AP and DE are also very different from one another. “With AP, there is a test and the test gives you college credit, whereas DE is going to have a series of activities, essays and assignments that completion above or at adequate, gives you a letter grade for college,” says Feigles. “For AP, you can earn college credit, but there’s no letter grade. DE you earn college credit with a letter grade.”

These courses can also differ when it comes to the teaching style. Your high school teacher is responsible for teaching an AP course and has full control when it comes to how the material is taught, whereas

with DE, you’re taught both a high school and college course, so your high school teacher will be allowed to teach your high school course, but not the college course. DE college professors are taught by actual college professors, but with high school teachers only being able to facilitate what’s being taught by professors.

With Advanced Placement courses, the AP test is typically taken in order to receive college credit, which is done by scoring a 3 or higher. In some DE courses, the College-Level Examination Program (CLEP) is given to receive college credit if you score a 50 or higher, depending on a student's intended University or College. However, in other DE courses, a CLEP test is not necessary and you get college credit regardless. CLEP isn’t only for DE courses. “You can always, with AP, take a CLEP test, and that too can earn you credit. So in the AP courses, if you take a CLEP and score a 50 or higher, then that does, in many cases, give you college credit,” says Feigles. With Dual Enrollment classes, the GPA always follows you to college so keeping track of your grade is extra important.

“I definitely challenge students to take an AP or DE class,” says Feigles. If you’re interested in taking an AP or DE course, you can visit St. Amant’s curriculum guide online at stamanthigh.ascensionschools.org to view all of STA’s available courses and decide if Advanced Placement or Dual Enrollment is for you.

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The unsung heroes of APSB

BY: PARIS GOMEZ AND
BROXTON CRAWFORD
Gata Data Reporter

St Amant High School’s Tech Department has many levels of operating. The intricate machine runs as the backbone of the Ascension Parish education system. Where things go wrong, the tech department is there to restore STA’s crucial aspects of learning.

Early September, the majority of the computers across the parish were unable to connect to Google due to systems going into backup and sync, which ensures information stays up to date and accurately updated and backup a few times throughout the day.

“On that day in particular the system was doing the update and backup but a connection was lost which caused the information to not update properly.” William Pierce, the IT Support Technician says, “Luckily, we had another backup in place that took over and made sure nothing was lost and just a password update fixes the issue.”

This issue serves as just one of the countless examples of the realistic hardships the Technology Department of APSB faces.

Starting with the warehouse, many physical repairs for the computers take place.



William Pierce and Brent Cavalier monitoring the Data Center's servers that control the Ascension Parish School district

Lionel Oliver, the Logistics Supervisor for Verapro says, “We cover mainly software related issues, also network related issues.”

However, the warehouse is also used for storing computers during the summer. During this time, computers are reimaged and cleaned. Computers are wiped off their software and reprogrammed to fit APSB’s required and updated software for the computers. This is usually also where more Dell and Imaging Technicians are sent out to

speed up the process.

During the school year, the process still works the same, but includes extra steps. “If a screen is cracked, the librarians send in a ticket, letting the tech department know that the computer needs to go to the warehouse,” Oliver says, “A delivery guy has to pick up devices every day of the week.” This constitutes also the physical cleaning of the computers. Stickers and barcodes are replaced, and any markups found on the computers

are cleaned.

Another connection is the APSB Data Center. This is where all the servers, which connect and aid every school found within Ascension Parish, are housed. They are primarily responsible for managing and monitoring the devices to make sure the computers work for the day.

Using the A.P. Server Points located on the ceilings of classrooms allows for proper communication between schools and the center. From communication, the video signal, and the doors, to who can have access to certain rooms with badges, it all goes through the servers.

They work towards the physical and virtual security of the school once again through the virtual points. They work with teachers' ID barcodes that allow them to unlock doors, and blocking websites that can harbor viruses.

“We're the ones you all see but, these are really the guys that made all that work for us,” Pierce says.

The people of the tech department value their jobs and what they do, making the lives of everyone involved at STA's school better with the improvement of technology.

