



The Gator Data

St. Amant High School • 12035 HIGHWAY 431, St. Amant, LA 70774 • Issue 1 • JANUARY 2026

Gators pin opps at public state meets, win Jambalaya Cup

By: RANDI GUFFEY
Gata Data Reporter

The Gator wrestling team went to state on January 3. The team secured nine out of 14 places to the semi-finals, with the closest team only placing four guys. The team ended the match with a 21-3 dual record. Coach Clint Brownell said that there were three guys who stood out to him: Lando Deleon, Kent Pearson, and Joshua Caronna. Coach Clint commented, "Those three in particular kind of destroyed, it was really nice."

Over the weekend of January 10, the team also competed at the Jambalaya Cup hosted by Dutchtown High. The team had a 24-3 dual team record. The team won the Jambalaya Cup for the first time since 2021. Coach Clint said, "I was expecting us to win, but we won by a way bigger margin than I thought was possible. The guys stepped up and were able to win the match."

Senior Kent Pearson won the state title in the Public School State Championship. He was in the number two seed and ended up being undefeated throughout all of his matches. Junior Joshua Caronna was also able to be the fourth, second, and first seed, going from the sixth seed to winning. Sophomore Lando Deleon started at the ninth seed and ended up being third. He was able to beat multiple top 10 opponents, including the sixth, fifth, fourth, and third seed. Coach Clint speaks about Mikayla Byington, "She's doing very well...She's like 100 pounds of awesome." She is currently 26-0 and wrestled the top six girls and pinned them all down in the first period, "She's a monster, man."

Senior Kent Pearson said that it was a very exciting one for him. The public school state meet is all of the public schools in Louisiana allowing them to all have a fair chance to win and see who has the best program. Pearson placed first place at the meet. "Honestly sometimes I didn't think I could win but I did," said Pearson. Pearson also said that the Jambalaya Cup is always a little tough for him, this year he didn't get the outcome he wanted but says that it always reminds him to stay grounded and humble. Pearson season has had its ups and downs with injuries and medical problems. "Every year I've had to persevere, like last year I broke my wrist, in the middle of the season. Came back and was able to place fifth last year. Nothing different this year, I stay strong and will and faith in God, come back stronger every time."

But the team pushes each other to be the best wrestlers they can be, "This is the best team I think St. Amant has ever had," said Pearson. This year Pearson is focusing on not only being the best wrestler he can but also the best version of himself. Pearson is focusing on his patience and calmness, this helps his mental state, "Honestly why I think I'm winning, wrestling is like 95% mental. I just think that's a big part of it. And how you carry yourself on and off the mat." Pearson has had a successful season so far with getting more wins this year than his freshman and sophomore year combined.

Lady Gator Soccer shines as the season builds

By: ALYSE DUPUY AND
ALEXANDRA TOSTE
Gata Data Reporter

Amidst the St. Amant soccer season, the Lady Gator Soccer Team has been preparing to end its season with a bang. The girls have been putting in the work and are ready to face their upcoming competition. The coaching staff claims they are extremely fortunate to have this group of girls, as they have put forth their best efforts to reach their full potential. Coach Jacob Bordelon says, "Our players' understanding and executing the game plan is what led us to our accomplishments this season."

However, the beginning preparations for the season started off the field. Bordelon starts by watching their opponents, whether that may be in person or through film. The coaching staff spends hours analyzing how other teams work. When asked how the team works as a whole, Bordelon says, "The team works well together because of the chemistry they have." STA's girls' team is unique because it features six freshmen who start on varsity. This makes them unique because these girls are competing with All-State-level senior players from other schools.



The senior class of the team is "super close," according to senior Sophia Piazza. These close relationships are only one attribute of the girls' success. With a combination of trial and error, the team performs new formations, given by Bordelon, in hopes of beating their competition. Senior, Kadence Kindschuh states, "I feel like every single game we play different formations, sometimes it works, sometimes it doesn't, but most of the time our coach changes things up to make it work." Looking back on the team's accomplishments from last year, Bordelon's coaching has been very successful this year as well. Kindschuh says, "We set a game record last year. He's a great coach."

These achievements leave the girls feeling optimistic about the remainder of the season. Piazza says, "I think we definitely have potential to go farther in the playoffs than last year." The support of their peers is beneficial to their performance level during games. Junior, Bralyn Bourque says, "When you have your friends cheering you on, it just makes everything better." Show up and show out for the Lady Gator Soccer Team on Saturday, January 17, against St. Amant's rival, East Ascension High School.

'There's nothing like it': STA Gators lift to victory

By: HAYDEN LOUPE
Gata Data Reporter

St. Amant High provides many opportunities to students looking for extracurriculars, such as powerlifting. STA holds the female and male top lifters in the state for the 5a division as of now, those being seniors Ella Young and Kent Pearson. Alongside Pearson, senior Luke Rachal holds second in state for the boys. Senior Cecilia Gautreau, junior Calli Hargrave and a number of other members are also included in the top 10 for 5a.

