



# The Gata Data

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## Opinion: Let's Minecraft

BY: JAYDEN PINO  
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After being announced in 2016, the long-awaited Minecraft movie, titled "A Minecraft Movie," was released on April 4, 2025. It is not a perfect movie by any means, but it was quite entertaining. While the plot falls flat in a lot of places, the movie is full of easter eggs for fans and refreshing, yet sometimes facepalming, comedy. I want to clarify that if you read ahead you will encounter spoilers for the movie. I highly recommend you watch the film for yourself and develop your opinion on it before reading this story.

The movie has a clear and predictable central conflict between Malgotha and the protagonists (Steve, Garret Garrison, Henry, Natalie, and Dawn). Both groups fight over the ownership of the Orb of Dominance, a cube holding unimaginable power. Predictably, Malgotha acquires the Orb but our protagonist uses the power of creativity and teamwork to regain control over the Orb. That is about what I would expect from a children's movie, but many older viewers grew up with the franchise that I feel would have enjoyed a slightly less cookie-cutter plot line.

The characters lack any serious depth or character development. Garret Garrison had a predictable redemption arc and some of the other characters have implied character development that I feel could have been built on. It is clear that they were trying to build the idea that the child protagonist Henry finds acceptance in sharing his creativity with the world, but the child's actors' lackluster performance and minimal screen time prevent this idea from being portrayed in a meaningful way. The idea of venturing away from escapism to face real-world problems could have been a touching, and relatable topic for many viewers to explore. Steve's decision to leave the Overworld (Minecraft world) at the end of the movie had the potential to touch on this thematic idea, but he seemingly makes this decision with little build-up and more due to his loneliness.

Many YouTubers known for producing Minecraft content make cameos throughout the movie. There was even a reference to a Minecraft content creator named Technoblade who passed away from cancer in 2022, which I feel was executed in a respectful and well-done manner. These references definitely pleased many fans, and I believe fit the sense of a community that the Minecraft franchise has formed.

Whether it was intentional or not, I, along with many of the people I know, found the absurdity of the movie's existence alone to be incredibly

humorous. Throughout the movie, Steve, played by actor Jack Black, pronounced items from the real game with odd inflections and his trademark mannerisms, which created many iconic moments. Some of these moments consist of the phrases, "Chicken Jockey", "Flint and Steel" and "They love crushing Leaves".



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED BY BEDFORD PLAYHOUSE

There were also numerous jokes throughout the movie geared towards more adult audiences. There was quite humorous chemistry between Steve and Garret Garrison that helped propel the comedy and a lane that I feel is difficult to pull off in a non-cringe way. Cutaways throughout the movie show the relationship between Vice Principal Marlene, played by Jennifer Coolidge, and a Minecraft Villager. The romantic relationship between a character from the human world and one from the Minecraft Overworld builds on the absurdity of the movie in an engaging manner.

The designs of digital models in the Minecraft world were also quite well done. The movement CGI looked natural, which I appreciate considering the amount of poorly done CGI I have seen in mainstream cinema in the past few years. At many points throughout the movie, I was in awe of the quality of the effects.

The movie also takes some creative liberties, adding content that is not found in the Minecraft video game. The title of the movie makes a point to say that it is "A Minecraft Movie" not "The Minecraft Movie", to express the idea that this is just one narrative inspired by the Minecraft universe. I understand how some fans feel that they have been done a disservice by the creative liberties, but I was not bothered by them. Even though the creative liberties did not bother me, they were not needed as they were mostly introduced to build Henry's creative persona that I felt was undeveloped. I did enjoy the villain, Malgotha, who is an original character created for the movie inspired by the Minecraft Story Mode video game. Her design was cool and she did a decent job being a menacing and fun villain.

This is a film worth watching. The post-credits scene even hints at a possible sequel being made in the future which I will stay on the lookout for, as I am excited to see how the franchise moves forward. The movie has its issues, but the cultural impact is undeniable and the humor outweighs the odd missteps taken in the movie's creation.