One year later: Scuba emphasizes school safety

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BY: DANIELLE DARVILLE
Gata Data Reporter

Sgt. Stephen “Scuba” Allain has been working for the Ascension Parish Sheriff's Office for 11 years. However, he has been working at St. Amant High for the last two years and is so far enjoying his time at STA and getting involved with the staff and student body. He has been patrolling in rotation for over four schools in the area, he

locking doors and wearing proper identification. Scuba explains that, “If I go out a gate or out a door I try my best to lock it behind me, I wear my ID everyday even though I'm in a fully marked uniform and you can identify who I am”, so he expects others on campus to do the same in order to keep campus as safe as possible. Scuba performs safety audits to evaluate the safety

to communicating with students about more than what his job entails.. “Anybody can come ask me questions, if they have any issues just let me know” Allain says. “You have to take pride in what you do and in your job, but at the same time don't allow your pride to get in the way of your job.” Scuba considers himself to be an outgoing person and wants people to see the human side of him instead of “some guy with a uniform on all the time.” He adds, “You have to be willing to talk and listen. It's important to be open-minded because you hear a lot of different things.” Building healthy relationships with the STA community is important to him.

Scuba focuses on getting to the root of a problem in order to truly resolve it. “If you put a band-aid on something did you really fix it?” Scuba asks. He understands that sometimes people make bad decisions and he doesn't hold it against them, and that he wants to make a difference “I want the best for everybody,” Scuba adds, “I want to help the kids out as much as I can in my capacity, so I'm always willing to help people that want help.”



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED BY STA STUDENT COUNCIL

recently began working full time as a patrolman at STA.

One year later, Allain’s main goal on campus this year is to keep students and staff safe. To follow through with his goals, he asks some very simple tasks of students and staff members, including

of the school twice a month, which often result in emails to staff that note the amount of unlocked doors on campus.

Scuba is also working to close the gap between law enforcement and students. Scuba makes it his goal to remain approachable and open

St. Amant pride

BY: JADYN HUGHES
Gata Data Reporter

St. Amant’s Gay Straight Alliance welcomes students of all races, sexualities, and gender identities. A vigorous importance during a student’s high school years is found in social acceptance; A trait that GSA fights to protect for their students. GSA seeks to explore and explain a variety of identities and the bonds between different groups of people to St. Amant students, especially those who may be struggling with personal conflicts involving such matters. Though separating yourself from a familiar crowd may be difficult, it is essential for society to find acceptance for those around us. In St. Amount High’s Gay Straight Alliance, the diversity of students and teachers hope to create a welcoming and safe environment for students who may find similar difficulties being themselves.

Following the courage to accept and reveal a person’s identity comes the struggles of standing for yourself. When asked about their hardships while involved in this diverse movement, Junior Club Officer, Addison Nunez-Francis, says, “As a member of GSA, it is a big thing with how people perceive you. When you wear the GSA pins and stickers, it bums you out when people think of you differently and make fun of you, even though you are just trying to be who you are.” The officers, members and sponsors of GSA want their students to know that no matter where you are, who you are, and what you stand for, GSA represents the people who will accept you.

While exploring the many lifestyles of others, GSA also dedicates its time to fighting for the

lives and safety of those who have lost much through fundraisers for struggling youth and a close alliance with the Environmental Science Club. For 2023, more fundraisers and events are being planned by Junior Officers Addie Nunez-Francis and Fresno Swindle. When asked about their plans for this year’s fundraisers and events, Fresno Swindle says, “Through GSA, I would love to get people to volunteer. It’s relevant to GSA and our community.” The club does not limit itself to benefiting their students, but also their peers and strangers.

A new idea that the club has introduced is the GSA Book Club. For this, GSA introduces queer representation literature. Students of all grades are welcome to join their meetings as they explore the history and ideas of diverse fiction and nonfiction. All novels will remain High School-friendly and allowed for all ages. Mrs. Brianne Baggett, the sponsor of GSA, is available for questions or concerns regarding meetings, fundraisers, and book club information. Book ideas may be recommended to the officers or sponsors of our GSA program.

Whether you’re questioning your identity, supporting your companions or fighting for change, GSA allows for friendships to be made through mutual respect for opinions. As a member of GSA, Eva Strother says, “It’s important to have a safe place at school and feel like they can belong somewhere.” GSA is a place where students have an opportunity to meet others like them and understand more about themselves.



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GNN back in action

BY AGUSTINA BUSTOS
Gata Data Reporter

Gator Nation News (GNN) returns to its daily morning broadcast for students at St. Amant High School. After taking their summer break off, the GNN students are back in action and have begun the process of gathering STA’s daily updates. GNN has welcomed new members to their crew, such as juniors Jacob Angel, Aubrey Beale, Briley Brooks, Eddie Delhay, Claire Clouatre, Ali McCormick, Mary Mcadams and seniors Tyrus Dunham, Carlyle Runfalo, Ian Turner, Ja’lyn Braud, Kaitlyn Ross, Ja’kya Thomas and Ashtyn Weathersby.

