



The Gator Data

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STA Band clean sweeps at 2025 Festival

BY: MADELYN LONG
Gata Data Reporter

The Golden Band from Gator Land traveled to Zachary High School for the District IV Festival on Tuesday, March 18. After intense preparations and a breathtaking performance, the Concert, Symphonic, and Wind Symphony Bands each received top scores in their assessment categories, securing the Sweepstakes title.

Band Directors Joseph Nassar and Andrew Graham began preparing for the 2025 concert season soon after the end of the marching season by selecting music for each band. Nassar states, "We try to pick pieces that are going to highlight the strengths of the groups. Since we have great groups, we don't have to be so selective. We also try to show off soloists, people who are really strong, and play to their strengths." He also emphasized that the music selected for the Wind Symphony is all collegiate-level music, which showcases the true talent of each student.

This year, the Wind Symphony played "March of the Mogul Emperors" by Edward Elgar and "Angels in the Architecture" by Frank Ticheli, which Nassar deemed a fan favorite. But, junior Mason Miller states, "My favorite song was 'This Cruel Moon' by John Mackey. While it wasn't the big show like 'Angels in the Architecture' was, I love the pure emotion you could feel in the song because it's just so beautiful."

The Symphonic and Concert Band played pieces arranged by Steve Hodges, Douglas Wagner, Elliot Del Borgo, Tyler Arcari, and Robert Buckley. Another favorite included "La Madre de los Gatos" by Brian Beck. Symphonic band member Kaysen Knight states, "My favorite song we played was probably 'La Madre de los Gatos,' because it was a very amusing piece of music and also the unique melodies that we all had were just beautiful and very fun."

To perfect these arrangements, all bands have been practicing daily

since January. These rehearsals were a necessary step to produce the familiar success of Sweepstakes. Nassar states, "My favorite part is the rehearsals. I love the rehearsals as much, if not more than the concert itself. We made

music every day and you get to witness the growth of these students." Students believe in the benefits of daily rehearsals as well. Knight states, "I tend to improve on my individual playing which has helped me become a stronger player and a more confident player."

On top of rehearsals, the Wind Symphony planned to attend the Louisiana Concert Band Invitational before Festival. A national panel would have provided the band with feedback, which assisted the band in the past. But, due to weather conditions, the event was canceled. Although this may have frightened some bands, the STA band directors and members showcased the program's resilience by continuing to move forward at full speed. Nassar states, "The cancellation of LCBI did not affect us at all. If anything, taking that performance away helped us get better prepared and more focused for district festival."

On Festival Day, all three bands performed exceptionally well and upheld the STA tradition of the Sweepstakes

Title. Nassar mentioned, "The Wind Symphony has received sweepstakes for 47 years in a row since the school opened. I don't think there is a band in our state that has a record like that." But, the Symphonic and Concert Bands also returned home with the title, continuing their 24-year record.

As this concert season concludes, many members have reflected on what the Band program means to them. Miller expressed, "Band is important to me because it allows me to know so many different people, as well as a lot of people who know me. Also, I just really like making music."

Please join the STA Band on April 30 at 6:30 PM for their Spring Concert, which will celebrate this highly successful season.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED BY STA BAND FACEBOOK

St. Amant Colorguard ends their season with their heads held high

BY: LAILAH GRANIER, ALYSE DUPUY
Gata Data Reporters

As winterguard season came to an end, many of the members look back on the season and enjoy seeing all of the progress they have made. Between marching season and winterguard, the team has worked incredibly hard to adjust to the different environments both produce.

Junior Hannah Jefferson mentioned how the shift from marching season changed drastically to how winterguard was for her. "Being in winterguard allowed me to gain more attention from my coaches, making me improve my skills," shared Jefferson. She also highlighted how having the ability to be closer with her teammates, rather than being far away from each other on a field, has helped her more on the color guard team itself.

