The Gata Data

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DECA donates 5,000 dollars to St. Jude with 'Rev Up for Research'

BY: CHANCE GOMEZ, ALYSE DUPUY
Gata Data Reporter

DECA attended their state convention at the Baton Rouge Mariott from February 23 to the 25. At the convention, students competed individually and as a group. Their infamous “Rev Up for Research” group project won in the community giving category. DECA President Aubrey Beale won first place in hospitality and lodging, and Vice President Briley Brooks won first place in automotive services marketing.

To prepare for State to showcase their group project, members had to come up with an event and execute it. Along with this, they had to calculate the statistics and create a summary of the entire event. As individuals, students had to take a one-hundred-question test and study for their category. “You have no outside sources so it's just you and yourself and I always say you either have it or you don’t,” Brooks said.

The experience of DECA is beneficial for students overall. It allows members of the club many opportunities. Vice President Ali McCormick said, “You meet a lot of people and talk to a lot of different schools, so that's always fun.” Along with meeting new people, DECA prepares students for the real world by giving them ideas of what they would like to pursue after high school. Members were judged by business owners and others in various professions. Brooks said, “These people are real-world professionals that are coming and you're talking to them and it is nerve-racking but is definitely teaching you things.”

PHOTO CONTRIUBED BY DECA

“I would definitely say join DECA," Brooks said. DECA members all suggest that the club can help you discover many possibilities and career interests students may have never known about before, alongside teaching them many valuable skills and exposing them to all experiences in the business world. Beale recommends to all that the DECA club is a great choice for any student and will not, “put a lot on your plate." Brooks also claims, “This is definitely the club that will really lead you with skills that you will take to the real world."

The DECA members will head to the national convention from April 25 - April 30 in Orlando, Florida. Brooks, McCormick and Beale will all be competing with their Rev Up For Research community project. Brooks shares, St. Amant has not “been in a few years so that’s pretty exciting."All members are very excited and optimistic about the amazing opportunities the STA DECA group will offer at the 2025 national convention.

The group has donated $5,000 dollars to the St. Jude Foundation with their hard work. They collected the money from the ‘Rev Up For Research” project in order to raise money for the patients of St. Jude.

STA's Choir achieves double sweepstakes at festival

BY: LAILAH GRANIER
Gata Data Reporter

On Thursday, March 13, St. Amant’s Choir attended the annual Choir Festival at Zachary High School. Advanced Choir and Small Vocal Ensemble both put on incredible performances and each earned sweepstakes. Choir director Sara Bray shared, “My initial reaction to receiving our results was gratitude and excitement for my students. Looking at my choir, I knew that they felt that they did well, and that was what was important. They have worked so hard for this and they truly deserved sweepstakes.”

Each choir prepared three songs that showcased different skills and received a short piece to sight read. When choosing the pieces, Ms. Bray expressed, “I love to showcase that my students can achieve a high level of excellence in different eras and different genres.” Bray also chooses songs that she knows will highlight everything that her students are excellent at, but also something that will teach them how to grow to be at a superior level.

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED BY STA CHIOR

Many students from the Small Vocal Ensemble loved the piece Il Lampo, arranged by Ryan Main. Junior Layten Hastings communicated that the wide variety of techniques the song required taught her a lot. “The way our voices blend and the gorgeous accompaniment makes me excited about the song every time I sing it,” said Hastings. Senior Caylin Adams also admired the song as she said, “Although it has a dark meaning and translation, it fuels all of us to feel the power we hold in just our voices.”

Hastings went into detail of the behind the scenes process. She said that it took a lot of attention to detail and it was important to allow yourself to be completely vulnerable in class. “You have to be open and trust not only your voice but also Ms. Bray and her teaching,” Hastings explained. Although the process felt long, it was incredibly rewarding to her after seeing what she was able to achieve in such a short amount of time.

Before performing, students had to focus on many things in order to pull off a phenomenal performance. Junior Reya Cormier from Advanced Choir said that Ms. Bray helped her gain confidence before the performance. She mentioned, “In my opinion, Bray really helped remind us of everything that we needed to focus on for each individual song.” Cormier also said that she personally ran through each of the songs beforehand in her head and reviewed big takeaways that Ms. Bray had told them previously.

Payton Wiles, a junior in Advanced Choir, also shared his thought process before going up to perform. Wiles was initially nervous that he would make a mistake. However, Wiles focused on his previous practices where he had gotten his part exactly how it needed to be executed. “It gave me an extra boost in confidence to push through the performance,” said Wiles. Through the process, Wiles learned from the performance that you truly get back what you put into the program as that feeling really shined at festival.

