



The Gata Data

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STA welcomes former Gator back in administrative role

BY: ALEXANDRA TOSTE
Gata Data Reporter

St Amant's newest administrator, Gerald Colwart, is a returning Gator who is very excited to be back home. Colwart mainly works with Freshmen, in the Freshman Academy but he will be assisting with Sophomores when needed. Colwart said, "It feels great to be back at St Amant, I'm excited for the opportunity to be a leader on a campus that I love so much."

Colwart is a former basketball coach who also served as a Special Education teacher for 10 years. He then left STA for two years to work with the district in order to get some leadership experience. However, Colwart is refreshed to be back on a campus that he is familiar with teachers he knows and a culture that he has been a part of. Colwart believes that St. Amant has had a big impact on his career and looks forward for the chance to help others.

"My main goal for this semester is to build a positive relationship with students, staff and the community, especially leading into the upcoming school year," Colwart said. Colwart wishes he can help everyone at STA feel supported. He wants to continue to help the

administration team build a culture on campus that everyone feels a part of.

His main focus is being available to anyone on campus. Colwart hopes to connect with students by having conversations outside of the classroom and office. Colwart thinks that just by walking around on campus and being visible, he will create stronger relationships with the people of STA.

Since Colwart has a new role, he has more duties to fulfill. He believes the most nerve wracking part of his new position is balancing and prioritizing the multiple different responsibilities. Colwart said, "Moving from the SPED world where my whole day was just about attending to those with special education, now that's just a small part of my job, I have so many more responsibilities."

Regardless, Gerald Colwart is thankful to have a great support system in place that will help him learn and handle everything. He is very excited to be back and can't wait for the upcoming school years.

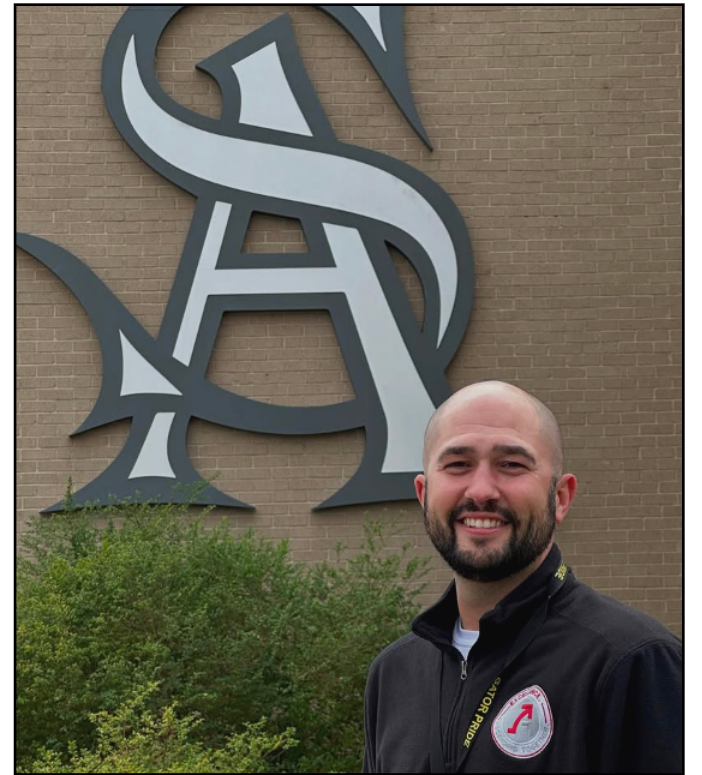


PHOTO CONTRIBUTED BY STA INSTAGRAM PAGE

The Gatoresses are National Champions!

BY: HAYDEN LOUPE
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The STA Gatoresses left for Orlando, Florida last Friday, February 14, 2025. Performing three routines all in one day, the girls return home as national champions for their jazz routine.

Overall the sense of excitement took over the weekend in Florida. The Gatoresses felt proudest of their performances of their jazz routine. "That was the best time they've ever performed it," claims Coach Tessa Roussel. Coach Roussel also mentions how she felt some nerves going into the other two performances. The nerves she had were expressed to the difficulty of the routines with the difficult tricks, cleanliness and precision in their hip hop and pom routines, but the nerves did not hold the Gatoresses back and they continued to perform to the best of their abilities allowing them to finish in the top five for both routines.

