The Gata Data

ST. AMANT HIGH SCHOOL ● 12035 HIGHWAY 431, ST. AMANT, LA 70774 ● APRIL 2024

St. Amant Choir and Band both perform in New York

BY: MARIA MELLAD, MICHAEL MUMPHREY

Gata Data Reporter

Last Month, St. Amant's Choir and Band programs headed to New York City with the help of the WorldStrides travel company to perform at one of the most prestigious American theaters: Carnegie Hall. Although both trips possessed many similarities in their itineraries and company sponsors, there were also a few notable differences between the experiences.

The St.Amant Choir was the first to head to the Big Apple for their Carnegie Hall concert on March 24 with the National Youth Choir, conducted by revered college clinician Andre Thomas. Preparations for the trip, according to choir director Sara Bray, were very difficult. "When you're working with an outside of school company, you're at their behest. It was tricky sometimes, trying to coordinate everything with a team that is based in New York while we're here in Louisiana," stated Bray, "There's just alot of things that go into place to make opportunities like this happen, but it is pretty cool that they make it happen for students all over the world."

When the traveler's were not rehearsing the concert pieces in the Wyndahm New Yorker Hotel's Ballroom, they were exploring the city, going on dinner cruises, visiting broadway shows, and even viewing famous monuments like the Statue of Liberty. The night of the performance was a special one for all of the travellers, including Bray, who sat in the audience and watched. "It was very emotional for me. I was so proud to see what my kids were capable of doing with their amazing director, and the music was so stunning. I definitely shed some tears.(?)" Bray reflected. She also noted that the trip was originally scheduled for March 2020, right when the COVID-19 pandemic hit, adding to the emotion."I feel like it's been a long time coming, so it is a lot of emotions all at once, just to see that we finally did it." Just as the experience stuck with Bray, singing at the world's most prestigious stage also resonated and stuck with the other 20 choir members who travelled as well.

Senior Kendall Woods stated that "Performing at Carnegie Hall was so incredibly special. To get to sing by people you do not know but are united by one common thing:music! It was a beautiful opportunity that turned into a beautiful memory that I will never forget!"Similarly, sophomore Maylin Babin stated "Carnegie Hall was so beautiful and I cannot believe that I sang in one of the most famous stages in our country next to some of my favorite people in the world. When asked how she thought the experience will affect the future of the choir program at STA, Bray disclosed, "It is amazing what kind of opportunities we are able to pursue here at St.Amant. I work very hard to try and find the best things for my kids. Our program has such a high standard of excellence that I am excited to put my kids out there and explore what they can do.

Early on March 27, 2024, the St. Amant Band left the Louis Armstrong International Airport in New Orleans, to travel across the United States to play in Carnegie Hall. Carnegie Hall is one of the most prestigious concert halls in the world. It has set a level of excellence when it comes to performers. It has held a wide variety of impressive performances from famous composers such as Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky to famous bands such as the Beatles, to now hosting the St. Amant Band.

Since the start of this school year, the rehearsals for their trip have begun. Senior, Keiffer Clouatre states "We have been rehearsing this music since January and some us since November". The day before the performance, the band rehearsed to prepare for their performance that Friday. Though they got to New York, the band still had a few unpredictable issues. Senior Katie Williamson states, "There was also some impromptu instrument repairs, as a few of us has our instruments get messed up on the flight." Even with this set back the band was still able to power through and perform.

On the morning of their performance, the students were allowed to explore and then meet back up at their hotel later that night. They took busses from the hotel to Carnegie Hall. Katie Williamson describes the feelings she felt before the concert she states " It was a very weird feeling, warming up and seeing a t.v. on with another band performing while we were in a room that felt like it was in a different zip code than where we were about to play." During the concert they performed, Mother Earth by David Maslanka, Funeral March by Edvard Grieg, Mambo (from West Side Story) by Leonard Bernstein and arranged by Micheal Sweeney, and Ghosts of the Old Year by James M. David.