In GNN, students gather the school’s upcoming and daily information, advance their presentation skills, learn how to use new equipment, such as cameras, lighting and microphones, apply writing and speaking techniques along with gaining video-editing skills. Randon Gilmore, teacher of the broadcasting class, says that students do not need any editing or camera experience to join. Gilmore states, “I am looking for students that are driven, involved with the school and passionate.” Senior Tyrus

Dunham, a member of GNN, says, “Having a voice and being loud enough are important qualities to have if you’re planning on taking this class.” The GNN crew plans to meet a variety of goals this school year. Gilmore is looking to keep the quality of their videos consistent to allow students to keep a positive view of the GNN brand. Gilmore says, “I am looking to expand the content that we’re creating and bring in an audience that we haven’t tapped into yet.”

Dunham says, “The class is very fun. I have gained a lot of friendships with other seniors and juniors.” He applauds how the class allows for every student to be their own leader, and how diverse in personality his classmates are. When asked about the importance of GNN, Gilmore says, “I think GNN is important because it’s a unique opportunity to engage the students and celebrate all the cool things that are happening in St. Amant.”

If you have any questions regarding the course, you can email Randon Gilmore at randon.gilmore@apsb.org.



STAFF PHOTO BY AGUSTINA BUSTOS

3rd block GNN staff poses in front of the infamous table used to film their daily videos on August 29.

STUDENT LIFE

The STA band looks to continue success

BY: MARIA MELLAD AND MADELYN LONG
Gata Data Reporters

Both the St. Amant Band and Colorguard are starting a new season and are ready for their new year. Last year the color guard team won first place at showcase, and the band took home third with their show “Reflections”. In both performances there was a theme of Reflection. Senior, Saxophone section leader, Katie Williamson described last year's theme as ”Taking a look back and understanding yourself and fully embracing who you are.” This year, they will have their first new performance in three years. Senior Clarinet Section Leader Cadence Cagnolatti stated that the band had continued with the same show for three years because they had “to stop rehearsal because of COVID,” and other factors throughout the years such as Hurricane Ida. She continued “So this year it is a completely new show, which is something our senior class has never done.” Band director Joseph Nassar further elaborates with the statement, “I think that coming out of the covid stuff, it showed me what kind of students we have. They just never gave up, even when it was so difficult to do what we were able to do.”

When Nassar was asked about his expectations and goals for this year, he stated, “We would love to be in the finals again for our state contest, and place as high as possible. Our colorguard was champions in their classification last year, and we would certainly like to see that tradition go on.” Many people see the color guard members bringing school spirit to the football games but color guard is more than what is presented on friday nights. Junior, color guard co-captain, Madelyn Long described color guard as “A sport which includes flags, rifles, and other props. During marching season, the colorguard works alongside the band to add a visual effect to the marching show.” Even with their impressive win at last year's showcase there are still a few things they as a whole are working on to continue their success. Senior co-captain, Juliana Melancon states “With the motivation that most of the new members have to become champions again, I think that we can make it happen.” As a section leader, Meloncon describes that she is “making sure that everyone can do the work to the best of their abilities and putting their all into everything that we do.”

The STA band would not be where they are today without their endless rehearsals and practices. The band and color guard practice not only everyday during school but they have additional after school practices at least three times a week. “We work really hard,” stated Williamson. When asked to describe the average band practice this semester Williamson stated “We are in 100 degree weather and we are playing instruments, you have to know what count your on, you got to know what step your on, you gotta know how many counts a movement is, you have to know when your playing, if you are playing you have to then watch the drum majors, and listen to the track and listen to the metronome, you have to watch all the people around you to make

sure your doing stuff. It’s a very overwhelming experience, and most people don’t realize just how overwhelming it is.” This experience is something that many other teams, and groups can relate to.

All of this hard work will hopefully assist the band in placing as high as possible at Showcase. Showcase is a competition where the best bands in the state compete against each other. The winners of Showcase gain recognition, bragging rights, a band award and a trophy. The band directors begin planning the show towards the end of the year prior. When their summer band camp comes around the band directors tend to be at least 60-70% positive on the direction of the show.

Nassar states, “When we start our band camp, we are 60-70% knowing what we are going to do, but the show just keeps evolving and changing. The design process is ongoing until the very end.” Showcase tends to be not only one of the most stressful times of the year but also one of the most fun and memorable. When asked about her goals as drum major, Maggie Lobell stated

“I’m looking forward to hopefully getting first place. We have been working so hard toward it and I'm really hoping the momentum is amounting to something.” Mellophone Section Leader Riley Harris says, “I’m just really excited to just see how our show goes this year, and being able to compare it to last year and seeing how everyone improved.” This years theme is “‘Into Thin Air’ and it's based on the book by John Krakauer, where he writes about the journey up Mount Everest, and the lives lost along the journey. So the music is designed to convey that image of climbing Everest. And the visual design of the show is a mountain theme. The big push is for us to be able to convey this idea musically and visually on the field.”

