



# The Gata Data

ST. AMANT HIGH SCHOOL • 12035 HIGHWAY 431, ST. AMANT, LA 70774 • ISSUE 2 • AUGUST 2024

## Gators establish foundation, build camaraderie in scrimmage

BY: JAYDEN PINO  
Gata Data Reporter

Last week's scrimmage against Archbishop Shaw allowed the St. Amant Gator football team an opportunity to establish the necessary foundation for success in the upcoming season. The team showed promise in their performance and displayed traits of something for fans to look forward to.

"There is alot to build on. I think we have the foundation of a pretty good football team if we continue to improve from here on," said Head Football Coach David Oliver. While scrimmages do not count toward a teams record, they are helpful opportunites that allow football teams to assess their strengths and weaknesses. Oliver adds, "Nobody ever defends you like your own team because they see it so much, so when you get out to play a fresh opponent who is not quite as used to playing against you then you can really assess what is good and what is bad with your team." Scrimmages allow players to experience the nuance of real play time without the pressure of winning or losing a real game. New players were able to get a feel for what will become their new norm and returning players were able to get back into the groove of playing the sport.

Oliver says that every year St Amant's football team loses "between twenty-five to and thirty-five seniors" many of which became valuable members of the team, but he thinks that "these guys are ready to step up." This year's team will need proper training, coaching and dedication to fill the shoes that last year's graduated seniors left behind. Oliver said, "every year it is kind of a challenge and is kind of difficult, and that is the fun of coaching for me." Last

week's scrimmage showed fans that the Gators are on the right track. This loss of seniors presents this year's players with an opportunity to make a name for themselves and St. Amant with the opportunity to evolve for better or for worse.

"Our defense played great. Tim Johnson made a bunch of plays in the air. Tyree Williams ran hard. There were a bunch of positives." Standout offensive performers were wide receiver Timothy Johnson and running back Tyree Williams. Johnson caught two touchdown passes, showcasing a key offensive threat. Defensive back Jarrad Brown performed well and broke up a pass near the sideline to prevent a Shaw score.

"Last year we had really good leaders and that provided a really good season for us, so I would like to carry that trait on," said senior running back Tyree Williams. The roles that these players will have to fill present the gators not only with a chance to improve their game play but a chance to improve their comradery.

"There are two types of education," said Oliver. "There is the type of education that you get in the classroom which teaches you how to make a living. It gives you the skills to go get a job and earn money for your family. Then there's this other type of education which is extracurricular activities, and football. I think that's the kind of education that teaches you how to live. It teaches you teamwork, it teaches you comradery, it teaches you togetherness and I think that is critical."

The Gators will have another chance to test their might before the start of the official football season this Friday, August 30, against Assumption at The Pit for the annual Jamboree. Be sure to be dressed in your best Western attire.



STAFF PHOTOS

## STA spends summer in Spain

BY: LAIHLAH GRANIER  
Gata Data Reporter

This past summer, St. Amant went on a trip to Spain, hosted by Jared Chabbarria, a Spanish teacher at St. Amant. The tour group consisted of 13 people, both students and adults, and they traveled through North Spain for nine days.

"I do these tours to bring students along with me to have them experience a foreign country, the atmosphere, the culture, the food, see the people going about their day and the sites," Chabbarria said. He also shares how Spain is an old country and several different things have happened there, making the culture interesting to see.

Mr. Chabbarria also commented on his favorite things in Spain. This year, they visited Toledo, Spain, which is south of Madrid. Kyle Porrazzo, a former St. Amant student agreed, saying that Toledo was an eye opener for him. "It's a really neat city and it's an older city, so it's like going back in time when you walk through the streets," said Chabbarria.

Brianna Brown, a senior at St. Amant, shared her experience in Spain by saying, "During my time in Spain I've seen many cool things, but the one that really caught my eye

was the Cathedral in Madrid. It was really nice and way bigger than the churches we have back in Louisiana." Brown also says that the food was not something she loved, specifically having a dislike towards a cold soup presented. Brown did however enjoy the hamburgers that were served.

Chabbarria says that his favorite food was the Basque country's version of tapas, called pinchos. The group was able to pick from a large spread and they got to choose between 30 different items. Porrazzo added by saying that the soup that was served was horrible, but the chicken was amazing. "I also had this dish named Paella that I really enjoyed," Porrazzo continued.

Kyle Porrazzo also points out specific highlights from the trip. He discusses how Spain has intriguing cultural differences compared to America. "Stuff was cheaper for the most part and the food quality was better. The architecture of the several places we visited were magnificent," says Porrazzo. He continues by saying that he loved the trip overall and would recommend others to take opportunities similar to this.