When asked about the experience Senior Elijah Elliot stated, "Performing in Carnegie Hall is a tremendous privilege for professional musicians, so for high schoolers to be invited there was such a huge honor. Being invited to this was a fun and rewarding experience for all of us. I'm sure I can speak

for everyone in the Wind Symphony when I say that the work we put in really paid off, and we wouldn't go back and change one thing about what we did. It was very rewarding to perform there and it's something we'll remember for the rest of our lives." Senior Marguerite Lobell stated "Perfoming at Carnegie Hall was an amazing experience that not many musicians let alone tenagers get to do. With the first chord that we played our eyes were open and our mouth were left gaping it was just so, breathtaking. To be in such an important place is just an experience like no other."

Performing at such a prestigious and important place such as Carnegie Hall is an incredible achievement. What is even more impressive is that both the St. Amant High Choir and Band had the opportunity to be invited to perform at such a prestigious and globally known concert hall.

The Tight-Knit Community Behind St. Amant Baseball

BY: GABBY BOQUET

Gata Data Reporter

The success of the St. Amant High School Baseball team isn't just measured by wins and losses on the field; it's also a testament to the unwavering support and dedication of the tight-knit community that surrounds the program.

From coaches and players to parents and fans, everyone plays a vital role in creating an environment where the team can thrive. At the heart of the community are the coaches, who selflessly dedicated countless hours to mentoring and guiding the players. Despite the sacrifices they make by taking time away from their families, these coaches are always there, rain or shine, to support and encourage their team.Equally deserving of recognition are the players themselves, who attend practices and games with unwavering commitment and determination. Their hard work and dedication, both on and off the field, are the driving forces behind the team's success.

But the support doesn't stop there. Parents like Tyson"fatt" Roddy go above and beyond, ensuring that fans are well-fed with delicious jambalaya and Pastalya at most games. Meanwhile, other parents tirelessly work the gate and concession stand, ensuring that everything runs smoothly and that everyone feels welcome.

Behind the scenes, individuals like Chuck Sheets, Chase Melancon, and Kasey Ford play crucial roles in keeping the team connected and engaged. Whether it's running Duckroost or streaming away games for fans unable to attend, their efforts help bring the community together, even when miles apart.And let's not forget the photographers, like Amy Roddy and Michelle Molea, who capture the moments that make up the heart and soul of St. Amant Baseball. Their photographs serve as lasting memories of the team's journey, preserving the friendships and spirit of the community for years to come.In the end, it's the collective effort and unwavering support of the entire

St. Amant Baseball community that truly sets the team apart. From coaches and players to parents and fans, each member plays a vital role in shaping the team's identity and ensuring its continued success both on and off the field.

St. Amant's Power-Hitting Catcher Bound for BRCC

BY: GABBY BOQUET
Gata Data Reporter

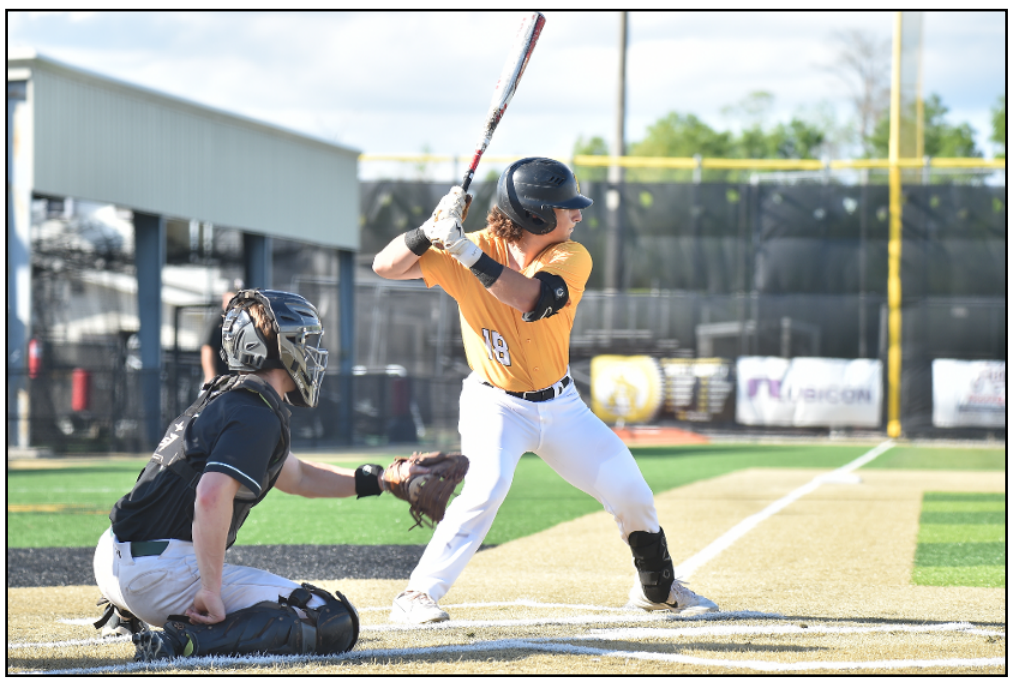
Trent Laporte, the starting varsity catcher for St. Amant High School's baseball team, is making waves both on the field and off. With his recent commitment to Baton Rouge Community College (BRCC), Trent's future in baseball is looking brighter than ever. As a dynamic player known for his power at the plate, Trent's journey to success has been marked by determination, hard work, and a touch of superstition.