An equally important and impressive section of the band is the St. Amant Wind Symphony. The STA Wind Symphony has been regarded as one of the best in the state. This year “We are playing at Carnegie Hall... We get to play in one of the most important and nationally recognized band buildings,” exclaimed first chair, baritone and saxophone Katie Williamson. Throughout the years the STA Wind Symphony has been chosen to represent the state. “We have the best concert

band in the state, some people argue with that but, the numbers prove it,” she continued.

When asked about the advice they would give new band members the general consensus was to try to have fun with it, and try to grow as much as you can in the four years you are with the St. Amant Band. “Four years in an organization like this flies by. As a freshman, you feel like you can never measure up to the standard that we have set here, but you are going to set the standard for the future.” said Nassar. Nassar continued “It's about making memories and friends and working together, sometimes through adversity, the heat, the weather, and everything that we endure, and we come together at the end.” The band, all sections, has greatly improved throughout the years and with their continued determination it is highly likely that they will continue with their great success.



STAFF PHOTO BY MARIA MELLAD

The STA Band plays a stand tune while Senior Drum Major Elijah Elliot conducts in front of them.

HOMECOMING CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Ronia Guillory is a part of St. Amant High School’s Basketball team. She shows her school spirit by partaking in the themes on dress-up days. Guillory also loves to support STA’s many sports teams. She was most excited to go to the Pep Rally, and watch her friends and family cheer her on. She says, “I think it will be a fun experience.”

Alexis Jones decided to run because of her love for school spirit and Homecoming festivities. She was most excited for the Homecoming Parade, "I have dreamed of being in the parade for as long as I can remember." Alexis shows STA Pride by cheering on STA at games as a member of the Gatoettes and participating in school spirited events, adding, "I love the environment at St. Amant."

Janiya Knockum believes being on Homecoming Court can help boost school spirit. Knockum says, “It can inspire classmates to show their support and pride for their school”. Knockum advises underclassmen to get involved with the school. “Have fun throughout your high-school years because they go so fast, so do what you enjoy doing. Have fun and smile!”

Brylee Lambert decided to run for Homecoming court because she recently tore her ACL, which meant that she could no longer do volleyball and cheer, so she wanted to be a part of something. Lambert shows her Gator pride as a cheerleader at most events. She said, “I’m most excited for walking across the field and being able to do all of this with my best friends.”

Grayce Reynolds decided to run because she only gets one senior year, but she said it was never a main goal for her. "I just ran subconsciously without thinking twice about it." Reynolds feels like STA is a very diverse

school, so she was able to meet a lot of different people. Reynolds shows her gator pride by supporting and participating in several clubs.

Kaitlyn Ross described running for Homecoming court as a once in a lifetime opportunity. She loves her student body and the community built around it, saying, "It gave me lifelong friends." Kaitlyn is a member of in GNN, Gator rally, Gator to Gator, Student council, FCA, Allied Health and STA Cheer.

Sami Sheets decided to run for Homecoming Court because she saw it as a great opportunity to represent her school. She said, “I am very excited and thankful to be experiencing this with such great girls.” Sheets is a member of the Gatoettes, and attends many school events to show her Gator pride. She was most excited about the Homecoming Parade, Pep Rally and game.

Katie Williamson has moved schools about 9 times, and says that she embraces the community at STA. She says, “I moved here two years ago from Virginia and people were all really accepting.” Katie is a part of marching band, wind symphony, jazz band, honor bands, choir, she is also a varsity pole vaulter. Many people know Katie for her self expression as well as her enthusiastic and welcoming personality.

Mary-Beth Zeller is proud to be involved in her high school’s traditions, activities, and events. Zeller is involved with STA’s Pitcrew and Gator Rally, “These clubs enable me to lead the student section and the student body in promoting our STA pride.” She was excited to participate in the Homecoming festivities, like the Pep Rally, Homecoming Parade and Football Game.

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**GATOR OF THE MONTH
SPOTLIGHT**

Mr. Gilmore selected Ali McCormick as his Gator of the Month because "her quality of work this semester has been exceptional. Her initiative to learn new software and try new things has been the absolute model of what I want from my students. Her reliability and consistency (along with her partner Ja'lyn) make her an absolute pleasure to work with."

#SuccessThroughActions the STA way!

