



The Gata Data

ST. AMANT HIGH SCHOOL • 12035 HIGHWAY 431, ST. AMANT, LA 70774 • ISSUE 1 • JANUARY 2025

FFA goes to Louisiana State Capital

BY: SAVANNAH MATLOCK, ALANA ELLIOT
Gata Data Reporters

In December 2024, the FFA (Future Farmers of America) program at St. Amant High School was invited to the Louisiana State Capitol to watch Governor Jeff Landry sign a Louisiana Bill into Law which expands the budget of agriculture education programs across the state.

The bill, House Bill NO. 4, brings more money to the Agricultural programs which, in turn, allows for money to reach St. Amants FFA program. "It means somebody deems our programs of relevance and importance," said Mandy Delaune, sponsor of the FFA program at STA. "They understand the importance of funding and continuing to fund those programs so we can continue to provide career related opportunities to our students."

Louisiana state leadership contacted active chapters near Baton Rouge and invited them to join Governor Landry in signing the bill.



Governor Jeff Landry signs House Bill NO.4

"The rooms were filled with all the legislative people, and senators, especially anybody that had a vested interest in not only this bill but all the bills that were being signed in that day," said Delaune.

"Then our bills was called, and they let us go stand behind them," said senior Layla Porter, president of St. Amant FFA. "Sophia Patout was the one who got the governor's pen after the signing of the bill."

Delaune says that the experience was special because it gave the students a different perspective of their local and state governments.

"Students get to see that their local elected officials have an impact on their lives on a regular basis."

Porter says that this bill will open up opportunities for the students of FFA because they can receive more resources. "This will benefit the organization as a whole. It really helps to get extra funding to do the things they want to do like contests and classwork."

The FFA members experienced first-hand how representatives can impact their local community.



PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED BY STA FFA

FFA members Sophia Potout, Layla Porter and Emily Rhoads and Teacher Mandy Delaune. with his blue ribbon for winning first place in his event.

Orienteering program brings new challenges to students

BY: JAYDEN PINO, JONAH MORRIS
Gata Data Reporters

St. Amant High School Navy Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (NJROTC) students recently competed in the Area 16 orienteering championship last December, cementing this as the second-ever orienteering competition in STA history.

Orienteering is a sport where small teams of participants individually navigate through the wilderness with the help of a compass and a map. Area 16 is used to describe the region STA is located in for this sport, and it consists of Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama and the "panhandle" of Florida. The Area 16 championship was held at Wind Creek, Alabama and St. Amant placed ninth out of the fifteen schools that competed.

The objective of this sport is to be the first team of participants to individually navigate through rough terrain searching for what are known as "control points." The team members individually locate these control points using a provided map and landmarks in the terrain to navigate from point to point until they reach the finish line. When each team member completes their races, the team's time is recorded.

The St. Amant High School orienteering team practiced increasingly more throughout this school year in preparation for the event. "It's just a lot of practicing, running, reading maps and understanding control codes," said sophomore participant Miles Bates. Most practice the participants do during school involves breaking down maps and walking students through how to identify their course of action.

STA designed a sprint course in Tickfaw, where students practiced and eventually competed with each other to determine who would qualify to play at the championship that took place in Wind Creek.

The team competed with five students on a varsity team and five on a junior varsity team.

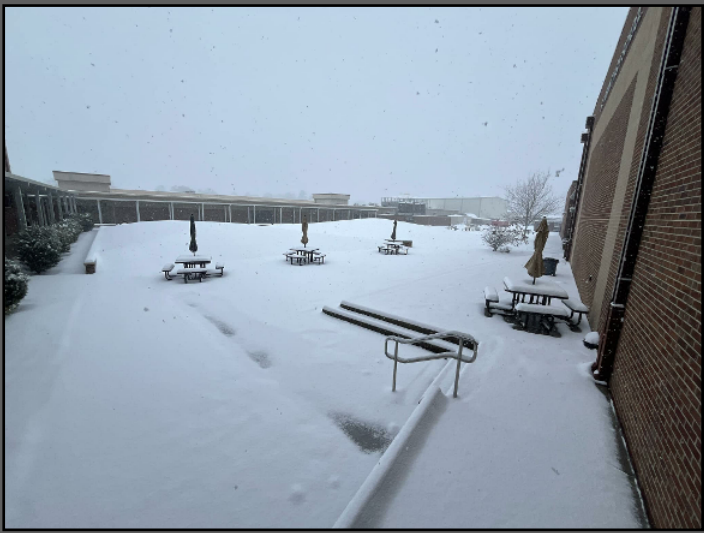
"Every single part of our program is about building confidence," says Commander Kiletico. Kiletico also stated that teams are established based on experience rather than natural talent or skill. This is to promote a team environment in which members show up to practice, work with each other and build the necessary teamwork experience essential to the competition. "It's helped me with physical training, my mental awareness and being able to think in a timely manner," said junior participant Ryan Mitchell. This sport emulates a true survival scenario. The forestry and maps with numerous symbols that test participants' minds and bodies. Commander Bates and Kiletico declare orienteering a sport for everyone, as it is divided into many levels of competition. The courses are organized by color to signify their different challenge levels. Along with experiencing boosts in confidence and heightened teamwork skills, students also report the long-lasting friendships they have made on their way to the championship. "It's like nothing else."

