



# The Gata Data

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

## The new 2024 prom royalty

On Saturday, April 13, 2024 Seniors Kaitlyn Ross and Gerald Rodriguez-Rivera were crowned prom royalty. This year's prom did not have a theme, however its gold and white decorations were nothing short of amazing. Each year prom is a time when students get to dress to impress and have fun with their friends while also celebrating the end of the school year.

When asked about how he felt at the time of being crowned, Rodriguez-Rivera stated, "In the moment it kinda took me some time to process everything but I was so ecstatic, the crowd cheering for me and everyone congratulating me

was very special." When asked about the experience Ross stated, "I was very shocked and excited at the same time. It's a really cool experience and I'm very grateful for it. Like you had to be in the moment to experience it. It was just unexplainable." She then continued, "I'm so glad that this happened. I'm just so grateful for this experience, and I want to thank the student body for allowing me to experience it and them for being my best friends and giving me these memories that are going to be unforgettable in the future."



## School Spirit

BY: EVIE FORSYTH, XYAN DOBARD

Gata Data Reporters

St. Amant's school spirit is something to be prideful about and should be embraced by the student body. Various ideas and feedback were given to the Gata Data about what they feel should be done to improve the school spirit of St. Amant in the following years. Many people love to go to the football games and support their team by cheering them on, bringing flashy signs and starting loud chants. But there has been room for improvement in certain aspects of the overall game day experience. For example, senior Ja'kya Thomas stated that her favorite school events to attend are football games, but feels that rather than the personnel picking members, there should be a sign-up process that considers what the student's history is regarding school spirit. Across the board, many other students feel that school spirit would be drastically improved if they were

given the freedom and opportunity to express themselves through themes that may not have been approved and continuing traditional activities from the past. Two freshmen, Coen Robert and Kane Templet want to have expressive themes and for Pit Crew to have the ability to force students to stand a yell at all games; the two students also want more school activities and pep rallies to continue school spirit throughout the year rather than just a few football games. Although the lack of pep rallies is a reason for poor school spirit at St. Amant High School, the school's large population is also to blame. However, with Prairieville being built, pep rallies should be a new way to express our spirit in and out of school, says Head of Gator Rally Mrs. Joleigh Hartman. Coach Jo also said she hopes to spark a bigger and better Pit Crew of up to 60 people with the ability to sign up. A larger pit crew will create groups of students to participate in multiple sports and activities at once. Although there are lots of ways to gain spirit back, it starts with the students.



## Students enjoy final farewell at Senior Sunset

BY: AVERY LAMBERT

Gata Data Reporter

On Friday April 19, St. Amant High held its senior sunset. All 2024 seniors were invited to The Pit to celebrate the bittersweet ending of their time in high school as graduation is quickly approaching. The gates opened for seniors at 6:30 and there were many games and other activities for seniors who participated. Altogether, the experience was memorable and provided a new bonding experience for seniors before the day of graduation.







# Senior Cadence Cagnolatti strikes again

BY: DANIELLE DARVILLE  
Gata Data Reporter

On April 5, Senior Cadence Cagnolatti clinched the LHSAA Girls Bowling singles Championship. This victory marked Cagnolatti’s second time winning the state championship, with her first win occurring during her sophomore year. Despite facing hardships, ups and downs, Cagnolatti remained focused on her goal and emerged triumphant. She says, “I’ve

been bowling for a really long time and kind of started to get defeated junior year, so coming back and winning a state title was really important to me”. Reflecting on winning state for the second time, Cagnolatti expressed gratitude towards her coaches, “He’s been my coach for 11 years, I’ve never really worked in depth with anybody else, so

it’s definitely all owed to him.” Cagnolatti offered words of encouragement. “It happens, not every day is your day and some things may not fall into place. Take advantage of it when it does happen but if it doesn't, don't get discouraged.” Cagnolatti emphasized.