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STUDENT LIFE

STA's military family

BY: JADYN HUGHES AND
JO THOMAS
Gata Data Reporters

NJROTC is prepared for the year of 2023-2024. NJROTC is Ascension Parish's military focused program dedicated to disciplining and strengthening the minds of their cadets through competitions, practices, inspections, and more. They benefit their students with a PE credit, the advantage to enlist in higher ranks and an eye-catching uniform.

To begin the year, On September 30, Commander Kiletico and Commander Bates, the new overseers of the NJROTC program, along with their Cadets practicing drill teams will present colors and arms during the Brother Martin Competition with more competitions set to follow. These competitions move from in and out of state, allowing each program from their selected schools to show off their training and unison from their weeks of practice. To highlight their team's goals, Cadet Ensign Strother says, "I want us to place first in the state. I want us to win more competitions." Other interviewed cadets have mentioned the same goal and are prepared to achieve it.

With the new year comes new recruits and this year, Commanders. The overseers hold years of experience; both retired from service and excited to give insight to the next generation. When asked for his hopes for the upcoming year, Commander Kiletico says, "My number one

goal is to recruit more people. I really believe in this program and think it has benefits for everybody." He assures that regardless of race, gender, or personal beliefs, NJROTC accepts and benefits each of their cadets. Each cadet gains an equal opportunity of pushing their way up the ranks through NJROTC and a possible future in the military.

Cadets believe this program has assisted their education and personal ascension. Petty Officer First Class Gerald Waterman says, "The best way the program has helped me is with my self discipline and work ethic. Whether it's shining shoes or studying, this program has helped me commit to what I need to." NJROTC has assisted its students in the development of their self-discipline, time management, and social skills. Cadets have described the program to give them a sense of accomplishment and work ethic from their personal and shared achievements. The NJROTC room is filled from floor to ceiling with proof of their hard work and dedication and more are on their way.

As well as personal growth, each interviewed cadet has brought their personal and professional relationships with each other to light as one of many enjoyable features of NJROTC. Cadet Lieutenant Commanding Officer Yocke, when asked his favorite thing about NJROTC, says, "How close everyone is. Everyone is super close and nice. It's a good atmosphere that can bring people together." Their bond enhances

their performance during competitions and their environment at school. During the high school experience, the ability to achieve a close knit family and socialize with your fellow students is expressed to be one of the most important aspects. Finding a well-functioning team is one of many benefits of joining the NJROTC program that have inspired the cadets.

A similar inspiration for cadets of all ranks is the future advantage NJROTC gives them. Between an advancement in work ethic and time management, the military program pulls out key qualities a future career looks for; Not only for military service but for a variety of paths a student can choose to take. The program opens new college or scholarship opportunities with a more dependable outlook for long-term goals. In the case of a student looking for more military minded achievements, each competition carries a line of recruiters – another inspiration for cadets to work their hardest. 47% of graduated seniors intend to take this advantage and graduate in mind of military service. These students will be able to take positions two ranks higher than others with their NJROTC



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED BY STA JROTC

credentials. The Military family has only grown stronger through their years of hard work and discipline. Now they look for numbers. Students of all grades are given the opportunity to take the NJROTC course to replace their Physical Education class. One of many explanations on why others should join, Cadet Chief Petty Officer Deaton says, "I feel like it's a huge confidence builder. It is something that teaches leadership skills and makes it easier to put yourself out there." This program carries an endless amount of long-term possibilities and ideas for their students. For those who are ready to dedicate their time and effort, our Military Family is ready to welcome you.



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STUDENT LIFE

Ask Allie



Dear Allie,

I'm a freshman, and I don't feel like I'm in high school. All of my friends have been talking about how it feels to finally be a high school student and how cool it is, but I still feel like I'm in middle school, and I am pretty scared that I'll never feel like one either, but it makes me feel very left out. The schoolwork and schedule feels like I'm just back in 8th grade. So, Allie, how do I start feeling like a high school student?

Sincerely,
A Concerned Classmate.

Dear Classmate,

Don't be so focused on the way you feel but focus on the differences that you've felt from middle school to now. You have to realize that that feeling may take some time. Freshman year is hard for many people because it's a switch from how middle school was, but it also may not feel like high school yet. You may be feeling left out as well because of how your friends feel, which isn't their fault but may be a factor. Hanging out with friends is a great way to get the high school experience that you are anticipating.

Be approachable for all types of people. Some groups of people may feel intimidated by others, so pay attention to your friends and make sure you or your friends aren't pushing people away because of your actions, but don't feel like you have to be responsible for your friends actions.