It's very competitive, but once you get into it and you make those friends, you're going to have them forever," said sophomore participant Grant Wells.

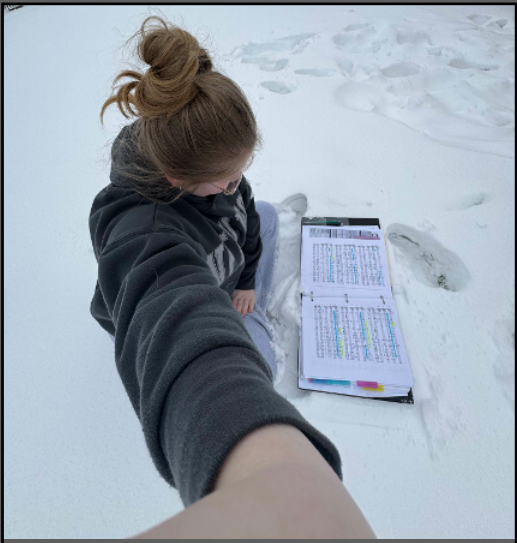
STA's NJROTC plans to continue participating in orienteering events, and the commanders are hopeful about the school's future in this sport. Commander Bates concluded, "By the time these freshmen are seniors, we're going to be first, second, or third place, guaranteed."



PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED BY STA NJROTC



An STA Sneaux Day



Lady Gator Talk: Empowering women the STA way

BY: AVERY LAMBERT, ALEXANDRA TOSTE
Gata Data Reporters

Lady Gator Talk is a club at St Amant high school that prides themselves on empowering women through conversation. “Lady Gator Talk is a club that some students and I established on St. Amant’s campus to create a space where girls could feel like they could talk about anything they need or want to,” said club sponsor Morgan Green.

When asked why she believes Lady Gator Talk is needed on campus, Green said, “because women are important and sometimes there are things that we have questions about.” Green added to this by stating, “We take that initiative to support, enrich and build ourselves up.”

Last year Lady Gator Talk held a variety of meetings and organized a field

trip to take students to a self defense workshop. “We did a dress down where we raised money to go to the breast cancer campaign at Woman’s Hospital,” said Green. Lady Gator Talk also raised money in support of providing feminine hygiene products to our campus and classrooms.

Green believes the club would be beneficial to anyone who is a woman, loves women and wants to feel empowered. “The club is open to everybody, but the focus is on just the ladies,” said Green.

Lady Gator Talk held its first meeting on Thursday January 16. For more information, feel free to contact morgan.green@apsb.org. The Lady Gator Talk Remind is @lgtalksta and the instagram is STALadyGatorTalk.

St. Amant High School Theatre & Choir Present

School Edition

Tickets available by scanning the QR codes below

Thursday
February 13th

Friday
February 14th

Saturday
February 15th

All performances are at 7:00 pm in the STA Commons

Lady Gator Soccer dives into district games

BY: ALYSE DUPUY, MADELYN LONG
Gata Data Reporters

The Lady Gator Soccer team’s non-stop preparation for their upcoming district games paid off with an impressive 8:0 win against Walker High School. Leading up to the game, the players were extremely confident in the team’s strengths. Junior Ann Aucoin states, “I think we got it 100 percent.”

This would not have been possible without the collective effort of the entire team. Their faith in this win is based on each player's crucial contribution to the game. Junior Lola Johnson stated, “I think each set of positions kind of have a relationship within each other.” Key players junior Natalie Heintze and senior Mallory Sutton worked alongside their teammates to score a combined seven points and secure the game.