# Rayne Steely proves women can achieve anything

BY: REBECCA CRESIE  
Gata Data Reporter

Saint Amant High School is buzzing with excitement as junior Ravne Steely made history by becoming the first girl on the girls wrestling team to win the state championship. Ravne's journey to this achievement was one filled with dedication, passion, and the unwavering support of her friends, family, and coach. Clinton Brownell.

Ravne, a dedicated student at St. Amant High School, has always had a knack for athletics. Her interest in wrestling sparked from her background in martial arts, where she developed skills

and discipline that laid the foundation for her success on the wrestling mat. Despite being one of the few girls in a predominantly male-dominated sport, Ravne never let gender barriers deter her from pursuing her passion. Coach Clinton Brownell, himself no stranger to breaking gender stereotypes in sports as a male cheerleader, played a crucial role in Ravne's journey. Despite initial skepticism from some people, Coach Brownell saw Ravne's potential and provided her with the guidance, support, and training necessary to excel in

the sport. For Ravne, wrestling isn't just about winning matches: it's about camaraderie and a sense of belonging. She views her teammates as family and draws strength from their support both on and off the mat.

Throughout her time on the team, Ravne faced formidable opponents, both male and female, but she never backed down from a challenge. Her motivation and resilience were on full display during the state championship match, where she emerged victorious.

Ravne's historic win has not

only shattered stereotypes but may also inspire countless aspiring female wrestlers to pursue their dreams fearlessly. She hopes to continue blazing a trail for future generations of female athletes and prove that gender is no barrier to success in sports. As she looks ahead to her senior year, Ravne remains focused on honing her skills and achieving even greater heights in the sport she loves. With her unbreakable spirit and unwavering determination, there's no doubt that Ravne Steely's journey is far from over.



Many of St. Amant’s school programs took trips in the spring, with NJROTC being one of them. This trip for the juniors and seniors was used to help them “bond and become closer as a unit,” as said by junior Ella Templet. The NJROTC programs took a trip to Washington D.C. and they were there for six days and five nights. 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 other interesting places.

ALL PHOTOS COURTESY OF ST. AMANT NJROTC PROGRAM.





# 2023-2024 STUDENT LIFE AT A GLANCE





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# St. Amant’s mental health dilemma: Can we do more?

BY: MICHAEL MUMPHREY  
Gata Data Reporter

There’s no sugarcoating it: being a teenager is not easy. One must balance the intense workload of high school, learning how to drive a car and a job while also discovering who you are and what you want to be. Along with that, one must deal with societal pressures and the insecurities that come along with them. All of this can lead to experiencing a deterioration in mental health. As a matter of fact, one in six youths have a mental health condition such as anxiety or depression according to the National Association of Mental Illnesses. While schools already have many programs and services for students, all members of campus life can do much more to cultivate an environment where students can be more open about their issues.

While it may not seem like a big deal now, good mental health is vital to an adolescent’s performance in their daily lives. According to the CDC, poor mental health can snowball into poor physical health, including “...increased risk of drug use, experiencing violence, and higher risk sexual behaviors that can lead to HIV, STDs, and unintended pregnancy.” These problems add

salt to the wound because physical problems can increase anxious feelings through added stress about one’s health, which can result in an increase in depression in response to the increase in negative thoughts. This can make one’s life even worse and could even lead to self-inflicted physical harm.

This is a very lofty problem. Students attend high school in hopes of gaining knowledge and wisdom about the world around them. It is supposed to be a space of intellectual, personal and creative growth, yet it seems that the average student at our school feels differently. Despite the countless programs that are offered at St. Amant, a survey I conducted recently shows that only 27.2% of the student body feels that their mental health is a priority. 17% feel comfortable talking to teachers about their mental health, and only 8.6% of students could honestly say that they felt happy being at school.