## STA's Gymnastics team flipping into State

BY: ALEXANDRA TOSTE  
Gata Data Reporter

St Amant's gymnastics just completed their second meet of the season on April fifth. Most girls got their highest scores of the season and exceeded their expectations. Bryce Lonidier, a sophomore says, "Most girls love the team because it gives you an opportunity to contribute to STA outside of the school, and make new friendships." Their beginning preparations for the season started off without flipping and running but instead, the team devoted their attention to building each other up.

Makynzie Crochet, a sophomore, speaks about their team as a whole, "Our team dynamics are pretty cohesive, we support each other throughout each person's own individual journey but also hold everyone to some sort of standard so that we can be productive as a team." The girls build each other's confidence up, and support their teammates so they can perform their best. Although gymnastics might be a solo sport, teamwork is very important because the girls' total scores add up to go into the teams overall placement and score. Makynzie also shares how the girls push themselves to reach their goals, "we strive to beat Dutchtown since those are our biggest competitors. However, some girls struggle, and that is where teamwork comes in. Whether it be correcting each other or giving each other pep talks, we are able to push ourselves and each other to reach our goals."

The girls prepare for the season starting in September even though their first meet is in February. The girls work hard every week and push for greatness and success. Jewels Darr, a freshman says, "We prepare for a meet by practicing how we compete and perfecting our skills. Yet, we try not to push ourselves too hard so

we are not tired for the meet, since gymnastics is a straining sport."

Both levels three and four placed third overall for team awards. In solo awards, Bryce Lonidier, a level four, placed first on bars and took fourth all around. Piper Hudson, level four, sophomore placed second on floor. Lastly, Addison Michael, level three, junior placed third on bars. The girls season is coming to an end, as they are now preparing for their last meet, which is state. Show up and show out to support the girls, on April 12 at Baton Rouge High School.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED BY STA GYMNASTIC TEAM



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED BY BRYLEE DEBATE

# STA bowlers compete in post-season

BY: HAYDEN LOUPE  
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The St. Amant Gator bowlers traveled to Kenner to compete in the bowling playoffs on April 1, 2025. The Gators faced the number six seed Jesuit in their first round of playoffs and had a very strong game with a combined season high of 3833 pins. However, even after such a successful game, the Gators season was put to an end and they finished in the top 16 of the state.

The number 13 seed Lady Gators traveled to Lafayette to compete in their bowling playoffs on April 3, 2025. The Lady Gators faced the number four overall seed, South Terrebone and despite the seeding, the Lady Gators were able to defeat South Terrebone. The girls advanced to the second round where they faced Denham Springs and fell behind 6-2 in the first game. However, the girls came back stronger in the next two games and were able to defeat Denham Springs as well. The girls advanced to the semi-finals where they competed against the Lady Griffs from Dutchtown. Friday, April 11, 2025, the LHSAA Singles State Championship will be held at All-Star Lanes. Both the Gators and Lady Gators have three players each that will be competing in this competition. Lady Gators Brooke Hernandez, Kaedyn Mumphrey and Addison Kirby will be attending. Those attending the competition for the boys are Alex Duhon, Ashton Kirby and Chase Cagnolatti. Go support the bowling team at Premier Lanes on Friday, April 11.



STAFF PHOTO BY HAYDEN LOUPE

# Gators to host second-ever Marksmanship competition "The Jambalaya Cup"

BY: CHANCE GOMEZ  
Gata Data Reporters

The St. Amant Gators' NJROTC is hosting their second-ever marksmanship competition on Saturday, April 12 2024, which they have deemed "The Jambalaya Cup." The Gators will host four schools besides themselves: Dutchtown, Walker, East Ascension and NOMMA (New Orleans Military and Maritime Academy).

St. Amant's first-ever hosted marksmanship competition differed from this upcoming one because the only schools to compete in the first competition were St. Amant and Dutchtown. This is because, up until the upcoming Jambalaya Cup, East Ascension High School students played alongside St. Amant NJROTC students under the St. Amant High School team.