Senior Patricia Wilson expressed similar feelings of being able to really hone in on her colorguard skills individually. "In marching season, you have to work your way around with the band so it made it difficult at times for us to truly focus," said Wilson. Even with these struggles, the Colorguard managed to persevere and come out on top with their performances.

Having patience was a big takeaway for Wilson. Knowing that everyone starts from different places of skills on the team is crucial for better teamwork. Being able to adjust to the environment and stay determined with everything going on around her built Wilson into the performer she is today.

Jefferson learned that going into practice with a positive attitude and mindset is also very important to how she performs. She said that doing this builds

confidence and keeps the team strong. "It may feel aggravating going over the same thing, but when you look back on all the work that has been done, you will realize that doing all of this helps us grow," said Jefferson.

Wilson acknowledged the fact that this was her last season in color guard and how she has experienced bittersweet feelings. Jefferson also considers how seeing the seniors leave the team makes her emotional as she also realizes that she will be going through the same process next year when she is a senior herself. She feels an immense sense of appreciation for the opportunities that have come her way so far and looks forward to being like the seniors that came before her. Having the chance to show off her hard work that has gone into the

team allowed her to feel relieved. The two both see that they have made amazing memories during this past season and hope to see the team continue to improve next season. "You are going to have so much fun and create so many memories with people you never thought you would," Jefferson emphasizes.

Along with this, the underclassmen who are going to be seen as the example for next year's season are excited for their new roles. Freshman Sadie Frederic said, "I'm excited to meet new people and help them like my teammates have helped me." Colorguard is truly a joint effort between all classes and everyone is a part of one group effort.

Junior Mattie Rogers believes that everyone on the team is essential to a good outcome. "It doesn't matter what role you play, if you're an alternate during marching season, a flag, or a rifle, you will have a meaningful spot no matter what," Rogers said. Colorguard is a learning process. Many have no idea what colorguard is until they try out. Frederic said, "I had no clue what I was actually signing myself up for; it is not easy. It took a lot of time to get to where I am now, but with the help of my upperclassmen and coaches, I have learned so much."

To those wanting to join a new club, colorguard is a great opportunity to expand your free time. "We have clinics that teach you everything you need to know for the actual audition day," said Rogers. With no prior knowledge or experience needed, St. Amant Colorguard clinics are April 8-10, with tryouts following April 11.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED BY MADELYN LONG

Women's History Month Poll

BY: SAVANNAH MATLOCK, AVERY LAMBERT
Gata Data Reporters

Who is a woman you appreciate?

“I would say my grandmother because she is someone that had to overcome a lot of adversity in her life, and she still pushed through. I feel like she's a positive example for so many other people and probably doesn't get the credit that she deserves for going through what she did.”

-Christina Carter (Principal)

“We have the month to celebrate all of women's accomplishments from all races, all countries, because they've been historically kind of pushed to the side because men have been in charge of everything since the beginning of time.”

-Heidi Fredric (Teacher)

Who is a woman that inspires you?

“My mom. She does a lot for me, and I feel like it's a good thing that we recognize all the things that moms do for us.”

-Addison Nunez-Francis (Senior)

Who is a woman you appreciate?

Who is one woman that inspires you?

“Mrs. Baggett because she teaches us how to be independent.”

-Danielle Russell (Freshman)

“Rhian, because she's always so positive on the basketball team, and Jacey Coleman because she's really nice to everyone.”

-Anonymous Student

Women's History Month 2025

Who is a woman you appreciate?

“My favorite female figure is Ruth Bader Ginsburg, who was appointed by Bill Clinton to the Supreme Court. She had so much drive and desire to change the world and to make it equitable for women. One of her most famous sayings was, someone asked her in an interview, ‘when will you be satisfied with enough women being on the supreme court?’ and she said, ‘when there are nine.’ I just love her view on life.”

-Heidi Frederic (Teacher)

Why is women's history month important?