The student mental health crisis has been a growing problem, especially since the dusk of the COVID-19 Pandemic, which school counselor Natali Aucoin thinks caused a “gap in communication.” “The

miscommunication and misunderstanding of what people are saying causes some students to take things the wrong way. They don’t know how to approach someone calmly to discuss what the issue is without getting angry, upset, or offended.” Luckily, the school is working to fix this issue by encouraging teachers to get involved in students’ mental health. “We do encourage teachers to see the students in their classrooms and if they’re dealing with anything,” stated Aucoin. “They are very good at informing us (the counselors)...our teachers are very good, too, at taking kids under their wing, watching out for them, and making sure they are okay as well.”

This isn’t enough, however, because no matter how much teachers are willing to help students, many things need to be taken into consideration. The students may not trust the teacher or they may just flat out not want their help. This may not always be the case. I am willing to talk to my teachers whenever I have a problem that I feel I can’t solve alone because I know my teachers care about me, but I also know that everyone goes through different things and may not be as

willing to talk to an adult due to their experiences. I feel like what I would say is that the teachers, although they have a callous attitude some days, always care about the students and will always consider their well being, regardless of what they’re doing. If students feel uncomfortable talking to a teacher, students can scan a QR code on a yellow poster that leads to a Google Form that allows them to schedule an appointment with the counselor. Students can also aid one another, as they’re more likely to understand each other and relate to their issues.

In conclusion, we need to encourage each other to communicate more. Whether it be with a teacher, a peer or a counselor, communication is vital for the average human being to gain knowledge or read a room. Being there for someone can make a difference in one’s life, and may be the only thing standing between them and a full-out breakdown, or worse. This should cause the Mental Health crisis to experience a significant deterrence, and hopefully improve life inside and outside of campus.

BY: PARIS GOMEZ  
Gata Data Reporter

# The case against fast fashion

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 social 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 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 that just sits 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 ‘huals.’ 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.

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# ACADEMICS

## Career Coaches help students by providing guidance for their next steps

BY: NEVAEH HANCOCK  
Gata Data Reporter

As students progress through high school and look into their futures, many seek guidance when wondering about their futures. Career Coaches are there to help students figure out what they want to do when they get out of high school, progressing onto college, or helping to figure out life outside of school. Additionally, they give students career assessments to help students find careers that

they may be best suited for. Career coaches help students get certifications, Mrs. Bucci committed “Say you have a certification in drafting. You know if that company requires a draft or you can say, well, I'm certified, they might hire you over somebody who doesn't.” Individual graduation plans, scholarships, college applications, and information on local and national scholarships are other ways that

career coaches help students. At St. Amant High School there are three Career Coaches, Carla Hollifield, Kim Aucoin, and Christi Bucci, they are located in room 607 in the Math Building. Ms. Christy Bucci said, “We help you with anything for life after high school and how to get there. That's our main goal”.

## CMA vs. PCT

BY: AVERY LAMBERT  
Gata Data Reporter

Many students at STA are unaware of the differences between Clinical Medical Assistant (CMA) and Patient Care Tech (PCT). Though these classes both deal with the medical field, they involve contrasting practices.

Mrs. Ashli Starkey, the CMA instructor, describes the experience in the classroom by saying, “We learn key skills and concepts that prepare the students to take the national CCMA (Certified Clinical Medical Assistant) exam in the Spring.” Starkev adds, “The skills and concepts are related to assisting a medical provider in a clinical setting, such as a doctor's office or urgent care.” Some of the typical skills for students taking CMA include taking a patient's history, obtaining weight & height, vital signs, administering medications & injections, CLIA-waived tests (such as flu/strep swabs and urine tests), collection of blood (phlebotomy), removing sutures and staples, assisting with minor surgeries, and more.

PCT is the abbreviation for "Patient Care Technician," which is STA's other

medical class. A PCT typically works in a hospital setting and performs patient care skills similar to a nursing assistant (CNA). However, a PCT also performs Phlebotomy & ECGs. Some of the other PCT skills include changing a patient and their bed, assisting patients with bathing and toileting, obtaining vital signs and assisting the nursing staff with tasks.