Chabbarria also touched on the struggles about planning the trip. Trying to convince other students to get on board made things slightly difficult. Chabbarria said, "I find that as the years go by, less and less people are interested in travel, especially around here." He also wanted to highlight the idea that when traveling internationally it can open up the world to you. "It's a wonderful experience especially for young people and we have a great time," said Chabbarria. Mr. Chabbarria also added that the next tour is to Italy during the summer of 2025, so keep an eye out for meetings about it.



PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED BY JARED CHABARRIA  
Jared Chabbarria and Kyle Porrazzo in Spain, summer 2024.



PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED BY JARED CHABARRIA



# Meet the Gators 2024-25

By LIBBY WILKINSON  
Gata Data Reporter

Meet the Gators allows for the student body to be recognized for the extracurricular activities they participate in. There are approximately 28 sports at St. Amant High. Meet the Gators happens twice a year, once in the fall and once in the spring. On Monday August 26, Meet the Gators for the fall sports took place. Notable sports mentioned were St. Amant's swim, cross country, volleyball and both freshman and varsity football teams. Other groups mentioned

were St. Amant's sport medicine team, alongside the two spirit squads, Gatoettes and Cheerleaders. Good luck to all the teams this fall!



STAFF PHOTOS BY LIBBY WILKINSON



# Choir prepares for new year

By JAILYN MARTIN  
Gata Data Reporter

St. Amant High School's Choir program is planning for an extraordinary school year. Head choir director Sara Bray says, "I hope my students find happiness and I'm hoping that they can find it in the choir program." Choir is an elective that many students enjoy and are passionate about.

Upper and lower classmen can find gratification in singing and performing in front of large crowds. Many different opportunities are presented to the choir program, as well as the rest of the student body.

The STA Small Vocal Ensemble will be performing at LSU on October 8. They will be bringing three pieces to showcase. When talking about the LSU acapella, Bray said, "I'm really excited. It will be so good for the students to hear their top group and they are phenomenal."

When asked how she thinks her choir students will react and perform, Bray said, "I think we're going to do really well. Small Vocal Ensemble is a group of 14 hard-working students who love what they do."

STA's Choir program gives students the opportunity to enhance their singing abilities. "Obviously it starts with singing, so if you like to sing, we're going to find a way for you to sing," Bray added. The choir program puts on several performances throughout the

year, including the Movie concert, the Holiday concert, Christmas caroling and singing the National Anthem at sporting events. "The thing I love about my program is when children are inspired to do something, I'm gonna find that opportunity."

Bray believes school spirit is a key factor in having a successful choir. "I love watching what kids love doing," Bray said. "I really think school spirit happens when students support their peers."

STA's first choir concert, the Movie concert, will be held in the Commons on October 22. Popcorn from Malco will be handed out for free. Bray said, "I promise you're going to see and hear things that you never knew we had here at St. Amant."

For more information about the Choir program at STA, contact [sara.bray@apsb.org](mailto:sara.bray@apsb.org).



# Jobs for American Graduates prepares students to face the real world

BY: RAIDEN GANN  
Gata Data Reporter

Jobs for America's Graduates, or J.A.G is a program for schools all across America. The program here at St. Amant is led by Kaylee Guidry who describes the program as one that, "Helps students who may need some extra support in learning more about their career, learning about what they're good at, and applying those skills." JAG allows students to get comfortable in a work based environment and not be so nervous when going into the workforce.

7brew, a coffee company partnered with St Amant High, visits our school every Tuesday and gives students the opportunity to work alongside them. "It's a good resume builder, a lot of students may not have any prior job experience, JAG allows you to learn customer service and how to make coffees which is very similar to how they make it at the 7brew locations," Guidry said. "The free coffee is always nice."

JAG is not only about work, however. JAG also focuses on social aspects allowing students to learn leadership and communication skills. When asked about the social aspect of JAG, Ms. Guidry said "Everyone when they get to high school are so reserved. I was too, so I try to pull you out of your shell." She continued, "We do a lot of group activities and conversations, to help students open up in a safe environment and speak their minds." One student even said, "It's helped me be more open to new friendships and bonds."

Community service is also a crucial part of the JAG program. Ms. Guidry hosts Leap Connect events during the holidays,

providing special needs students with days of relaxation, activities, socialization as well as

the Helping Hands Closet which provides students with school supplies, hygiene products and clothes.

JAG helps students progress socially and academically, and opens them up to ideas about their future. On average, seniors in JAG are 11% more likely to graduate than the national average, with some states reaching

100%." JAG is when I really started to think about what I wanted to do after high school." One student said.

For more information on JAG, contact [kaylee.guidry@apsb.org](mailto:kaylee.guidry@apsb.org).



Students in the JAG program help to work the 7brew coffee sale on STA's Campus.



# Ask Allie



Dear Allie, I am nervous about my freshman year. There is a lot to remember and I am scared I might fall behind. I am also having a hard time adjusting to high school and I need some advice. So Allie, what should I do?

Sincerely,  
A Concerned Classmate.