“Looking at our history, you'll see that for centuries, women weren't considered equal. So let us have a month to celebrate all the amazing things that women do and remind ourselves that behind every ‘great man’ is the mother who birthed and raised them.”

-Sara Bray (Teacher)

Who is one woman that inspires you?

“A woman that inspires me is Temple Grandin. She made leaps and bounds of science. One of the big things she did was designing humane livestock systems. Even just preventing shadows on the walkways that the cows have to go in just so that they're not so scared during the slaughter process. She is also on the spectrum, advocating for others who are also on the spectrum.”

-Chantal Correll (Teacher)

STA’s Brea Bailey and the Ascension Parish Pro Start competition team wins first

BY: SAVANNAH MATLOCK
Gata Data Reporter

On March 19-20, St. Amant High School senior Brea Bailey, along with three students from Dutchtown High School and one from Prairieville High School, as a part of the Ascension Parish Prostart Team, placed first place at the state level for their entree and overall in the two day culinary competition at the Ernest Conference Center in New Orleans. Because of this, the team will compete in the National culinary competition held in Baltimore, Maryland. DTHS senior Olivia Jarreau won Prostart student of the year for the state of Louisiana and first place in the Cake Decorating Competition.

“I felt so excited and overwhelmed with joy,” said Bailey on how she felt when she found out her team’s placements. “I personally prepared the 6 oz filets, the white sweet potato mash, the blackberry



balsamic agrodolce sauce, and the blanched carrots for the entrée. I also prepped the shrimp marinade,” she added.

The team, consisting of seniors Esther Chen, Ty Landianche and Olivia Jarreau of Dutchtown High School, and senior Caroline Palmer of Prairieville High School, must turn in plating photos, along with recipes, recipe costing, and menu pricing documents. The judges know what the dish is supposed to look like and deduct points from any deviation.

The Pro Start competition team is prepared to practice before and after school to prepare for the national competition. In addition, past students who have graduated from culinary institutes are helping them improve their skills. “We have to practice with no running water, two burners and one hour. If we forget to pack an ingredient or appliance, then we go without it because that's how the competition is,” says Bailey.

Bailey says she is most looking forward to the banquet after they compete. “We have a banquet in which we get all dressed up and tons of high-end restaurants bring samples of their best selling dishes that we are able to try.”



PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED BY ASCENSION PROSTART

Record-breaking season for the STA bowlers

BY: HAYDEN LOUPE
Gata Data Reporter

The St. Amant bowling teams have had a record-breaking season, winning 10 of their 12 games and the Lady Gators have a 8-4 record. Both teams are heading to the playoffs on April 1, 2025.

The season begins in the fall semester where the teams meet for practice twice a week at one of the two bowling alleys, Premier Lanes or All-Star Lanes. Once the spring semester begins, the teams compete more than they practice, so it is up to the bowler to individually practice to improve for each game.

“Before my Freshman year I got gutter balls each time” said Junior Jessie Tengler. Tengler and many others had no experience or only ever bowled for fun before joining the team. Throughout the fall semester, Coach Darrin Cagnolatti works with the team to help everyone become the best bowler they can become. “I no longer get gutter balls,” said Tengler.

While many players had hardly any experience before joining the team, players such as senior Gracie Populus and junior Chase Cagnolatti have been playing since childhood. With the experience from a young age, Cagnolatti has become a great asset to the team. In the previous match on March 19, Cagnolatti had averaged 266 in each of the three rounds and had a strike in all but five frames. The bowler had a near perfect second round where he



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED BY HAYDEN LOUPE

had a strike in frames one through nine and then had a spare and strike in the tenth frame. Cagnolatti finished the day with 799 total pins, leaving him with an unforgettable game.

Both the Gators and Lady Gators play 12 games each season. The Gators bowl four district games and 8 non-district games, while the Lady gators play six district and six non-district. Each game is bowled by six bowlers on the home team and six on the visitors. Each individual match is worth one point and the team that knocks down the most pins is rewarded with an extra two points. At the end of the competition, the team with the most points is awarded three extra points. The first team to secure 14 points wins the entire match.

