



The Gata Data

ST. AMANT HIGH SCHOOL • 12035 HIGHWAY 431, ST. AMANT, LA 70774 • JANUARY 2024

AP African American Studies promotes Black History amidst national push-back

BY: PARIS GOMEZ, MARIA MELLAD
Gata Data Reporters

Last year, St. Amant High School was one of the few schools selected to participate in the pilot version of the AP African American Studies course. This continues this year as Malcolm Reed, the instructor of the course, has the opportunity to teach it again.

“First of all, it's my first AP course that I ever taught,” Reed said when asked about what this experience has taught him. “I've learned about how the exam works and how it benefits students just taking AP courses in general.” Even Reed has claimed to learn more about Black History by teaching the course itself. “But I think the thing that I connected to the most was learning about my school's significant role in the black campus movement, where students at my college held the largest student boycott in the history of the country.” This shocked Reed, as this should have been praised and known throughout his college yet it was not. “I came across that and was like, how did I not learn that at the school? Why is that not even talked about at the school by anybody at all?”

When asked about what is offered to students by joining this course he says, “I think that it's going to give students the upper hand. When they take US History, they're going to know so much more about it.” This course offers the groundwork for History that is usually passed up when taught in classes. US History starts with Reconstruction, specifically. So for students to have a chance to not only learn about what happened pre-reconstruction, but even offer more insight into other courses on campus. “It's a course that builds on the rest of the social studies curriculum,” Reed says.

“Also, it's a perspective of school that's not really taught, promoted, or you just won't get it anywhere else in school.”

Reed also highlights the topic of the constant resistance coming from states that have banned this course. These states have deemed the course to teach “Critical Race Theory,” which is the theory that systemic racism is built into American Society. Yet the course has overcome and has been established despite the push-back. “There's a resistance out there to this course. For what reason, I don't know. But the fact that it took so many years to get this course going, the fact that if you go all the way back to Carter G. Woodson and the creation of basically an appreciation for African History and African American history and the role that it plays and the role that Africans and African Americans have played in contributing to the human experience in general.”

Reed recommends anyone to take this course, “The average feedback (from students) is that they learn more in this class than any other class that they've ever taken in their lives,” Reed said when asked about the average feedback. He even has gotten nothing but positive responses from past students and teachers alike. “I think that the most rewarding thing has just been just seeing the reactions of the students and kind of enjoying learning the things that the students learned. And saying that they appreciated it was basically the reason why I'm a teacher in general.”

If you are interested in learning more about the course offering, contact malcom.reed@apsb.org.



Malcolm Reed facilitates a discussion in his AP African-American Studies course.

PHOTOS BY PARIS GOMEZ



Gators Basketball prepares for district play

BY: BROXTON CRAWFORD, XYAN DOBARD, DANIELLE DARVILLE
Gata Data Reporters

As basketball marches toward post-season, the Gators (21-5) are gearing up for the District Championship after their nine-win hot-streak. They have been practicing hard and overcoming several issues along the way and have displayed that they are championship contenders this season.

St. Amant's most recent game on January 22 against East Ascension (69-64) extended their win streak to nine, as they closed out a close overtime victory on the road. The impressive victory was led by Sophomore Jermichael Millien, who had 13 points and three steals, as well as Senior Lawson Bourgeois, who finished the game with a double-double consisting of 14 points and 13 rebounds. This game demonstrated how the Gators have been dominating throughout the end-of-season stretch, as they have won 16 of the last 17 games, with the majority of them being double-digit victories.

Head Coach Travis Uzee and his squad does not hide from the challenges of the team. “I think our challenge all year has been consistency, as this year has gone on, we have accomplished a lot of those issues.” Uzee adds that the players “have done a great job of listening” all year. The Gators are focused and are showing that they are a team that continues to grow and improve.

Uzee explained that the Gators have improved as the season has progressed. He explains, “I think our inexperience has now become experience as the year is gone.” The Gators have dealt with the struggles of having a young,

inexperienced, team early on but quickly figured things out in early December. The Gators made adjustments to their lineup and game plan which has proven beneficial overall for the team.