Both classes and certifications are incredibly beneficial to any student seeking any career in the medical or healthcare field. Both classes prepare students for a certification and a job. They are both also "full year" two-semester courses. However, they are not the same. The PCT class accepts Juniors and Seniors, while the CMA class only accepts Seniors. The PCT class and skills are focused more on hospital based nursing assistant skills, while the CMA class and skills are focused more on clinic (physician office/urgent care) medical assistant skills. The PCT clinical experiences usually take place in hospitals and assisted living facilities, while the CMA students go to family, walk-in,

primary care and other specialty clinics. The CMA content is also longer, and the certification is considered an "Advanced" certification. If anyone plans on taking these courses, students should have a 2.0 GPA, excellent attendance, no disciplinary issues, positive references from teachers, and they must have their own transportation to and from clinical sites as there are no buses currently provided.

Starkev mentions, “If your schedule allows, it would be highly advisable to take PCT as a junior and then CMA as a senior. You do not have to be in Allied Health to take these classes, though it is recommended. They are open to ALL students from SAHS, DTHS, EAHS, & PVHS. You will get to share the classroom and experiences with students from all four schools.”

For more information regarding CMA, students can email [ashli.starkev@apsb.org](mailto:ashli.starkev@apsb.org). For more information regarding PCT, students can email [amy.palacios@apsb.org](mailto:amy.palacios@apsb.org).







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# The Black History Club ends Black History Month with their annual program

BY: MARIA MELLAD, PARIS GOMEZ  
Gata Data Reporter

Last year, St. Amant High School was one of the few select 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, had the opportunity to teach it again.

“First of all, it's my first AP course that I ever taught,” Reed says 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.” He adds. 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 we students at my college,that I never learned about while I was there, 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?” Even again Reed has dug deeper into the curriculum hes teaching this semester again, “So, personally, for me, just really diving deeper into all of the curriculum again, going through it, and, you know, it always leads me to research as I'm teaching, and I'm getting to learn so much more. Like, it's motivating me to learn more, if not anything else.”

Reed further promotes his students to follow the same course he has, prompting everyone to learn more of what he's teaching. “I'm hoping that some of that rubs off on the students, because I'm always telling them, hey, this was in the essential knowledge. This is what I'm supposed to be teaching y'all.”

Turnout wise, this year has exceeded his expectations. “Compared to last year, the course, the class load has doubled as far as students goes, so that's been awesome. He touches on the benefits of diversity within the classroom and the good that comes from such. “The diversity in the classroom has really made it even more fun having so many people from so many different perspectives. Last year, there was some, but not nearly as much as this year. And that has allowed us all to grow. I think every student would agree with that, that that's made it better instead of just, like, one group of kids and being in the room.”

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. Natalie Wainwright, a previous student adds onto this by saying, “I've had people tell me not to take this class because there was nothing to learn’. That statement in itself just proves why this course needs to be more accessible. The amount of accomplishments and advancements made by Black communities can be completely overlooked in required classes. People have said many times in history that ‘Africans made no worthwhile advancements’ but that's blatantly incorrect and why more people should take this course.” This incorrect ideology she brings up is harmful to the education of students in general, causing more harm than good.“It's a course that builds on the rest of the social studies curriculum,” Reed says. He adds, “Also, it's a perspective of school that's not really taught, promoted, or you just won't get it anywhere else in school.”

Students also are appreciative of what they've learned. Kylan Miano, a recent student from this semester, says, “It [Ap African American Studies] can teach you to open your eyes and mind to look into the past of stereotypes and how major political leaders such as Martin

Luther, Booker T. Washington, and even W.E.B Dubois had such an impact on the economical and social state of African Americans.”

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 resistance. “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.” Tori Brooks, another previous student, also adds to this conversation, saying, “This course is crucial to the African American population because many black kids, and black adults are unaware of their history. This course educates all people on the upbringing of the African Diaspora and African American people, on their fight to freedom throughout the centuries.”