Although the girls placed highly for all routines, they were faced with some challenges. Usually at competitions, the girls perform on marley, a floor that is used to keep dance shoes from slipping, but at nationals, the girls performed on an almost plastic-like floor that was very slippery. Luckily, the girls found a solution to this issue and that was to wear only one shoe for jazz and pom to prevent from slipping. The girls are also used to performing on a gym floor, but performed on a stage at nationals.



PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED BY TESSA ROUSSEL

Gatoresses paint the New York City Skyline as they end their national championship performance.

The team overcame this change just by staying focused and stayed cautious due to the slippery floor.

"Being jazz national champions feels amazing," said senior, captain and four year member of the Gatoresses, Jolie Pruitt. Pruitt mentions how the hardwork and dedication the team put into their routines is what got them to be national champions. She also mentions how the weekend felt rewarding to her because she got to compete with a team that grew to be more than just a team, but instead feels like her family. She also competed against friends from the other two Ascension Parish schools, East Ascension and Dutchtown. "Being able to end my Gatoress career on a win like we did this year has definitely been the highlight of my senior year!"

The STA Gatoresses had a very successful trip to Orlando, Florida American All-Star nationals. The team returned home with all three routines placing in the top five, hip hop was placed fifth, pom was placed second, and their jazz routines won them the national championship and a choreography award. Despite the slippery and unusual dance floor, the girls pushed through and performed the best they have ever performed. The three routines will be posted on the STA Gatoress Facebook and Instagram page for those who wish to watch their outstanding performances.



STA Tennis serving up a new season

BY: SAVANNAH MATLOCK, MELIA DELAFOSE
Gata Data Reporters

At the beginning of February, the STA tennis team started their 2025 season. When asked about the upcoming season, both coaches emphasized the potential of this year's players. "We had a great off-season, the kids worked really, really hard," says Coach Kevin Smith. "They did a lot of extra work to prepare for what's going on because we lost a lot of players last year."

The STA tennis girls swept every court in a recent matchup against Ascension Christian: Elena Torres won 6-0, 6-0, Lila Robinson and Allie Jeavons won 6-2, 6-1, Camryn Accardo and Abigale Robert won 6-3, 3-6, 10-8. Additionally, Jolie Villenurve and Joanna Haddon won 6-0, 6-0 and Olivia Winegar and Kellyn Bourgeois won 3-6, 6-3, 10-5.

After losing a significant amount of players from the 2024 school year, the players are putting in extra effort to keep up. "A lot of seniors graduated and so we're kind of rebuilding and getting these younger players to see more playing time. We're just learning as we go," said Head Coach Mia Smith. The players also expressed their desire to work hard. "I do doubles so I always have somebody with me which makes me love it even more," says junior Lila Robinson. "Tennis is the kind of sport where you can see your progress every single day. It encourages me to keep going."

Coach Kevin Smith says that the STA tennis team has the temperament they need for the new season. "We're not looking at the end of April, we're looking at today and it looked really good. There's a lot of younger kids that are coming up and they're ready to play."

The boys also took home several victories with Brayden King and Tristan Bailey winning 6-2, 6-1, and with Cameron Deloach & Ryland Hoyt winning 6-4, 6-5.

Senior Jacob Angel has been on the STA tennis team since his freshman year. "His whole family has played for us," says Coach Mia Smith. Angel says that it is bitter sweet to be playing Tennis as a Gator for his last year. "I am excited to tackle my last year of my season. It is a little sad at the same time because you can't play as much after high school and I've made so many great memories and friends through the team. It has been a great learning experience," Angel Said. "You really have to put yourself out there and go and do it if you want to get better."

Both coaches agree that the future for the St. Amant Tennis team is promising. "We're gonna get better and better with every match and learn from our mistakes," says Coach Mia Smith. "The way to be a better tennis player is to play more tennis."



STAFF PHOTOS BY SAVANNAH MATLOCK AND MELIA DELAFOSE



St. Amant High Senior to compete at ABC National Craft Championship as Pipe Welder

BY: ABC PRESS RELEASE

St. Amant High School senior Ethan Delaune is set to showcase his welding skills on the national stage as he competes in the Associated Builders and Contractors (ABC) National Craft Championships (NCC). Representing ABC, Ethan will compete in the pipe welding division at the prestigious event, held during the ABC convention in Las Vegas, Nevada.