These teams show really great sportsmanship and have become very close friends on and off the lanes. No matter how much the bowlers want to win, they still congratulate each other for their very impressive game. Furthermore, if their teammate seems to be having an off day, they are the first to pick eachother up.

With an amazing run this season, the Gator and Lady Gator teams are heading to the playoffs April 1, 2025 in Kenner, Louisiana. The gators have yet to miss playoffs since 2020, meaning they are heading back for the fifth year in a row. Hopefully, they can continue the high of this season and bring home a state title.

The dangers of Drinking and Driving

BY: HAYDEN LOUPE
Gata Data Reporters

For the first time in ten years, St. Amant High School has organized a live performance to demonstrate the dangers of drinking and driving. On March 26, 2025 students from Mrs. Heidi Frederic’s theater class, STA teachers, and Gonzales first responders worked together to show how one decision can change someone’s entire life.

“Life is about decisions and sometimes we don’t think about the moment when we make hasty decisions,” said Principal Christina Carter. The demonstration was to show how one choice, such as drinking and driving, can alter one’s life or a peers life.

The performance showed the effect of drinking and driving by highlighting the many ways someone’s life can be affected by a drunk driving accident. The demonstration showed serious life-altering head trauma that would ruin the future of someone's life with criminal charges, and even pose the threat of death.

The demonstration’s initiative is focused on targeting juniors and seniors for the prom season by giving them a reminder to make smart decisions. One bad decision can lead to even worse outcomes and a life filled with guilt and grief.



PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED BY HAYDEN LOUPE

Jumping into the Episcopal Track Meet

BY: ALANA ELLIOTT
Gata Data Reporter

St. Amant competed in the Episcopal Relay track meet on Wednesday, March 19. Both the girls and boys showcased their hard work, with some even placing in the top 3.

The boys team placed top 5 in almost every event. In the 200 meter, varsity freshmen Jace Jones placed third and in the 4x100 relay Rashaad Williams, Cole Dixon, Jace Jones, and Timothy Johnson Jr placed third. In the 4x200 relay, Adarious Thomas, Cole Dixon, Jace Jones, Timothy Johnson Jr took third place again. Another relay, the 4x800, placed fourth with Chandler Keller, Cody Saucier, Gage Stafford, and Mason Sylas.

Sophomore Jacoby Davis took second place in shot put, along with Junior Noah Jenkins making

fourth place throwing the discus. Junior Cole Dixon jumped 1.78m, landing him first and Sophomore Jordan Potier jumped 1.78m, which put him in second. In the pole vault, Junior Oliver Foret took fourth place.

For the girls team, pole vaulter Lauren Joshua took first place. With both the 4x100 relay and 4x400 relay, they placed third and second. Sophomore Brea Evans took fifth in the 100 hurdles and fourth place in the 300 hurdles. In the triple jump, Junior Brittany Green took fourth place with 10.43 and Senior Mallory Sutton took fifth with 10.36m. Women’s Javelin Freshmen Averie Foret stole fifth place and in the 200-3200 meter, all Gators placed in the top 5.

FFA Farmers Market & Plant sale: This Weekend!

BY: ALEXANDRA TOSTE
Gata Data Reporter

St Amant’s FFA club is hosting their annual Farmers Market and Plant Sale, which will be held on March 29, from 8 a.m. until 2 p.m. The event is a collaborative effort between all agricultural classes throughout the semester. The students and teachers want to prioritize setting up an environment where it is easy for our community to shop and browse everyone’s projects. Mandy Delaune said, “The farmers market

is a true teaching tool where our kids work the sale to learn the true meaning of customer and community service.” Teachers hope that their students will interact with plenty of people and promote their products. The Farmers Market will have student projects, food trucks, learning stations, and kid zones. For more information contact Mandy Delaune at mandy.delaune@apsb.org.