Wainwright furthers this shared mindset the class promotes, saying, “This class is based on the idea of 'reframing misconceptions of the African diaspora'. Coach Reed shared with us a speech by Henry Louis Gates Jr. during the commemoration of this course two years ago. He talks about the importance of sharing the true history of African Americans in the United States, and how this course will change opportunities in public education. It's something that's been fought for for years and finally has paid off.” This fight she has brought up is crucial to the knowledge obtained from the course in itself. It's one of the many topics covered in the class itself.

Reed recommends anyone to take this course, “The average feedback is that they learn more in this class than any other class that they've ever taken in their lives,” Reed says 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. So I think that was just the student's reaction to the course is probably the thing that was the most rewarding to it.”

However Reed also highlights that the course is still advanced. “But other than that, it's still a grind. You know, I think that's one part of it that most people should know that it's still an AP course. And the grind that comes with that is for real. But, you know, it presents challenging challenges of time management because of the workload that comes along with it for both teacher and student, so.” The challenge that comes with it however is worth it.

Brooks gives further insight into the class. “This class gives kids a chance to have their own judgment based on real life facts and events, and not just orally passed down stories from their parents. Students are able to realize that all black people did not come from a place that had no food, clothes, nor shelter. There were Kings and Queens of Africa, such as Queen Amina of Zazzau, and Mansa Musa of Mali. I encourage people to take this class, and spread the word of the truth behind African American History.” Wainwright includes how comfortable the class is with saying, “5.This class is not just a great investment for your education, but it's genuinely an enjoyable course. Coach Reed is an amazing teacher who genuinely knows and is passionate about what he teaches. I've been very comfortable in this class and with the people in it. ”





# ACTIVITIES

## St. Amant Choir and Band both perform in New York at Carnegie Hall

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. 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 had 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 “Performing 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. It 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 Black History Club ends Black History Month with their annual program

BY: MARIA MELLAD

Gata Data Reporter

This year the Black History Club hosted their annual Black History Month Program to mark the end of Black History Month. The program included a wide variety of singers, dancers, poets, and other performers. The program was wildly successful with over 80 guests in attendance.

One of the club sponsors, Malcolm Reed stated “It just feels good to have students who are looking forward to doing it and getting involved. That’s probably the thing that excites me the most.” Having previously done it at Mckinley High for multiple years, Reed helped bring the program back to St Amant for the second time. “Bringing it here it was something that made me proud to introduce it to St Amant.” Reed says.

“It's always exciting. When there isn't one I feel like I've been cheated.” Reed says on the topic of the importance of having a Black History Month program. “That happened at Mckinley a few times, I was like ‘What no Black History Month Program? I have to do something about that.’”

“Edutainment. Educational Entertainment. Making learning fun, making it an interactive experience.” Reed says when asked about the importance of black history month and the program as a whole. “Learning is fun, it should be fun. Entertainment is fun but it should come with a message.”

This year the program included the club's very own, senior Ashley Zelaya who performed the song Walk On By by Dionne Warwick. When asked about the experience she stated “performing on that stage was honestly a moment I’ll never forget, I honest am so glad I found the courage to sing”. We later asked Zelaya why she believed that this program was so important, she explained that it

“is important because what most are taught is whitewashed history, and when people look at black history they just see slavery. They think, this is just a thing that happened to them, but there are so many contributions that black people have made throughout history and many do not know about them really that’s why joining the black history club and having not only a program but a whole month dedicated to that is so important. ” she continued “ I mean we have whole genres of music” which coincidentally is what the program is dedicated to this year, “ and many black people are the reasons for those contributions.”

The amount of people showing up for the club's program only added to its powerful message of promoting the arts. Fresno Swindle, the clubs (insert fresnos position) says, “This being the second year that we put on the event, so many people showing up was incredibly meaningful.” Fresno explains. “This year I feel like the amount of people that came just really shows how much the community cares about what we're doing.”