Last season, the sport faced a new rule where members must get a qualify totally to advance to regionals and state. Due to this rule, Coach James Roberts has started having officials come and judge the showcase to make the showcase count towards the lifters total. The total consists of the best lift out of three attempts on squat, benchpress and deadlift. Officials are looking for the depth of the lifter's hips and making sure their hips are just below their knees, making sure the lifters don't shift their feet or rest their elbows on their thighs while pushing up during their squats. During benchpress, officials make sure the bar is leveled, feet don't move, and they don't lift off the bench during the lift. The main things officials look for in deadlift is that the lifters do not lock their knees.

The team is preparing for their district meet on January 17 in Denham Springs. While not all of the lifters will be competing at the district meet because they are already qualified and preparing for regionals, the team still has some lifters who will attend the meet to hopefully win the district title against other teams such as Dutchtown and Denham Springs.

Powerlifting was started as an opportunity for football players who didn't have another sport in their off season to continue working on their strength to prepare for the upcoming football season. Around 40-60 players initially joined powerlifting, but as the powerlifting season begins around 20-30 stay for the season. In fact, many of the

workouts the team does consist of football workouts.

While some are looking for something to do in the football off season, others joined powerlifting simply due to a competitive mindset or growing up around the team. Pearson joined powerlifting not only for something to do when football was out but also because he enjoys competing. "I just like competing, freshman year I wanted to go into everything I could, especially things that were physically exerting and hard," said Pearson. Senior Audrey Roberts is the daughter of the powerlifting team's coach. Roberts said that since she grew up going to practices and meets with her father and always being around the sport it has always piqued her interest. "I just watched them lift and it was amazing," said Roberts.

In order to prepare themselves for meets, the lifters have routines they follow to get them in the mindset to be the best they could be. Many lifters use music and prayer to get them locked in and focused on their sets and despite his competitive mindset, Pearson reminds himself to stay humble and calm. Others give themselves positive affirmations leading into the meet. "I tell myself, you've done it before, you can do this, trust yourself, go with your gut, don't let anybody else tell you what you can do because you know what you can do" said Roberts. Along with Roberts, other lifters also reflect on how they have done in the past to give themselves the reminder that they can push themselves to do even better at each meet they attend.

STA holds many of the top 10 lifters in the state including the top male and female in the 5a division. Some lifters will be attending the district meet on Saturday, January 17 hoping to achieve a district title and qualify for regions, while others are already on the road to regionals and hope to get to state and continue holding the champion title.

STA Cheerleaders are stunting their way up to Nationals

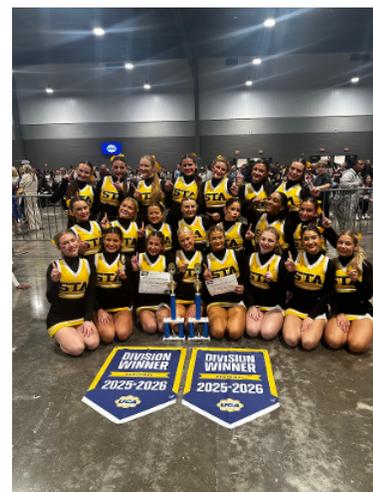
By: RAEGAN ELISAR AND BROOKE
PIERCE
Gata Data Reporter

St Amant High School's Black Squad cheer team has begun preparing for the NHSCC nationals competition held on February 7-8, 2026.

The Black Squad practices 3-4 times a week for 3 hours, on top of practicing at home, conditioning with weights, working on jumps, and running for endurance. Mrs. Lambert, a coach for the Black Squad, says, "This is the most confident I've been in a while." The team is hitting stunt skills that they haven't hit since before covid and the motion technique in gameday is the best it has been in years. Ryleigh Lanoux, Black Squad Captain, also feels very confident and states that she is excited to see all the hard work they've put in come to life.

The team is going up against very tough competition in both their traditional and game-day routines. The Traditional routine is full of stunts, jumps, and dancing, while gameday is what you would see on the sideline for a football game: bandchant, cheer, sideline, and fight song. In the traditional routine, they go against 20 teams and need to be in the top ten to make it to the finals. For Gameday, they go against 23 teams, but it is split into two groups. In Black Squad's group, they go against 12 teams and have to be in the best 6 to make it to the finals. For Gameday, they are competing against 2 national title-holding teams from previous years. They are hoping to make it to the finals for both routines and improve from previous years.

The most exciting part of nationals for the girls on the team is getting to perform with their friends one last time and show what they have been working on all season. "This season has gone great; there have been ups and downs along the way, but that's what builds our team to be stronger. Our teamwork is amazing, and we have all formed such a strong bond, making this year so much more fun," says Lanoux.