If you feel as if you're getting left out by your friends then you should communicate with them, tell them how you feel, and why you feel that way. The best way to fix friendships is to communicate about the problems you face. That may not always work, but that's okay. Don't waste your time and energy on people that will make you feel or act worse.

You are also growing up. You aren't going to feel the same way about high school forever and your opinion might change. Schoolwork may feel the same for life because you are learning! It's like playing a game for the first time, the more you play the easier it gets.

There's also a lot of clubs you could join. If you feel like you're missing out on the high school "experience" then clubs may be a great way to feel a part of the school itself. Clubs aren't only a way to feel a part of the school, but you may even find friends that share the same interests as you.

Don't try to skip this part of your life. You can miss out on a lot of fun times that you may have no way of getting back. After high school, there's not as much inclination for social settings, so live a little, and try to get out into the school, even if you're intimidated in social settings. Failure gives us lessons in life throughout different situations that show up more frequently in high school, like how to act in public, how to control your emotions and how to develop good productivity skills.

The main thing is just not to worry so much about feeling like you're not a high school student. You will miss out on a lot that is going on around you. If you spend so much time thinking about how you don't belong then it won't get any better, so you just have to do things around the school and get involved.

Thank you for your great question, and I wish you a good high school journey, Allie.

Meet The Staff



Paris Gomez



Maria Mellad



Michael Mumphrey



Avery Lambert



Elizabeth Langston



Broxton Crawford



Danielle Darville



Madelyn Long



Jadyn Hughes



Xyan Dobard



Mia Webb



Hannah Rogillo



Rebecca Cresie



Agustina Bustos



Savannah Matlock

SPORTS

Gators stomp Jefferson Rise in 53-0 Homecoming Showdown

BY:HANNAH ROGILLIO AND
MICHEAL MUMPHREY
Gata Data Reporters

There truly is no place like home. 4,000 people rallied around the Gators Friday night as they defeated The Jefferson RISE Blazers in a 53-0 blowout. Senior Kyron Craft opened scoring with a 5-yard rushing touchdown just a few minutes into the first quarter, followed by a successful STA two-point conversion to earn an early 8-0 lead.

The Gators held outstanding field

returned from his injury after a four-week hiatus, and on his first drive back since week one, he tossed a 39-yard touchdown to receiver Jermichael Millen. An Easton Jarreau extra point gave the Gators a 23-0 lead. Seconds later, Braxtyn Spight returned a 33-yard pick-six for another Gator touchdown. The Gator defense followed up the pick-six with yet another score, this time a safety. Babin capitalized on his return to form with a four-yard touchdown pass to Jarreau, ending the first quarter with a dominant 39-point lead for the Gators.

In the second quarter, the Gators picked right back up with Senior Myles Dennis scoring a 16-yard rushing touchdown. A few minutes later Easton Humphrey returned a 37-yard interception for the touchdown giving the Gators their final 53-0 lead before the half.

The Gators look to add to their 5-0 record in a rivalry matchup against the East Ascension Spartans on Friday, October 6. EA may prove to be a formidable opponent for the Gators, along with the fact that they will have to face another reality: "It's our first road game of the year," Oliver said. "So that's going to be a challenge for us because we haven't packed up our stuff, even though it's just across town." Look for a sea of orange at Spartan Stadium as kickoff for the renowned showdown will begin at 7 p.m.



STAFF PHOTO

positions through all four quarters, which was the key factor in their success. Senior quarterback Chase Kelley fooled the defenders with a keeper for a first down, then followed that with a 13-yard passing touchdown to Sophomore Kaven Taylor. The Gators again went for the two-point conversion, caught by Sophomore MJ Dunn giving the Gators a 16-0 lead halfway through the first quarter.

Sophomore quarterback Cooper Babin



STAFF PHOTO



STAFF PHOTO

Motives and goals for the Cross Country season

BY:ELIZABETH LANGSTON
Gata Data Reporter

St. Amant High School's Cross Country team is preparing for their upcoming season and working toward meeting new expectations for the year. Head Coach Tanya Whitney has been in charge of the Cross Country team since the early 2000's. Whitney speaks upon her goals for the team in the upcoming 2023 Cross Country season. Whitney says, "For my returners I just want to see improvement. For my newcomers I just want to see them be able to run the 3 miles, and work on getting their times down." Whitney also says, "

Runners strive in making goals and achieving them".

Cross country is made up of a series of hard dedicated runners, and it is not without its challenges. Whitney expresses, "It's a sport where you have to do your best, it's not a team sport." Individual runners are challenged in tasking themselves on running to the best of their ability and chasing their goal times. "You're in charge of how good or how bad you do," Whitney says. "You can't hold anyone else responsible for doing bad."