Sara Bray truly admires the ability that music has to tell different stories. Musicians are able to think about how even if a piece was written earlier in time, they can think about how it was heard then and perform it like that, or they can consider how it can be sung now. Bray shared that it really is an interesting process and, “It's more about how we're communicating with music as compared to trying to be this idea of perfection, which tends to take the soul out of our music.”

Even though both choirs were able to produce an incredible amount of work, Bray also emphasized that the work is never done for them. After festival, the judges provide their feedback and she is able to listen to the comments and find ways to implement the changes in the choir. Bray said, “I feel that everyone right now is super motivated to improve and it takes a lot of heart and collaboration to do so.” Layten Hastings also expressed similar feelings as she said, “The work is never truly done, there is always room for improvement.”

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SPORTS

Softball nailbiter leads to a 3-1 District record

BY: JAYDEN PINO
Gata Data Reporter

St. Amant High School has a 3-1 win-to-loss ratio in district softball at the moment. The Lady Gators have had 3 previous district wins against Dutchtown, Walker, and East Ascension High School. The only loss on the team's record was against Live Oak High School on Tuesday, March 18.

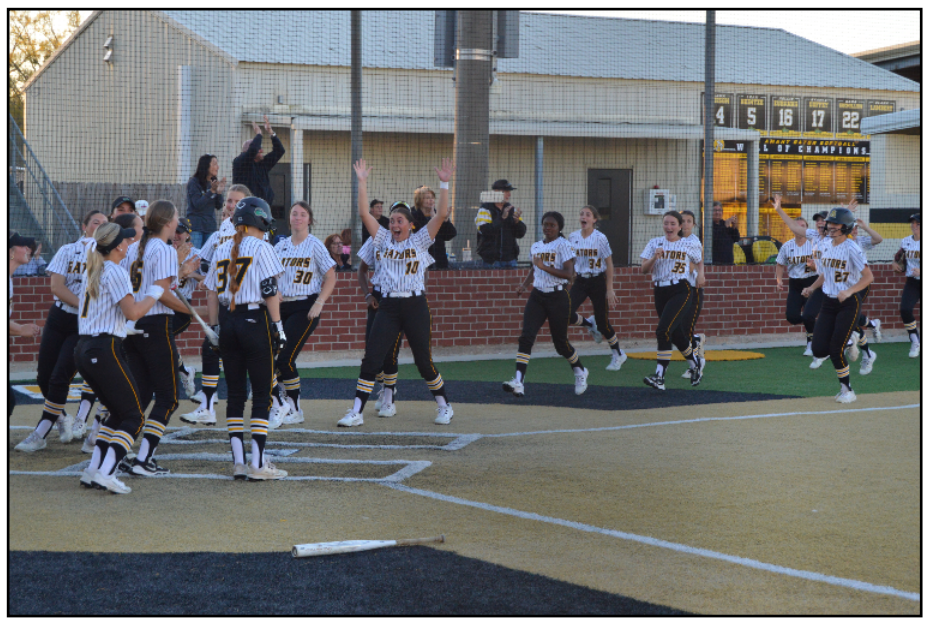
STAFF PHOTOS BY JAYDEN PINO

Despite the game against Live Oak being a loss it was an impressive show of skill from the Gators with a final score of 8-7. St. Amant had a three-point lead by the seventh inning with a score of 5-7 but Live Oak Recovered with three quick runs that same inning winning them the game.

While St. Amant had some trouble on the defensive side of the game in the last quarter the team made some major offensive plays, which exemplified the team's skill. Sophomore Kinely Triche No. 6 hit her first home run of the season giving the Gators two runs batted in. A run batted in (RBI) is a play made by a batter that allows the batter's team to score points from a run.

Out of St. Amant's 5 walk opportunities, 4 of them were scored. A walk is when the opposing team pitches outside the strike zone four times without the batter attempting to swing at the pitches, awarding the batter a first-base position. Consistent recognition of the opposing team's out of the strike zone pitches showcases the Lady Gators' observation and decision-making skills.

"We fought hard but we just didn't close it out at the end. We didn't make the little plays that needed to be made to make a competitive game," said Head Softball Coach Amy Pitre. Despite the loss against Live Oak, St. Amant's Softball teams have showcased skill through the last four district games that will aid them in upcoming district games, pointing strongly to the possibility of future wins. If you are interested in showing the Lady Gators softball team support, the next district softball game of the season will be Tuesday, March 25, against Denham Springs High School at the Lady Gator Park.