SENIOR 2026

SAVE THE DATES

**April 15th: MANDATORY CLASS MEETING
(Commons During Advisory)**

**April 17th: SENIOR SHIRT DISTRIBUTION
(Commons A & B Lunch)**

**April 21st: SENIOR SUPPLIES (INVITES)
(Jostens at A & B Lunch)**

**April 29th: LAST DAY FOR SENIORS
Cap & Gown Distribution**

**ALL OBLIGATIONS MUST BE PAID ON
SCHOOL CASH ONLINE.**

FREE ACT Tutoring

—with Mrs. Figs—



Every Monday 2:45-3:45 PM

ROOM 105
NO SIGN UP REQUIRED

February 14th & April 11th
Saturday Test
Paper/Pencil or
Digital

March 12th
School Day Test
Digital-only

OPINION: Is SpongeBob Peak?

By: SANIYA SMITH
Gata Data Reporter

The iconic yellow sponge that has graced our television screens since the late 90's has made his debut in the new movie, *The SpongeBob Movie: Search for SquarePants*, released on December 19, 2025, directed by Derek Drymon alongside cast members Tom Kenny, Mark Hamill, George Lopez, Regina Hall, Clancy Brown, Regina Hall and Ice Spice.

One morning, SpongeBob woke up, and he grew taller, thus making him a "Big Guy." Although he physically grew taller, the Sponge soon considers himself to be lacking when it comes to what he perceived as the embodiment of what it means to be a big guy. SpongeBob compared himself to Mr. Krabs to prove to both himself and Mr. Krabs that he has what it takes to be a "Big Guy." SpongeBob and his best pal, Patrick, embark on a precarious journey to the Underworld with the conniving Flying Dutchman to complete trials to prove his masculinity. Did SpongeBob have



what it takes to be a "Big Guy?" Well, it's up to the viewer's interpretation of masculinity, which is a broad spectrum that cannot be defined; it all depends on the morals of each individual. *The SpongeBob Movie: Search for SquarePants* contains a series of unrelated and frankly ill-suited jokes that may go over the heads of young viewers, and it lacks depth unless thought is put into the themes within the film: masculinity, boyhood, and what defines them all. However, there was a moment of realization within Mr. Krabs and SpongeBob, which adds to the character development of the old crab. The concept behind the movie is amazing, but the execution was mediocre, and the pacing of the movie was quite poor; it felt rushed, but due to the fact that it is a children's movie, it makes sense. The new SpongeBob film brings an exciting adventure while also addressing themes of patriarchal expectations. So what does it truly mean to be a "big guy?"

OPINION: Social media usage can impact teens negatively

By: DARIEN LEJANDER
Gata Data Reporter

Is too much time being spent on social media? The digital environment does more than just fill time; it actively reshapes the young brain and sense of self. The teenage brain is in a critical stage of development, therefore it is sensitive to the social rewards such as "likes" and "comments" provided by social media platforms. This constant need for external validation can create a sense of comparison, leaving teens to measure their worth against handpicked popularity, often selected by beauty and success. According to the Cyberbullying Research Center, 58% of U.S. teens reported experiencing cyberbullying at some point in their lives by 2025. Alongside, Cyberbullying is expected to increase for the 2026 year while the targeted audience is LGBTQ+ youth with 42% being reported on high risk platforms like YouTube (79%), Snapchat (69%), and TikTok (64%) where teens are most likely to experience these negative interactions according to ACM Digital Library.

Cyberbullying can also cause sleep disruption, impulsive decision making, and lower attention span. In 2026 experts are promoting real world connections such as technology free zones, family time, and different hobbies such as knitting, sewing & biking. By balancing digital opportunities with healthy boundaries, teenagers can begin to reclaim their identity from the influence of the screen and develop a more resilient sense of self in both the digital and physical world.

To the students of St. Amant High: be sure to balance your real life and digital life, as social media can have a negative impact on you and make you forget your real life worth. You are just as important as everyone else!

SENIOR SALUTES + Yearbook Orders

Both Due APRIL 1st!!



Check on School Cash Online!!

IF YOU HAVE ANY
QUESTIONS EMAIL MRS.
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2026

By: KHLOE GUFFEY
Gata Data Reporter

Back to school quiz

The new semester has started, so here is a quiz to see how much you remembered before the break. The Answers will be at the end.

1. There was a new policy introduced at the beginning of this school year. What was it?

- a. Students are no longer allowed to have cell phones on and in use during school hours on campus.
- b. Students are only allowed to go to the restroom five times during one semester.
- c. If a student driver has more than five tardies in one class, their parking pass will get revoked for a week.

2. What teacher was named Teacher of the Year?

- a. Sara Bray
- b. Andrew Green
- c. Jacob Newsom

3. Who won homecoming queen?

- a. Ali Cunningham
- b. Jade Vinnett
- c. Ella Young

4. The St. Amant vs. EA football game ended with what score?

- a. 29-30
- b. 48-49
- c. 56-57

5. Who is the Student of the Year?

- a. Oliver Foret
- b. Sophia Piazza
- c. Chase Cagnolatti

6. What musical did the STA Theater perform this year?

- a. High School Musical
- b. Mama Mia
- c. The Addams Family

7. What sport is being brought to STA in the spring?

- a. Flag Football
- b. Swimming
- c. Golf

Answer Key: CABBACA