Runners are tasked with preparing themselves to run three miles on a variety of different terrain.

The terrain that follows the upcoming race days are grassy fields, hills, gravel roads, softball parks, Cain fields and many more. Cross Country season ranges from the first day of school to the beginning of November. Some challenges the runners have faced this upcoming season are the high temperatures. The temperatures have affected the team's ability to run at the scheduled practice time.

It's important to understand the many aspects needed to be a successful runner. When going into a race you not only have to be physically fit, but you have to have a clear mindset. Senior Runner Caleb Williams says, "Being a runner is mostly physical fitness, but how tough you are mentally can control your outcome." The difference of being focused as opposed to being not, according to Williams, can make all the difference for a cross country athlete.

Being a part of a team is filled with its challenges. The 2023 Cross Country teams goal is to face these challenges this upcoming season.



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Sophomore Gage Cook and Junior Tristan Bailey compete in the Bayou Boogie Race.

STAFF PHOTOS BY ELIZABETH LANGSTON

Should flag football be an official school sport?

BY: DANIELLE DARVILLE
Gata Data Reporter

Flag football is a variant of American football where, instead of tackling players to the ground, the defensive team must remove a flag or flag belt from the ball carrier "deflagging" to end a down. Flag football for girls refers to a modified version of football where players wear flags or belts that are pulled by defenders in lieu of tackling, as previously mentioned.

First and foremost, introducing girl flag football promotes gender equality by providing equal opportunities for girls to participate in sports. It encourages inclusivity and breaks down traditional gender stereotypes, allowing girls to explore and excel in a sport that has typically been dominated by boys.

Furthermore, participating in flag football helps girls develop important physical and mental skills. Flag football improves their overall fitness, promotes coordination, and enhances their teamwork and communication abilities. It also instills discipline, resilience, and perseverance – attributes that are valuable both on and off the field.

Introducing girl flag football at

school also fosters a sense of belonging and community. It creates a supportive environment where girls can engage in healthy competition and learn important life lessons such as sportsmanship and fair play.

Moreover, adding girl flag football benefits educational institutions. It offers another avenue for students to showcase their talents and represent their school in competitions, boosting overall pride and camaraderie among students, parents, and the community.

Adding girl flag football in school is a progressive step towards gender equality, fostering physical and mental development, building inclusive communities, and promoting a lifelong commitment to physical well-being. By embracing this opportunity, schools can empower girls, promote diversity, and create a more inclusive and balanced society.

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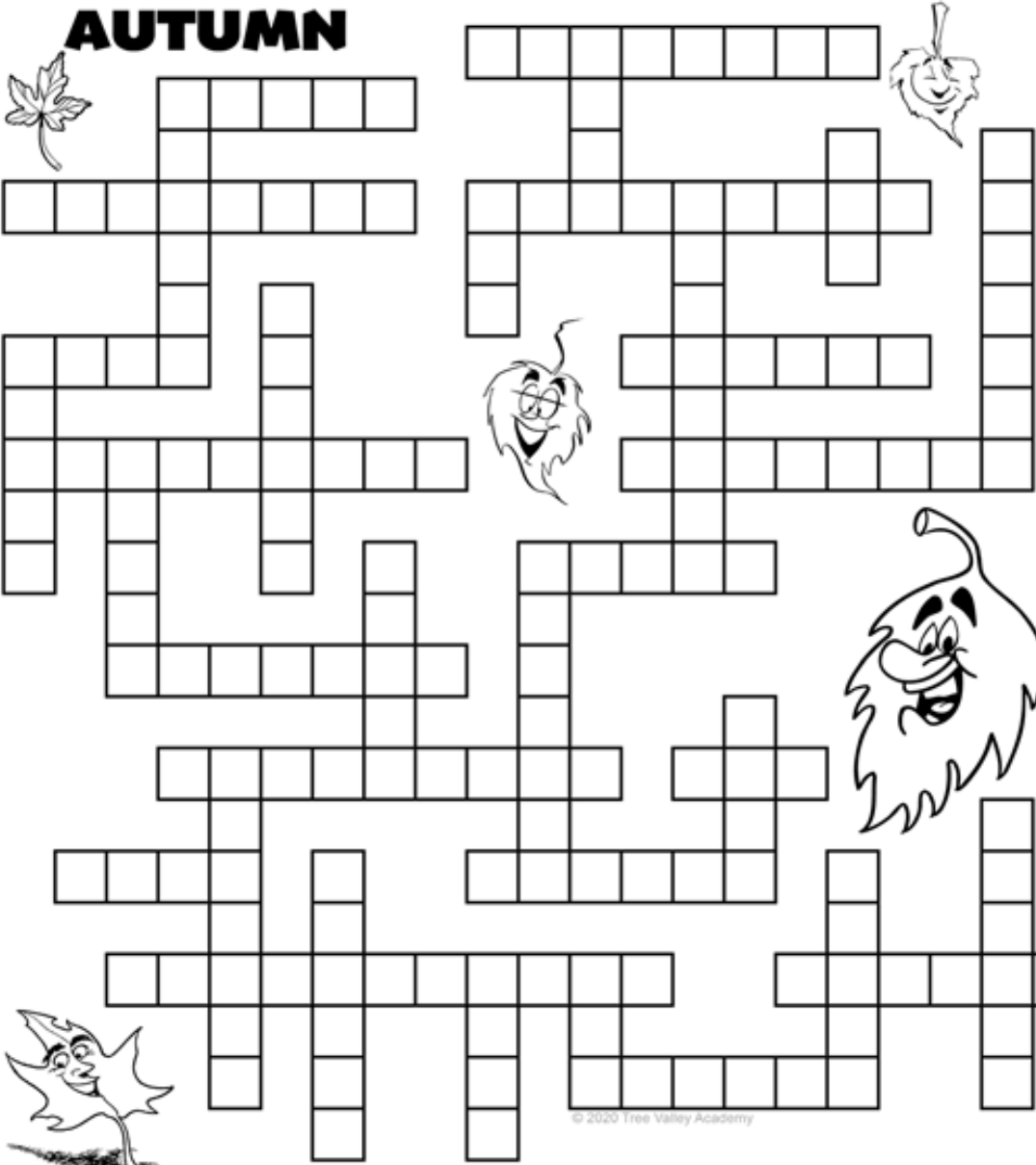