Standing at 5'5" and weighing 170 pounds, Trent may not have the build of your typical power hitter, but his mindset when he steps up to the plate is clear: hit the ball far. And hit it far he does. Trent's fourth home run of the season is a testament to his ability to drive the ball deep into the outfield, thrilling both fans and teammates alike.

What sets Trent apart is not just his natural talent but also his dedication to improving his skills. Recognizing the importance of strength in baseball, Trent began hitting the weights, determined to build the muscle necessary to send balls soaring over the fence. His commitment to strength training has paid off, evident in his impressive power at the plate.

However, Trent's success isn't just about physical prowess; it's also about mindset and routine. Known to be superstitious, Trent has a quirky pre-game ritual: wearing the same underwear for three out of his four home runs. While some may find this ritual unusual, for Trent, it's become a source of comfort and confidence, a way to mentally prepare himself for success on the field.

As Trent continues to excel both as a player and a student-athlete, his commitment to BRCC marks the next step in his baseball journey. With his combination of skill, determination, and a touch of superstition, Trent Laporte is poised to make a significant impact both at St. Amant High School and beyond. As he looks ahead to his future at BRCC, one thing is certain: Trent's power-hitting will continue to impress and inspire those around him.



NJROTC

Similar to many St. Amant programs, the NJROTC traveled during the spring. The NJROTC programs took a trip to Washington D.C. and they were there for 6 days and 5 nights. This trip for the juniors and seniors was used to help them “bond and become closer as a unit,” said by Senior Ella Templet. During this trip, they visited a total of 42 monuments, museums, and other attractions. “We had a great time being around our peers and subordinates,” said Nile Yocke. While in DC the students visited the White House, Naval Academy, Capital Building, Arlington National Cemetery, and more interesting places.

ALL PHOTOS COURTESY OF
ST. AMANT NJROTC

St. Amant Softball team hits it out of the park

BY: PARIS GOMEZ
Gata Data Reporter

Monday March 8, St. Amant Softball team celebrated its six seniors Gracie Bercegeay, Makinzey Elisar, Samantha Landaiche, Mary Beth Zeller, Emmaleigh Theriot & Alix Franklin. This with the combined win over Country Day with a score of 15-0.

To start off the game, St Amant got on the board with Franklin leading off and landing on third, with Makinzey Elisar driving in after. In the second inning, Elisar tripled, the bases loaded, and then ran in on an error, getting a total of four runs. In the fourth, Zeller and Kinley Meche got in with multiple hits and Sam Landaiche followed with another one to bring in one. Then with a double by Theriot followed by a second home run by Olivia Johnson St Amant, picked up two more.

Some more highlights of the game include Braylee Decoteau throwing a no-hitter shutout while also striking out 11 batters. That combined with Olivia Johnson getting two run home runs, added to a spectacular game.

Although being in the lead for the majority of the game, last Tuesday, March 9 St. Amant lost to John Curts, despite it being the last game of the regular season. The game started off well with Franklin getting the first run with a solo home run.

In the third, Kinley Meche singled, scoring two runs with Bailey Ducote doubling to score.

St Amant added three more runs towards the end of the fourth. One was scored on an error and the other two came when Zeller scored with a homerun. However, St. Amant lost the lead and were down 7-11 going into the bottom of the sixth.