Dear Classmate,

It is absolutely normal to have these nerves when coming into high school because it is a big change. Most freshmen are used to being around the same people they have known all of middle school. High school is a combination of several different middle schools, so all new freshmen experience an overwhelming amount of new faces. However, it is important to understand that you are not alone. In fact, the majority of freshmen feel this way.

A major factor in helping yourself move past these nerves is getting out of your comfort zone. By joining sports, clubs, and other organizations you can meet a variety of people. Keeping your friends from middle school is nice, but eventually

you will meet new people from different schools with the same interests and hobbies as you even if it may not seem like it right now. Getting involved can also play a key role in helping you adjust to high school life. Building your relationship with your teachers is another important step in adjusting to high school.

When it comes to making sure you are not falling behind, dedicating time to your classes is extremely important. I know studying may seem like an unnecessary chore assigned by teachers to make you miserable, but it really will help you with retaining information you learn in the classroom.

Do not be afraid to ask for help when you need it because chances are, other students have the same question as you. Your teachers want you to see you succeed!

Ask for extra credit when you feel you may need it and do make up assignments if your teacher allows. Majority of teachers will also let you come to their rooms during lunch to make up assignments if needed. There are always options to make sure you do not fall behind, and to help you when you do.

Good luck Gators, Allie.

# Career Expo info

CONTRIBUTED BY: ASCENSION PARISH SCHOOLS

Ascension Public Schools will hold its annual district-wide high school career and college expo on September 17, 2024, at the Lamar Dixon Expo Center in Gonzales. Students and parents from all Ascension Parish public and private schools in grades eight through 12 are invited to attend.

The expo will showcase a wide range of career paths, including agriculture, architecture, arts, business, health sciences, hospitality, IT, law, manufacturing, and more. Various in-state, out-of-state, and technical colleges will also participate.



*Come be a part of*  
**SOMETHING BIG**

**Students and parents are invited to the  
Ascension Public Schools 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Career & College Expo!**  
**It is a big deal, but don't just take our word for it...**

"This is a great opportunity to help students on a couple of fronts: (1) get a first-hand look at the spectrum of employment options available in the area ... (2) but maybe more importantly, get brief samplings of the need for strong interaction and communication skills with professionals in a less-than-formal interview setting; for many of these students, this may be the closest thing to a job interview that they have ever experienced."  
Jay Grymes, WAFF TV

"The Career and College Expo is always a wonderful experience for our staff. We enjoy sharing our passion for our careers with high school teens, as well as meeting and making connections with other professionals in our community. If you are considering attending or participating in the Expo, I highly recommend that you do!"  
Danielle Mixon, Pediatric Therapy Solutions

"This was a great expo. The students had the opportunity to see many different careers and learn about them. This was by far one of the biggest high school career/college expos that we have been a part of. We look forward to attending again next year."  
Tracy Boudreaux, Westlake Corporation

"I want to let you know that this was our first year attending this event and you and everyone involved did a fantastic job. This is by far the best thing I have ever been a part of in regards to the school system. I myself attended DHS Class of 2000 and I can recall my junior year attending an event in the gym at East Ascension where a handful of colleges and armed forces recruiters were present. I would have loved to have an event like this showcasing all that is possible for young kids. You all will absolutely impact the lives of these kids, showing them that more than four year colleges exist. Thanks again and we look forward to next year."  
Tate Acosta, RJ Daigle & Son Contractors

**TUESDAY,  
SEPTEMBER 17, 2024**  
**LAMAR DIXON  
REV CENTER**  
**6:00 - 8:00 PM**



PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED BY ASCENSION PARISH SCHOOLS

# Dates To Remember

- Labor Day (students off) - Mon, Sept. 2**
- SELU Drop Date (W) - Fri, Sept. 6**
- Staff Development (students off) - Fri, Sept.13**
- Early Dismissal (12:40) - Tues, Sept. 24**
- Fall Break (students off) - Mon-Tues; Oct. 7-8**
- Midterm Exams - Thurs-Fri; Oct. 10-11**
- Early Dismissal (12:40) - Tues, Oct. 15**
- Homecoming Parade - Thurs, Oct. 24**
- Early Dismissal (12:40) - Tues, Oct. 29**
- Election Day (students off) - Tues, Nov. 5**
- Early Dismissal (12:40) - Tues, Nov. 12**
- Thanksgiving Break - Mon-Fri; Nov. 25-29**
- Early Dismissal (12:40) - Tues, Dec. 10**
- Final Exams - Thurs-Fri; Dec. 19-20**
- Early Dismissal (12:40) - Thurs, Dec. 19**
- Early Dismissal (12:40) - Fri, Dec. 20**
- Christmas Break - Mon, Dec. 23 - Mon, Jan. 6**

DATES TO REMEMBER BY SAVANNAH MATLOCK