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AUTUMN



- 3 letters**

 - hay
 - owl
 - pie
 - red
- 4 letters**

 - cool
 - corn
 - maze
 - pear
 - rake
- 5 letters**

 - cider
 - crisp
 - quilt
 - socks
 - spice
 - trees
- 6 letters**

 - apples
 - autumn
 - colors
 - leaves
 - orange
 - school
 - season
 - yellow
- 7 letters**

 - falling
 - harvest
 - pumpkin
 - sweater
- 11 letters**

 - wheelbarrow
- 8 letters**

 - chipmunk
 - mushroom
 - orchards
 - rustling
- 9 letters**

 - chestnuts
 - deciduous
 - pinecones

GIVE YOUR TEACHERS A SHOUTOUT



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16TH- 20TH

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- Or your first block teacher.

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

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WHAT TO BRING?

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- DOG FOOD
- PUPPY FOOD
- CAT FOOD
- KITTEN FOOD
- CANNED FOOD (CAT)
- CANNED FOOD (DOG)
- LAUNDRY DETERGENT
- BLEACH
- PUPPY PADS
- ZIP TIES

NO RED DYE

STUDENTS WHO DONATE OR BRING IN SUPPLIES WILL RECEIVE A **FREE** DRESS DOWN PASS!

GATOR OF THE MONTH
SPOTLIGHT



Mrs. Kleinpeter's Gator of the Month is Celia Piazza because "Cici has used essential skills to adjust to high school and is thriving in 9th grade!"



#SuccessThroughActions the STA-way!

2		9						
7		3	6	5	8		9	2
8		5			2	1		7
4		8			1			6
	9		3		6			4
6	3	7		8	4			
		1	7	6		8		9
5	7		8	4			1	
9	8		2	1	3	7	6	5

Fill all the blank squares with the correct numbers. In a 9 by 9 square Sudoku game:

- * Every row of 9 numbers must include all digits 1 through 9 in any order
- * Every column of 9 numbers must include all digits 1 through 9 in any order
- * Every 3 by 3 subsection of the 9 by 9 square must include all digits 1 through 9



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Homecoming Week Photo Gallery



Hoco week at STA

This week, St. Amant High School held its annual homecoming spirit week. Students wore costumes that coincided with a specific theme, to show their immense passion and pride for the school and its activities. This year's theme was Sweet Memories.

In addition, Thursday, September 28, was the Homecoming Pep Rally and Parade. The Homecoming court girls rode in cars to the Pit and played games at the Pep Rally. During the Pep Rally, spirit activities celebrated the Gators as they got ready for the Homecoming Game on Friday.

Friday crowned STA's 2023 Homecoming Queen, Jordan Lobell, and the Gators won 53-0 against Jefferson Rise at the Homecoming game