The Gators anticipated their growth throughout the season. Uzee states, “We knew we were

gonna be a team that continued to improve as the year went, and they're showing that to be true.” As the season concludes and the District Championship gets nearer, the Gators keep showing their path of improvement during the season that shows that they are a championship contender this year.

St. Amant will have their next game on January 30 against Helix Mentorship Academy before opening district play against Dutchtown on February 2 in the Gold Dome. The Gators will also host Live Oak Feb. 9 and rival East Ascension Feb.13.



Senior Lawson Bourgeois scans the court

STAFF PHOTO

Ask Allie



Dates to Remember

- February 12-13: Mardi Gras Break**
- March 12-13: Midterms**
- March 15: Ring Night**
- April 1-5: Spring Break**
- April 13: Prom**
- May 1: Senior's Last Day**
- May 7: Senior Awards Night**
- May 9: Graduation**
- May 20-22: Finals**
- May 24: Last Day of 2023-2024 School year**

Dear Allie,

I need help coping with the new semester. I really enjoyed my classes last semester and miss all of the memories and activities I made in them. Now, all of a sudden everything is restarting like it never even happened, and I'm supposed to be okay with it. All of my friends seem neutral on it, but I just feel stuck. The change in routine is making me overwhelmed and anxious.

Sincerely,

A Perturbed Pupil

Dear Perturbed Pupil,

Do not stress! Change is uncomfortable for most and takes time to adjust, but you'll be back in the groove of things in no time. But realize that adjusting to change takes time and patience, just like anything. My main piece of advice is to harness the change and not be afraid of it. Instead of dreading what could go wrong, see it as an opportunity to grow and improve your life at school. Any bad habits, negative experiences, or personal gripes from last semester are null and void. Take advantage of this fresh start!

First, its perfectly okay to cherish the memories of last semester, but there comes a time when you must realize that, at the end of the day, it's in the past and you can't go back to it. Plus, if you stay in the past, you'll miss all of the fun memories and friends you could possibly make in the moment. Your teachers and friends will still be here every day and you can visit them at lunch or in between classes (but get to class on

time!!!). A good technique I would recommend when this does occur is deep breathing to help bring you back to now if you find yourself in a spiral. That way you can make even more special memories and connections that you will take with you.

As for your routine, I can understand your stress! As I said before, a change in your daily path can be really stressful because your muscle memory (committing something to memory through constant repetition) is so intact. Fortunately, your brain can be reworked to adapt to new things, and there are multiple fixes. I find that mentally going through and envisioning my path really helps me. I remember what hall I'm in, the room number, the face of the teacher, e.t.c. That way I can remember where things are and I won't be so nervous about forgetting. If you're more of a visual learner, I suggest writing down the directions to your classes so you can refer to it when or if you get lost. If you really do have trouble, I would suggest asking a teacher or friends who have taken/are taking that class to give you directions.

All in all, I wouldn't stress so much! You have so much to look forward to and stress will only make you blindsighted to what this semester has to offer. I guarantee that, if you give it time, this semester will be just as good if not better than last semester. That is, if you look at it through a proactive lens.

Don't worry, you've got this!

Have a Great Semester, Allie

Student Council attends LASC Convention

BY: ELIZABETH LANGSTON
Gata Data Reporter

This past weekend, the Gator student council traveled to Shreveport, Louisiana for the Louisiana Association of Student Council annual convention. Gator's student council was represented by Junior Class President Jillian Martin, Junior Class Vice President Briley Brooks, Junior Class Secretary Elizabeth Langston and Representative Seylin Iscoa. The 74th annual LASC convention was led by Northwood Falcons High School. Special Guest speaker Ted Gyatty spoke about leadership to the students and participated in leadership audience group activities. Due to weather conditions following this year's convention it was shortened by a day.

Although, Sulphur High School looks forward to hosting the 75th annual LASC convention in 2025.