“It's important for us to have a program dedicated to black history because on campus we don't focus on black culture, black lives, just our black students.” Fresno says. “I feel like it's important to give a specific opportunity for the people on campus to have attention brought to them.” This highlights one of the program's goals which was achieved, by highlighting the students who wish to showcase their love for Black History as a whole

“I think that everybody should learn about black history, it's just history.” Fresno says. “Everybody should have a well rounded history education.”





# Senior high school baseball stars pursuing the next level

BY: GABBY BOQUET  
Gata Data Reporter



Wyatt Ford

Wyatt Ford, a standout talent at St. Amant High School is making waves both on the baseball diamond and in the classroom. With a formidable batting average of .356, he's proven his prowess at the plate. On the pitcher's mound, Wyatt showcases his power with a top-speed pitch of 90 mph, consistently delivering at an average speed of 86 mph. Standing tall at 6'2" and weighing in at 180 pounds, he commands attention with his imposing presence. A versatile player, Wyatt's skills extend beyond pitching, as he adeptly patrols the outfield. His journey at Nicholls State is a testament to his commitment to both athletic excellence and academic achievement, defining him as a promising force in collegiate baseball.



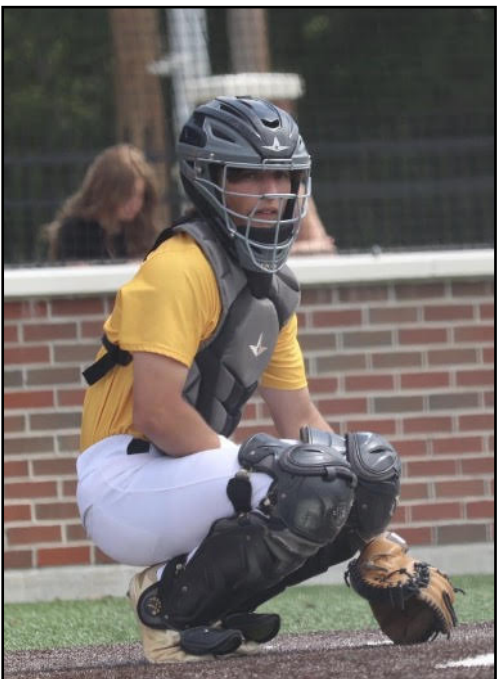
Ryder Molea

Ryder Molea, a rising talent from St. Amant High School, has set his sights on new horizons at Hinds Community College, both on the baseball field and in the academic realm. As a shortstop, Ryder brings a blend of agility and precision to the game, anchoring the infield with his defensive prowess. Sporting a batting average of .252, he demonstrates his capability to contribute not only defensively but also at the plate. Weighing in at 165 pounds and standing at 6 feet tall, Ryder combines speed and skill to make an impact on the diamond. His journey at Hinds Community College represents a crucial chapter in his pursuit of excellence, as he continues to hone his baseball talents and academic pursuits beyond the confines of St. Amant High School.



Layne Swanson

Layne Swanson, transitioning from the success of his high school baseball career, is now going to make strides at Baton Rouge Community College to further his athletic and academic pursuits. Standing at 5'8" and weighing 160 pounds, Layne's versatility as both a pitcher and outfielder is evident on the field. With a notable batting average of .286, he proves his aptitude at the plate, contributing to his team's offensive strength. On the mound, Layne showcases a top pitching speed of 82 mph, consistently delivering at an average speed of 80 mph. This dynamic combination of skills underscores Layne's commitment to excel in various aspects of the game, defining his presence as a valuable asset to Baton Rouge Community College's baseball program.