The ABC National Craft Championships bring together the nation's top craft professionals and students to demonstrate their skills in a high-level competition. As a dedicated and talented pipe welder, Ethan has demonstrated exceptional craftsmanship and commitment to his trade, earning the opportunity to compete against some of the best young welders in the country.

"We are incredibly proud of Ethan for earning this opportunity," said Mandy Delaune, mom and Welding teacher. "His hard work, precision, and dedication to his craft make him a strong competitor, and we are excited to see him represent ABC and St. Amant High School on a national level."

The competition, which features multiple craft disciplines, serves as a platform for young professionals to gain industry recognition, network with skilled tradespeople, and further their careers in construction. Ethan's participation highlights the growing importance of skilled trades in the workforce and the opportunities available to students pursuing careers in the industry.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED BY ABC STAFF

From Denmark to the Gold Dome

BY: MADELYN LONG
Gata Data Reporter

On February 18, a new addition to the St. Amant cheer team made her debut. Sophomore Frida Rasmussen, a foreign exchange student from Denmark, has been participating in cheer practices and events as part of her experience in America. Furthermore, she showcased her new uniform while cheering the STA Boy's Basketball team to victory alongside St. Amant's Gold Cheer Squad. Rasmussen says, "Cheering at a basketball game was like living the American dream. I am so grateful that I got this opportunity!"



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED BY STA CHEER

STA varsity winterguard catches first place

BY: ALYSE DUPUY
Gata Data Reporter

On February 15, the St. Amant High School varsity winterguard team showcased their efforts and won first place overall in their class.

Collaboratively, the team performed better than ever imagined. "I'm super proud of the team for putting in their best performance. I'm super happy that all of our work paid

off," Junior Greenlee Sagastume said. The junior varsity team also made the accomplishment of second place in their class. Sagastume says, "I feel like we are very prepared for this weekend at Dutchtown!"

Support the Gators locally at Dutchtown High School on February 22.



STAFF PHOTOS BY MADELYN LONG

STA yearbooks available for sale

BY: ALYSE DUPUY
Gata Data Reporter

Get a sneak peek at the 24-25 yearbook! Yearbooks are available to order now on School Cash Online. Orders are due April 1. Extras are very limited and not guaranteed at pickup. Don't miss out and get yours now! **Cover is subject to change.

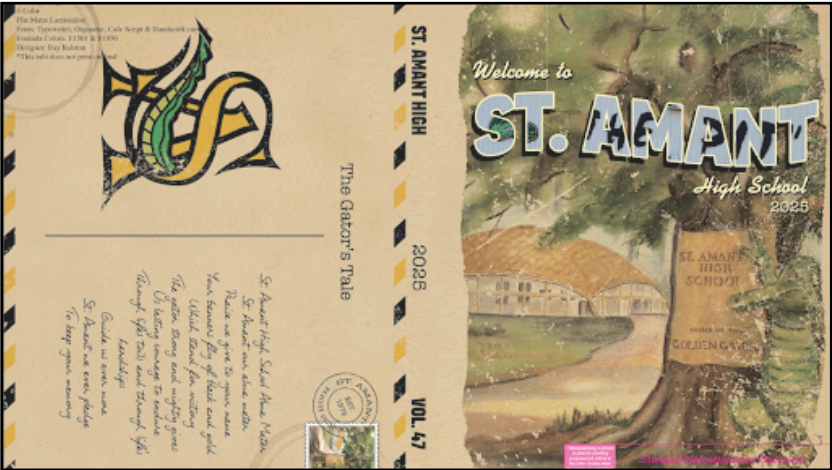


PHOTO CONTRIBUTED BY STA YEARBOOK STAFF

ST AMANT

BLACK HISTORY MONTH PROGRAM

The Annual Black History Club Program is coming up and the STA Black History Club invites you to volunteer and participate. If you are interested scan the QR code and fill out the form. Contact the email provided for any questions or concerns.

FEB 26

ST AMANT COMMONS AFTER SCHOOL

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St. Amant NJROTC students earn painted rifles

BY: JONAH MORRIS
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The St. Amant High School NJROTC (Navy Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps) marksmanship program hosts air rifle competitions among its students in order to gauge their progress for upcoming regional competitions.