St. Amant High School Theatre & Choir Present

LEGALLY BLONDE

The Musical 

Tickets available by scanning the QR codes below



February 1st - 3rd

7:00 PM

STA Commons

"Being true to yourself NEVER goes out of style"



Thursday
February 1st



Friday
February 2nd



Saturday
February 3rd

From Left: Seylin Iscoa Junior Representative, Junior Class Secretary Elizabeth Langston, Junior Class President Jillian Martin, Junior Class Vice President Briley Brooks at LASC convention.

BY: EVIE FORSYTH
Gata Data Reporter

Lady Gators earn key district wins

Lady Gator Soccer bounced back from a heartbreaking loss to rival Dutchtown (0-4) with two back-to-back district wins over Live Oak (2-1) and East Ascension (6-0).

The long-awaited rival game against Dutchtown High School opened out strong with a 4,3,3 formation until five minutes in, when an unforeseen penalty kick put the Griffins ahead 0-1. Although the score represented a negative perspective for the Gators, the team’s effort did not weaken. Despite the loss, Head Coach Jacob Bordelon congratulated his team. “Dutchtown is definitely a tough district opponent and effort is a big deal for me,” Bordelon said. “The girls did a great job.” After a formation change to a 4,4,2 the trouble spot in the center was closed and the Gators improved through the second half while the score remained a stagnant 0-4. Although the girls lost an important game, their spirits were held high and continued

their season with more essential district wins.

After an unlucky loss to the Dutchtown Griffins, the Lady Gators hit the practice fields in hopes to improve their play for their remaining district schedule. After only two days after the 0-4 loss, the girls showed endless effort on and off the field to not let the loss discourage the rest of their season. Standout junior Mallory Sutton earned several assists and goals of her own, including a score-raising header. Alongside Sutton, junior goalie Addison Champagne, showed out with multiple saves, and is hoping to surpass last year’s save count of 305.

The Lady Gators look to close out their season with at least one more district win over rival Walker on January 27. They also have a chance to boost their rating before the postseason as they take on Lutchter on January 25 and Woodlawn on January 29, both games at home.



STA Boys soccer prepare for post-season

BY: AVERY LAMBERT
Gata Data Reporter

As STA’s boys soccer team is nearing the playoffs, it is important to recap some moments from this season.

Though they were faced with many obstacles this season, the boys soccer team only suffered two losses against St. Paul and Dutchtown, defeating schools like Cap Shreve, DeRidder, Alexandria, Fontainebleau, Central Lafourche, Hammond, H.L. Bourgeois, East Ascension, Byrd, West Monroe, E.D. White, Barbe, West Jefferson, Northshore, Lakeshore, Episcopal, Live Oak and Lutchter, while also having one tied game against Baton Rouge High School. With these wins, STA boys soccer is currently second in the district. Though the loss to Dutchtown hindered their chances for first place, a win over Denham Springs and a Dutchtown loss to Denham Springs would have allowed the Gators to share the title. Recently, the Gators faced an unfortunate loss on the road at Denham Springs (0-2).

Head Coach Adrian Garcia emphasizes how satisfied and proud he is of his players. Garcia says “going to away tournaments in Alexandria and Shreveport and spending time with the team” has been his favorite part of the season so far and goes on to add how this season has been his most enjoyable coaching season thus far.

Senior Leonardo Fuentes says that playing against West

Monroe was his favorite part of this season so far. “We played one of our best games this year and everyone got a chance to play.” Fuentes said. Even with these great moments, however, players were also faced with hurdles. Fuentes says the biggest obstacle for him was losing against Dutchtown. “I felt I cost my team, but it is in the past and our goals are still the same for the season: a state title. It sounds very cliché, but it does fly by quickly.” Fuentes added. “I am thankful for all the memories and friends this game has brought me and I am thankful for Coach Adrian who has molded me into a better person.”

The soccer post-season begins February 1 and the Gators are expected to earn a high-seed and at least one home game. For more information, or if you have any questions, you can contact Coach Garcia at adrian.garcia@apsb.org.



Senior Brayden Thrower punts the ball for a goalkick
PHOTOS COURTESY OF STA YEARBOOK STAFF



Senior Kaleb Wilkins looks to maintain control while senior Micah Cretini advances upfield.