However, there remains postseason promise for the Lady Gators as St. Amant earned a first-round bye for the playoffs, pushing them to the second round where they will face the winner of the matchup between Central-B.R. and Mandeville. The Lady Gators will use this break to their advantage as they push through the Division I bracket.

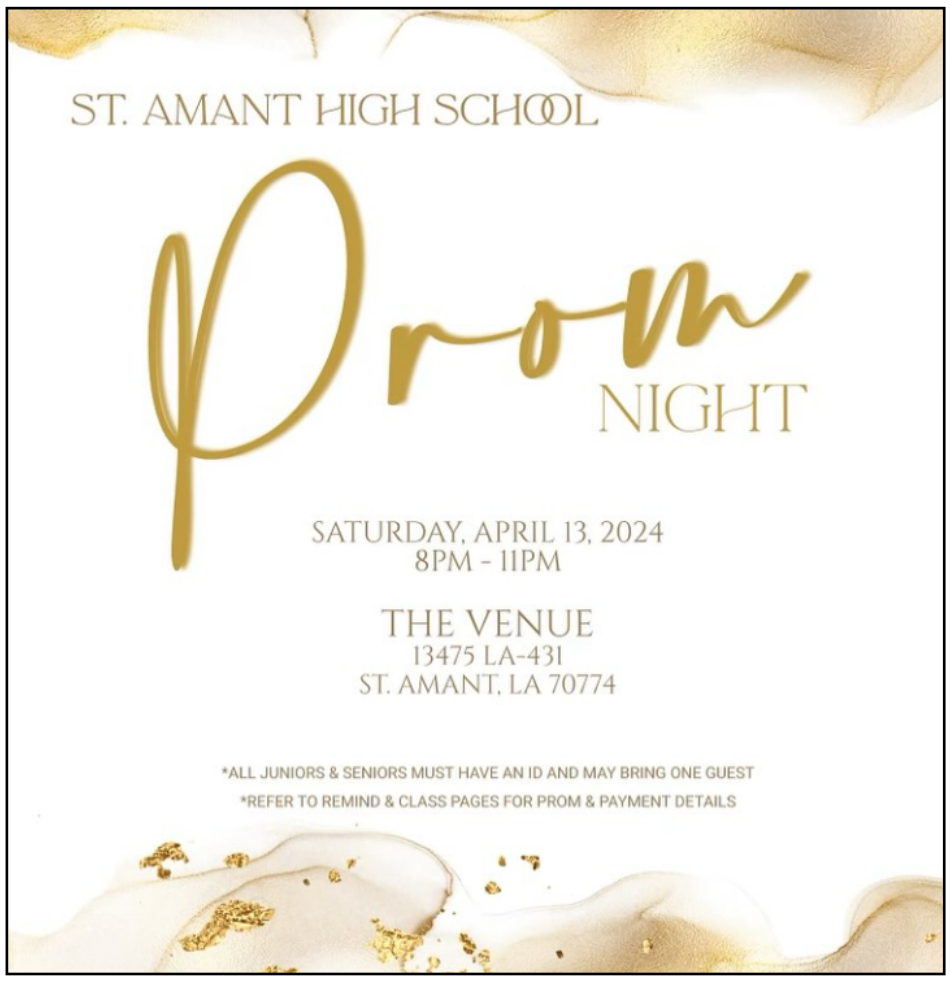
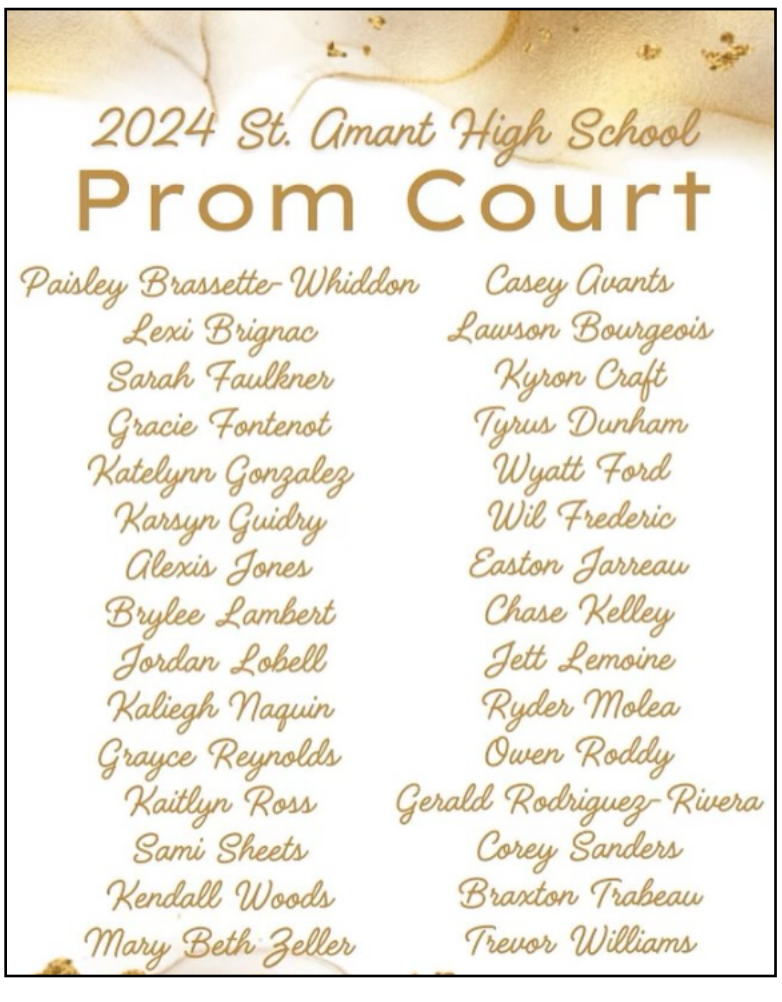
The case against fast fashion