After the weekend, the Lady Gators pulled another win against the Prairieville High School Hurricanes. The fierce game kept players on their toes but ended with senior Lillian Aucoin’s 40-yard drive into the goal. Their 3:1 win is another testament to how their team bond helps them bring home victories.

The Lady Gators’ triumphs are relationship-oriented. The team is able to showcase their personal strengths with the help of an extraordinary group of seniors. Junior Brylee DeBate stated, “You can tell that they love the game and they want us to be the best that we can be.” Working together, the girls have been able to achieve a staggering 14-3-1 season record.

In addition to team bonds, Coach Jacob Bordelon’s successful coaching style is reflected in the team record. Aucoin said, “He’s really just shown us that he wants the best for us.” The players and Bordelon have grown a productive bond. DeBate added, “Now, we’re able to have a bond, so we know that what he has to say, even if we don’t like it, is going to result in the best.”

The girls are putting their skills and strategy to the test with upcoming district games against East Ascension and Denham Springs High School. To prepare, endless hours have been spent reviewing plays, changing positions and working out technical issues. However, the Lady Gators are missing a key component to keep their winning streak alive: student support. DeBate states, “Even though we get the hype from our teammates, it’s different when you have hype from your school cheering you on.” To help the Lady Gators dominate in their upcoming games, they need your support.



Photo contributed by Kim Robertson

Junior Lola Johnson kicking into action at the New Iberia game on November 16.

STA Basketball dunks on opponents

BY: LAILAH GRANIER, MELIA DELAFOSE
Gata Data Reporters

On Tuesday 14, the girls and boys basketball teams both played major games. The Lady Gators played a clean game against Warren Easton and scored 53-41. Senior Jacey Coleman, who recently gained the accomplishment of getting her 1000th point says, “We executed well and we started off slow, but we got back on them to finish the game strong.”

For the Lady Gators, Head Coach Betsey Baldwin felt that the girls played a good game against Warren Easton. She hopes the girls continue to improve as the season continues. Baldwin has high hopes for their team as they will become more intact, as junior player Rhian Comery comes back from an injury. Baldwin anticipates for the Lady Gators to, “Keep working behind the scenes to get better after every game.”

Jacey Coleman adds on by talking about how she wants to win most of the games leading up to district. Over Christmas break, she says that the team overall has learned many valuable lessons and improved immensely. She is eager to play East Ascension and win against the school’s long time rival. Coleman hopes to become more of a leader than she already is on the court as well before the season ends. With being a senior, Coleman shares that she experiences bittersweet feelings this season and hopes to leave a lasting impact on her highschool basketball career.

Boys’ basketball also played strongly against Lutcher high school, the finishing score being 82-53. Senior Kameron Robinson says, “I

think we played great all around. We came out strong and finished strong.” Head Coach Travis Uzee also expresses that the team played extremely well against the opposing team.



Staff photos by Lailah Granier and Melia Delafosse

Jacey Coleman shooting the ball at the game against Warren Easton.

Coach Uzee said, “You do not want to highlight one player because last night we had an opportunity where a lot of kids had a great impact.”

Senior Brock Lalonde shares his excitement towards future games. He mentions,

“We have had some tough opponents. Denham will be tough, but I think we can do it.” Lalonde feels that their hustle has been really great, he just hopes that the team will be able to shoot the ball better.

Uzee comments, “We have to continue to improve since it is going to be more competitive later on in the season.” In regards to the game, Robinson conveys, “I think we need to improve on our rebounding and shooting, as well as playing together instead of playing selfishly.” The Gators continue to improve as they continue to play against their opponents.

Kameron Robinson highlights his thoughts on playing his last season as a senior. The team has created a strong bond with each other as the season has progressed. Robinson expresses, “At the end of the day I’m happy that I had a good four season run playing varsity. I’m just looking forward to college now.”

Both coaches are ready to start district games with a positive attitude. Coach Baldwin shares that the team will persevere with the idea of, “Just winning one game at a time.” Uzee adds on with the similar idea of not changing their mindset solely based on who they are playing. “Majority of our kids continue to improve all year and that’s exciting because this is the time of year where you want to play your best,” says Uzee. Help cheer on the Gators’ at their next game against Salmen and the Lady Gators’ next game against Dutchtown at six.