The STA fishing team reels in the end of their season

BY: MADELYN LONG
Gata Data Reporter

The St. Amant Fishing Team is gearing up for their final two competitions of the 2025 season, with high hopes for some impressive catches. Since the beginning of the school year, the fishing pairs have been practicing to perfect their skills before hitting the water for competition. Freshman Luke Pendleton shares, "I fished the pond in my backyard and with my grandpa in Lake Verret." Sophomore Alex Duplessis also provides insight, stating, "We bought a ton of baits, we got the boat ready, and we made sure all of our safety equipment is good."

The anglers have also focused on specific tactics to attract the biggest catches. Duplessis notes, "Fishing worms in the summer, or even in the winter pre-spawn, is always good." However, fishing is seen as more than a competition for those involved. Duplessis adds, "It's just very peaceful and it just clears your mind."

Recently, the team visited Caney Creek in Jimmy Davis State Park on March 7-8 for a competition. This three-hour travel creates great opportunities to meet new people and explore unfamiliar fishing spots, says Pendleton. This camaraderie begins the day before the competition day when the anglers get on the water and scout out places to fish the following day.

Duplessis explains the routine for competition day, saying, "Everyone goes into their little spot and fish until three o'clock, then everyone heads back and weighs in to see who has the most weight." Although the Gators did not secure a win in Caney Creek, they are expecting to improve their catches within the month. The fishing pairs will travel to Bayou Segnette this weekend to compete against other local anglers.

If you are interested in joining the fishing community at STA, the STA fishing team is a fantastic opportunity. Pendleton encourages new members to participate by saying, "It is a great experience. You learn a lot of new things about fishing, meet new people, and more."

PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED BY STA FISHING TEAM

Environmental Science plants trees for Louisiana coast

BY: SAVANNAH MATLOCK
Gata Data Reporter

On Monday, March 17, the Environmental Science Club and AP students worked to plant tree seeds for the Coastal Roots Erosion Project. The community outreach event has a goal of planting and nurturing 900 tree seeds which will be transplanted onto a different site in October. The trees will help to prevent erosion on Louisiana's coast.

STAFF PHOTOS BY SAVANNAH MATLOCK

Gators recognized at Ascension Parish School Board meeting

BY: MADELYN LONG
Gata Data Reporter

On the evening of March 18, members of the Gator family were recognized at the Ascension Parish School Board Meeting for their recent accomplishments. Superintendent Edith Walker and school board members first welcomed Gerald Colwart, as they officially announced his new position as St. Amant High School assistant principal. Colwart spoke to the board and crowd, expressing his gratitude to those who encouraged him to take this role.

Next, the Gatorettes were honored for their first-place win at their national championships. APSB High School Supervisor Beth Templet introduced the team and shared their outstanding achievement with everyone in attendance.

Lastly, wrestling state champion Mikayla Byington was recognized for winning the first-ever female wrestling title. When Templet mentioned her impressive 30-0 record, the board and audience were blown away and reacted with audible gasps. Superintendent Walker said, "It is more than just academics that make up our schools, it is all the things that our students do daily that help us to continue to be a successful school system."

PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED BY APSB

To learn more about these remarkable Gators, please refer to our earlier issues for their feature stories.

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BY: LAILAH GRANIER
Gata Data Reporter

Emotionally, Bray wants students to not take these moments of singing with other people for granted. People may be able to sing by themselves where they are comfortable, however, the ability to have 60 people singing the same thing and everyone working together to stay in tune is a rare occurrence. "Especially when I think about my seniors, I want them to live every moment and experience it rather than being worried about whether or not they are perfect," Bray vocalized.

Caylin Adams shared how bittersweet it was when she realized that it would be her last time winning sweepstakes since she will be majoring in something completely different. "Getting a final resolution to not only all the hard work we put in the last few months, but even the last four years for some of us was an indescribable feeling," says Adams. When seeing the trophies, it became very clear to her that she had won her last trophy surrounded by the people who she has become so close with through the process. Adams articulated,"The way it feels to do something you care about so much with others that care just as much as you is an unmatched emotion that anybody can relate to and long for."

Come out and support St. Amant's choir at their spring concert at Saint Joseph's Catholic Church in French Settlement. Doors will open at 6:30 pm, and will officially start at 7:00 pm. It is free to the public and will showcase all of their hard work. "It is a great concert that features a lot of our seniors as it is their last one at St. Amant. We have some amazing stories to tell, and I know that everybody will enjoy it."