BY: PARIS GOMEZ
Gata Data Reporter

With sites such as Temu and Shein rising, fast fashion gets pushed more and more toward the mainstream. Fast fashion can be defined as inexpensive clothing being produced rapidly in response to the latest trends. This push is motivated by special media trends with “aesthetic” fashion and trends. Websites such as these can pump out, inexpensively at that, more and more clothes to stay relevant. The cheap production and purchasing of these clothes allow the heads of these corporations to stay at the top, make money, and maintain trends.

For starters, these sites commonly use unethical ways to make these clothes. One of these unethical ways is the use of child labor. The UN defines child labor as, “work for which the child is either too young or work carried out to the detriment and endangerment of a child.” (United Nations, 2021). These children are viewed by contractors and large corporations as a cheap 'business opportunity. They can underpay kids from lower-income families and countries. One of the ways they get away with this is due to the fact that these children are in fact, kids. They are naturally vulnerable and innocent of what they are participating in. So of course they would go along with it, unknowingly being robbed of their childhood and being directly put in harm's way. Another way these companies usually get away with this unethical practice is consumers not being able to track where their products are made because of the complexity built within these corporations. If their practices aren't pushed into being common knowledge, corporations can easily get by with doing this.

Another thing that is not considered however is the environmental impact that is brought on by the production and shipping of fast fashion. A study and analysis done by Business Insider shows that fashion production amounts to 10% of total global carbon emissions. This percentage of emissions is expected to skyrocket by 2030 to around 60% of total carbon emissions. Some other environmental impacts are the drying up and pollution of rivers and streams. Since the clothes are so cheaply made, even the washing of fast fashion products harms the environment. Around 500,000 tons of microfibers pollute water every year. This is equivalent to 50 billion plastic bottles. More harm is being done by fast fashion to the environment as the land slowly becomes more and more broken down.

As fast fashion clothes that are made with cheap plastic-based products, they degrade quickly and are thrown to waste. Not just that but this waste is also dumped in countries. A prime example of one of these dumping countries is Africa. They have piles upon piles of poor-quality textile fabric dumped on their shores and sit there. Another thing to consider is plastic is not biodegradable, so these clothes are constantly sitting there and are unable to be put to use or moved. Not only does this degrade the land found in Africa, but it adds to the social injustice perpetrated by larger corporations in Africa as a whole.

Some might say that it would be easier for cheaper clothes to be brought from fast fashion sites However this might be true if it wasn't for the fact that these prices are constantly rising due to the existence of ‘hauls.’ Often for the sake of a trend, Influencers with the money to waste buy from Shein and Temu in bulk, often spending around 300 to 600 dollars. This is viewed as a way for these corporations to monopolize their cheap labor and get more profit.