Trent LaPorte

Trent LaPorte, emerging from the baseball legacy of St. Amant High School, has embarked on a new chapter at Baton Rouge Community College, eager to elevate both his athletic and academic journey. Despite standing at 5'5", Trent's impact on the field as a catcher is nothing short of remarkable. Weighing in at 170 pounds, he embodies resilience and strength behind the plate. With a batting average of .250, Trent brings his offensive talent to complement his defensive skills. Transitioning from high school to college is a significant step, and Trent's commitment to both the game and his studies at Baton Rouge Community College reflects his determination to continue evolving as a well-rounded student-athlete beyond the confines of St. Amant High School.



Chase Kelley

Chase Kelley, a rising star from St. Amant High School, is gearing up for an exciting new chapter in his baseball journey as he recently committed to playing for Baton Rouge Community College. Despite standing at 5'7" and weighing 160 pounds, Chase's impact on the field is anything but small. With a batting average of .350, he consistently delivers at the plate, showcasing his ability to connect with the ball and drive in runs for his team. But Chase isn't just an offensive threat; he's equally talented on the pitcher's mound, where his pitches consistently clock in at speeds ranging from 80 to 84 mph. His versatility and skill set make him a valuable asset to any team, and his commitment to Baton Rouge Community College signals the beginning of an exciting new chapter in his baseball career. As Chase prepares to join the BRCC baseball program, he carries with him a legacy of hard work, dedication, and a passion for the game. His journey from St. Amant High School to the collegiate level is a



Lawson Bourgeois

Lawson Bourgeois, a standout from St. Amant High School, is now going to carving his path at Nunez Community College, determined to continue his baseball journey while pursuing academic excellence. Standing tall at 6'2" and weighing 200 pounds, Lawson brings a formidable presence to the field as both a pitcher and first baseman. His impressive batting average of .300 speaks to his offensive capabilities, while on the mound, Lawson displays a top pitching speed of 89 mph, maintaining a consistent range of 85-86 mph. This two-way player exemplifies dedication and skill, showcasing his commitment to making an impact both on the diamond and in the classroom as he charts his course beyond St. Amant High School at Nunez Community College.



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# Get to know the new face in the cafeteria

BY: AVERY LAMBERT  
Gata Data Reporter

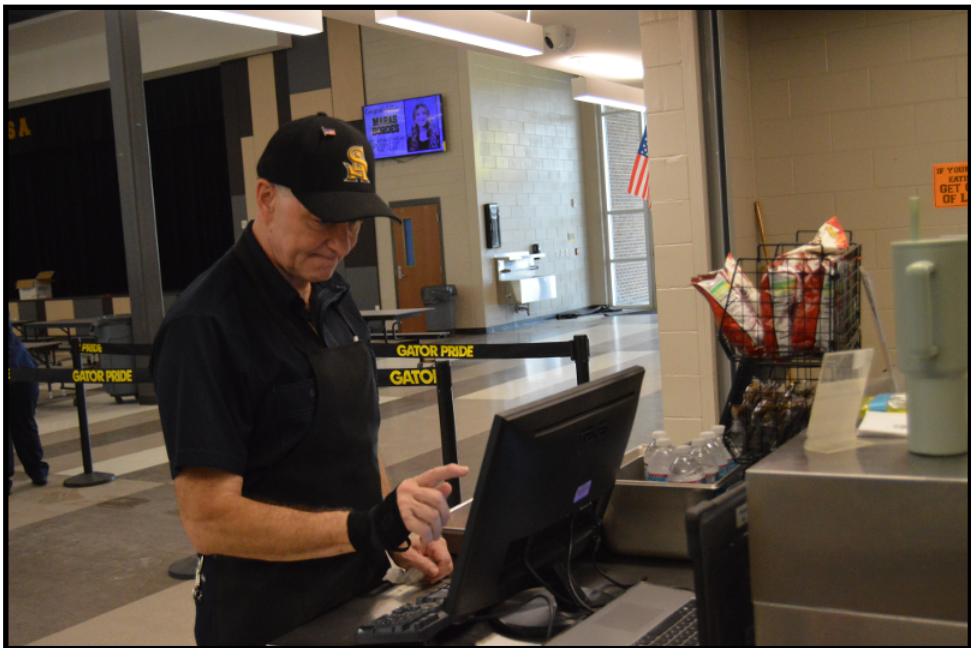
Lunch is something that many students at St. Amant look forward to every day, with some saying it's their favorite part of school. However, it's important to know the faces behind the food we eat every day. STA's lunch staff care deeply about their students and are known to do everything they can to make sure they get a good, nutritious meal.