Students will face immense challenges at the event, as most NJROTC marksmanship students compete at a range indoors. This is very different from the environment they will be placed in at St. Amant since St. Amant uses an outdoor range for their marksmanship shoots. This means that most competitors will face new challenges that they are not used to such as sunlight and wind, which may be a problem for some.

"St. Amant's going to at least get second place and East Ascension will probably be third," says St. Amant's NJROTC Lieutenant Commander Aaron Bates about St. Amant and East Ascension's predicted performance at the event.

Bates states that St. Amant will most likely get second due to Walker High School. Bates looks forward to having the opportunity to defeat Walker for St. Amant's first time ever, but Walker's marksmanship presence is far more developed than St. Amant's, giving

them an advantage over St. Amant in the competition.

Walker also holds the advantage because of the fact that St. Amant and East Ascension are separating for the first time into their own separate teams, taking multiple strong competitors from St. Amant's team and contributing them towards the newly-established East Ascension team. Despite being at multiple disadvantages to Walker, St. Amant still expects to do very well in the competition because they have the advantage of having more experience shooting on outdoors ranges.

Despite the outcome of the competition though, St. Amant is extremely thankful for Walker. This is because last year Walker contributed twenty 2009 Crossman Challenger competition air rifles to St. Amant High School's NJROTC program. The used rifles added multiple thousands of dollars worth of air rifles to St. Amant's collection of competition rifles, which has been a great help to the NJROTC program.

Competitors also have the opportunity to compete in a standing shoot, which acts as a knockout round during the competition. "You have to qualify to do a standing knockout. So what they'll do is we'll put 10 targets up, all 10 people will take a shot... and then we go look at all the targets and whoever has the worst shot is eliminated," said Bates.

Overall, St. Amant is expecting a good performance at the event and competitors are looking forward to having the opportunity to compete against Walker again. St. Amant's NJROTC Commander Micah Kiletico is also looking forward to the competition, closing off his statement with "who doesn't love a competition?"

# St. Amant Track and Field darts to new school records

BY: ALYSE DUPUY  
Gata Data Reporter

On April 4 at Dutchtown Invitational, three St. Amant High School athletes broke school records in track and field. Senior Asia Williams ran in the 200 with a time of 25.55. Junior Ella Willoughby ran in the two-mile with a time of 11:28.47. Lastly, Sophomore Macee Gore ran in the 800-meter with a time of 2:24.36.

Williams broke the record in the 200 for the second time in her high school career. She describes this feeling as "really accomplished." Williams strongly believes that only consistent practice makes perfect. She is extremely optimistic about her future goals continuing in track, along with her team's goals.

Willoughby had a similar experience with her run. "I had run that time before, during indoor season the year prior, so it didn't immediately register." After the realization, she describes running up to her coach as "such a proud moment." To prepare for her success, she "stuck to her usual routine" and focused on what she aimed to accomplish. Going into the meet, she felt discouraged because she did not do as well in an event as she had anticipated, but she got her head in the game and locked it in.

"Honestly, after 24 years, it feels really good," Gore said. By



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED BY STA YEARBOOK STAFF

setting personal records for herself, she was able to achieve her goal. "It was in my head that I wanted to do it, so I had to do it," Gore said. The moment she realized she had broken records, she was "jumping up and down" and ran to her coach, Darren Simoneaux.

With the sociable embrace that track provides, athletes unanimously believe that the sport is peaceful and brings them to a calm state. "Running is peaceful, and the adrenaline rush helps because I am very competitive," Gore said. The track and field competitions have a positive atmosphere, and everyone has a sense of mutual respect. There are many positive relationships created between schools around the area and within the St. Amant team itself. Willoughby said, "Track is such a welcoming sport." Each of these individuals

challenge themselves during afterschool practices and competitions to be the best they can be. I just want to keep progressing and get my times down — into the low 5s and toward 11 flat in the 3200." Willoughby shared. The Gators will continue to practice, and they hope that they can only go up from these moments moving forward. Support the Gators track and field team next Thursday, April 17.