“They do a three position shoot. So you do a shoot from the prone position, laying down, kneeling position and standing position,” said Commander Aaron Bates of St. Amant High School’s NJROTC program.

“Each position has a max potential of 100 points, so the max possible is 300. To get competitive on a national level, you gotta shoot around 270 points,” Bates continues.

To prepare NJROTC students, Commander Bates and Commander Kiletico have set a goal for students to hit a score of 240 points with a special incentive: students who hit 240 points in a practice shoot get to design a painted version of their air rifle to be made for them.

So far, three St. Amant High School NJROTC students have achieved this goal, with two students, Miles Bates and Gabriella Deaton, already having their rifles designed and constructed. Bates and Deaton shot for 246 points, which is a great score considering St. Amant High School just started preparing students for shooting

sports competitions last year.

As St. Amant High School continues to practice, Commander Bates predicts that more and more students will be able to break 240 points. “So right now I have three that have broken that 240 mark, and I think next year I’m gonna have at least ten that are gonna break it,” said Bates.

This is a big milestone for St. Amant High School, as this marks the start of our progression towards the top of these marksmanship competitions. “So right now I have three that have broken that 240 mark, and I think next year I’m gonna have at least ten that are gonna break it.”

In previous marksmanship competitions, St. Amant High School placed eighth in Area 16, which consists of Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama and the “panhandle” of Florida. With the recently achieved milestones along with future progress, though, Bates states that “we’re not gonna be eighth place. We’re gonna be sixth or fourth.”

Overall, the achievements that these individual students have made contributes to Commanders Aaron Bates and Micah Kiletico’s optimism about upcoming Area 16 competitions, in which they expect to be among the top competitors after a few more years of practice.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED BY STA NJROTC

OPINION

An alternatng schedules appeal

BY: JAYDEN PINO
Gata Data Reporter

In alternating (A/B) block schedule is more beneficial for high school students than a 4x4 block schedule. This block schedule method promotes the retention of information learned in school, solves current issues with testing, and keeps the school year engaging for students. St. Amant High School has a 4x4 block schedule: two semesters a year each consisting of four classes. In an A/B block schedule, students have A days and B days that alternate, each with their own set of periods.

STA Teacher Martha Lambert has experienced an alternating block schedule for her AP chemistry class in the past at STA. “Our scores under an A day, B day schedule were always better because we could get more material in and they had a lot of processing time,” said Lambert. When students are in a semester schedule the learning environment closely resembles the practice of cramming,

especially for seniors who leave their last semester of high school earlier than other students due to graduation. Cramming is an ineffective way to form long-term memories. Instead, it promotes the storage of working memories. Working memories are not stored in as high quantities as long-term memories and are more easily forgotten.

Many students face the struggle of having to take the AP test the semester after they take the AP class. Not only are AP classes college-level courses that take serious levels of concentration and effort to review, but students in this situation also have the pressure of their current semester classes and exams. An alternating block schedule would solve this issue as students would consistently review AP material in class leading up to their AP test, which is only available at the end of the year. While students would have to take

more finals at one time when the school year is ending, this situation is better than taking an AP exam for a class one has not attended in months.

It is a concern among language and math teachers that students will not perform as well if they don't attend their class every day but effective homework and study tools eliminate this problem. Homework due on upcoming class dates would allow students to effectively review subjects on days that they don't have a class for those subjects. Many schools that have this schedule keep certain classes on a daily schedule, avoiding this issue. This also promotes students' drive to devote their own time to education.

“Every single day you have different classes which break up the monotonous schedule of the same class every five days,” said senior Kamron Shanklin. An alternating schedule keeps each day new and

engaging, and prevents the lethargy a repetitive semester schedule causes. Students have the opportunity to interact with a wider variety of people and topics regularly between their A and B classes. Similarly, the ability to participate in more subjects at once also enables students to develop wider understanding of classes in context to one another. “When we had A day B day I felt the students adapted. It was pretty seamless,” said STA teacher Shelly Barbay.

While it would take time for students to adjust to a change in their school schedule and the order in which they would be expected to ingest information, the positives are apparent. This presents an opportunity for students to improve their test scores, and gain an understanding of high school subjects that will enable them to achieve more in the future.