Barry Alleman is one of these staff members. He began working for STA's lunch staff in September of 2023 and has been recognized by the student body for his altruistic personality and by his co-workers for always offering a helping hand in the cafeteria.

Alleman says his favorite part

about working for STA's lunch staff is by far the students. Alleman also says, "My daughter is a freshman here, so I feel like I can also watch over her."

On the outside, being a lunch staff member doesn't seem like too difficult of a job, but it's important to understand the extent that they go through to make sure students have a good lunch experience. Making and serving food plays a major role, but maintaining a clean and organized cafeteria is also critical. With over 2,000 students, this becomes a challenge. However, Alleman enjoys doing what he can to help keep the cafeteria clean.



# Digital Graphics and Multimedia

BY: PARIS GOMEZ  
Gata Data Reporter

Megan Trahan, the St. Amants teacher of Multimedia Productions and Digital Graphics offers insight into the world of graphic and digital design in an industrial environment. These classes are meant to give kids certifications in Adobe software and offer familiarity with possible requests and requirements of employers.

"In Digital Graphics students learn the different types of graphics used in industry," Trahan says. "We talk about typefaces, we talk about design elements, principles and elements of design, balance, all of those things that make the design aesthetically to look at." With this insight, kids are able to get a feel for design elements that are commonly preferred within career-based environments.

Trahan also teaches Multimedia Productions. "Multimedia is a video editing class where they students use Premiere Pro [video editing software]. They basically take video footage that they capture themselves, audio, graphic elements and put it together to create professional looking videos," says Trahan. Students also become familiar with the use of green screens, giving kids further insight into video editing. These same techniques can be carried into other classes such as GNN and Film & Television, both video editing-based courses.

Both classes work in Adobe-based software, giving students an opportunity to become familiar with professional software. Within the workforce, Adobe is commonly used by various companies. "Some of these kids will end up going into college or even straight into the industry with these certifications that they'll earn in my class." Trahan says in relation to what students can

obtain from the courses. These certifications are with Photoshop and Premiere Pro, and prove that a person is qualified to work and know both programs. "They earn those certifications, and it helps them employment in the future. It also helps them determine if it's a possible career for them."

Trahan plans her lessons based on what her students during the semester are into. "If I have a group of students who mostly are into anime, then I'll try to incorporate some animation into their lessons of their projects." Trahan had to say on the topic. This adds to the setting of the classroom, as it develops a sense of intimacy with the students and teacher. "I definitely want them to be able to use what's relevant to them and what's interesting to them to keep them engaged." She further promotes the expression of the students within the course. "It's very much a class where they get to express their individuality and their creativity."

She has a background in the graphic and digital designing process as well. "I love the content. That is my background, but I love to see them take what I love to do and love it also, and then maybe even find a career path in it." Trahan says. Students learning from a professional also gives them the best possible advice with the projects they do work on.

Trahan expresses her love for teaching what she teaches. She treats her students with the same love and care she has for her kids. "And then just getting to know my kids and having a relationship with them. I have several students who have poor relationships at home, so if I can provide that light for them 90 minutes a day, then that's what makes me

continue to do this job." Finding joy in seeing her students prosper, she has seen nothing but success from the students who end up loving her courses. "I've had several students who came in, who had no desire to even take the class, it just sounded fun. And now that's what they're doing for a living, is graphic design. So it's definitely rewarding.



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- \* Every 3 by 3 subsection of the 9 by 9 square must include all digits 1 through 9