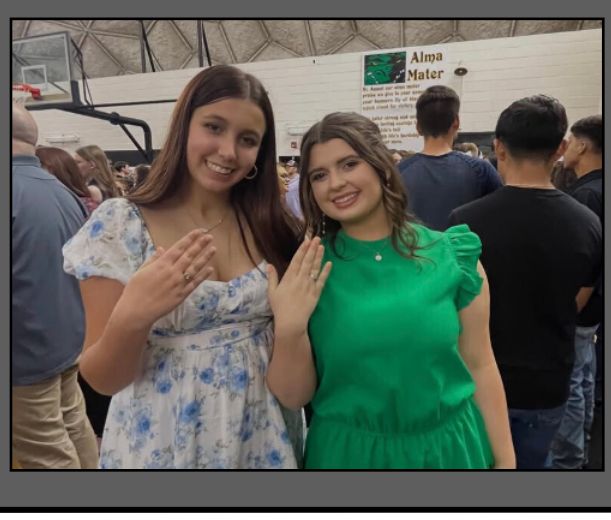
PHOTO CONTRIBUTED BY STA CHOIR

Advanced Choir pose with sweepstakes trophy on Thursday, March 13.

Ring Night 2025 Photo Gallery

BY: ALANA ELLIOT
Gata Data Reporter

On March 14, 2025, at St. Amant High School, Ring Night was held in the Gold Dome. Principal Christina Carter spoke of the history of the class ring and the commitment that students would make once they got them. The Class of 2026 would be committing to graduation as they take the rings. With this, they will be opening a new chapter for themselves as their last year of high school arrives.



OPINION

Playboi Carti's *MUSIC* is 'Mid'

BY: Jonah Morris
Gata Data Reporter

Popular rapper and twenty-nine-year-old Jordan Carter, commonly known as “Playboi Carti,” is frequently noted as a highly influential person when it comes to the development of rage and cloud rap music.

Carti has had a lot of hype surrounding his name because of his most recent album release, *MUSIC*, also known as *I AM MUSIC*, which was finally released on March 14, 2025.

Since Carti’s sophomore studio album, *Whole Lotta Red*, five years have passed and countless references and leaks from *MUSIC* dating all the way back to 2020 have been made. For example, popular songs off of *MUSIC* such as “HBA” and “EVIL J0RDAN” were leaked by fans and even officially dropped by Carti on instagram in 2023.

Despite the hype surrounding his most recent album release, *MUSIC* is lackluster when taking into account how long the album has been awaited. Many fans are disappointed with this release. This is not because the album itself is awful, but because it was not worth waiting five years, especially when you consider that *Whole Lotta Red* came out only two years after Carti’s debut studio album, *Die Lit*, and both albums contain songs that are widely considered among Carti’s greatest creations.

Songs off of *MUSIC* such as “OPM BABI” suffer the same unfortunate fate that a lot of Carti songs face, which is the lack of popularity due to Carti’s overall crude vocals. Although Carti is known for his unique sound, I, along with many others, feel that there are too many moments on these songs, along with others, that simply sound unappealing.

The "I Am Music" by Playboi Carti Album cover art.

Not only does *MUSIC* have its fair share of weak tracks, it makes it even worse knowing that the album contains thirty tracks, which is more than the already lengthy *Whole Lotta Red*. Many fans agree that Carti should have instead left the weaker tracks off of the album to make it feel less inflated. In my opinion, it feels like Carti was rushing to get to an even thirty tracks to make his long-awaited release feel more worth it, and the unappealing songs that we got are the consequence.

Although *MUSIC* has its faults, many songs are a refreshing addition to Carti’s discography such as “GOOD CREDIT,” “WE NEED ALL DA VIBES,” and “JUMPIN.” “GOOD CREDIT” features a strong verse from popular rapper Kendrick Lamar, “WE NEED ALL DA VIBES” features strong performances from from popular rappers Young Thug and Ty Dolla $ign, and “JUMPIN” contains a darker tone with a decent performance from Carti and the featured rapper Lil Uzi Vert.

On March 17, 2025, Carti released an additional version of this album featuring two singles that were previously released on Carti’s YouTube channel. The new singles, “2024” and “BACKR00MS,” along with the original thirty tracks off of the original album make up what he has titled *MUSIC - V2*. The newly-added tracks were already highly praised by fans, so many are grateful for these being added to the tracklist. Overall, *MUSIC* is not a terrible album, but is receiving a lot of criticism regardless due to how long it took to finally release it and the amount of weaker songs that tend to make the tracklist feel bloated. Either way, this album marks an important milestone not only in Carti’s career but in the music industry as well, as cloud rap and rage rap continue to develop as subgenres.