



The Gata Data

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Students decorate doors to celebrate Black History Month

By: ALYSE DUPUY
Gata Data Reporter

In honor of Black History Month, students were prompted and encouraged to create a door reflecting important African American figures during an Advisory lesson. Black History Month is a time to recognize, celebrate and learn about the contributions and history of African Americans. Many of these figures can be overlooked in history, and this month takes the time to reflect on some of the most accomplished individuals.

Many teachers decided to incorporate their doors to what subject they teach. Mrs. Jessica Jones, a Spanish teacher at St. Amant, has done an "Afro-Latino" project every year during Black History Month to "open up kids to other cultures" as it is easy to stay in a "bubble" in such a small community. Her class decided to create the door as their project. "I just think it's important to recognize the contributions made from other people of different cultures," says Mrs. Jones.



Mrs. Sara Duhe, an AP and Dual Enrollment teacher also correlated the door to the subject she teaches. "I knew I wanted to showcase an author for my door since I teach English classes," says Mrs. Duhe. Junior, Brea Evans had the idea of the focal point of their door: showcasing the author, Toni Morrison. The class performed extensive research, and it became clear this author was nothing short of astounding. Mrs. Duhe believes that through literature, she can help her students to build empathy and connection through the lens of diversity.

Mrs. Heidi Frederic, the theatre teacher at St. Amant ensured to create her door based on highlighting African American figures in entertainment. The tagline on her door reads, "Black

Excellence in Entertainment." Her classes began listing plenty of actors and did research on these figures. "They have provided significant contributions to the world of entertainment, from television, to films, to Broadway, to theatre and it's really nice that we have a month we can pay tribute to black entertainers throughout history," Mrs. Frederic says when discussing the crucial roles these influential leaders have played. When thinking of entertainment, many do not realize the impact these people have made. "Entertainment is something we consume every day, and a lot of time you don't get to stop and realize how these people have changed the industry," Mrs. Frederic says.

Ms. Brandy Ortego teaches the Introduction to Health Occupations at St. Amant. Her door highlights African Americans who have made significant discoveries and changes within the healthcare industry. "These people set the standard; they paved the way for my students to even be here today," says Ms. Ortego. Students hand-drew pictures of some of the most important people to the industry.

Mrs. Kimberly Williams teaches Technical Writing and based her door off of that. Her door's phrase consisted of "Black Innovators Wrote the Manual." They created the door to celebrate those who, "wrote the patents, diagrams, and procedures that made those innovations usable," according to Mrs. Williams. Black innovators have contributed to our everyday lives, and it is important to recognize them, especially during this month. "When we highlight their work, we give students a more complete and accurate picture of who has shaped our world," Mrs. Williams says.

Congratulations to Mrs. Williams, Ms. Ortego and Mrs. Jones on their door placements!

GNN TAKEOVER: STA Black Squad place top 10 at Nationals

By: SAVHANNA MILLER, AND JESSIE TENGLER
GNN Reporters

On Saturday, February 7 and Sunday, February 8, the Black Squad Cheerleaders competed at nationals in Orlando, Florida for the twelfth consecutive year. The girls placed 7th out of 22 teams in their game day routine. On Saturday, the team competed in both Traditional and Gameday nontumbling divisions. They made it to finals for the game day routine, where they competed Sunday, February 8 for their overall placement.

With excitement and nerves, the girls left Louisiana Wednesday, February 4. They stayed at All Star Sports Resort, where they were able to practice every day on the artificial turf. This area was the size of an entire football field with hundreds of other cheerleaders. Here, they were able to try to lock in their routine, and perfect it to the best of their ability.



Saturday was the semi-finals.

After each team competed, they were able to go backstage and watch an instant replay of the routine. Brooke Pierce, a junior cheerleader mentioned, "I felt we did great. I think those were the best run-throughs we've ever done." The girls felt so relieved and so proud of their performance. They placed second in the group they competed in and made it to finals in the game day routine, so the work wasn't over yet. They performed their routine for finals on that Sunday. All the work they had put in paid off.

The journey to Orlando this year was especially difficult. Along the road, there were many speed bumps that they had to face including sicknesses and several injuries. In October, one of the cheerleaders got a concussion, and that stunt group wasn't able to get as many reps in as other groups. In December, there was another concussion right before a competition, and many people had to learn new temporary spots. However, the biggest setback of all came just two weeks leading up to nationals. A main base, Ava Avila tore her meniscus towards the very end of performance at the Denham Springs Competition. This resulted in immediate knee surgery just a week from Nationals. Despite this, the team didn't let this setback overcome them. The coaches and girls immediately got to work changing the routine and overcoming this obstacle. A sophomore, Hallie Antill was one of the girls who had to be added into the routine. "It's definitely stressful. It's a lot, going from not really doing much to doing a lot, and you just have to prepare yourself for being put in all year," said Antill. Without hesitation, Antill joined the routine. She and others intentionally learned the material from the very beginning so that they could be dependable.

See **CHEER** continued on page 3

NJROTC places second in Regionals, cadets compete at Nationals

By: RAEGAN ELISAR AND RANDI GUFFEY
Gata Data Reporter

NJROTC recently competed in the area 16 regional drill championship that included teams from Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, and Tennessee. The team competed in drill and athletics and finished second place overall. The team consisted of 38 members but brought four extra members to help with equipment.

NJROTC also competed in an air rifle state championship where they placed second in the navy division. Jack Townley was also awarded a stand out performer by receiving the highest score.

The last competition they recently competed at was a drill and athletic meet at LSU. This was a precision rifle drill competition and came in third overall. Commander Micah Kiletico wanted to add that Jourden Maiden came back as a first place solo.

Kiletico states, "It was fantastic, he was impressive." A freshman team duet, Jude Bates and Deklan Starkey, also competed together.

On February 12-14, 2026, Junior Cadet Miles Bates represented St. Amant NJROTC at the teams first ever national competition in Columbia, Missouri. Bates represented St. Amant as an individual and shot for two days doing 60 targets a day with each course fire taking about two hours to complete.

Bates says, "It takes a lot of mental focus and patience to be able to shoot well." This experience wasn't what Bates expected, but he was able to see how most national teams performed and how St. Amant compared to them. Bates says that other teams closely compared to St. Amant when it comes to how well they shot overall. "Going to nationals and seeing that we're almost on par with national level shooting made me really happy," Bates said.

Bates was runner up as well and scored 510+ on the first day earning him a gold EIC badge, which is another first for STA. Overall, NJROTC has excelled in many ways in previous competitions and has made St. Amant proud.



FFA's Annual Farmer's Market and Plant Sale set for March 28

By: GRACE AVANTS
Gata Data Reporter

Future Farmers of America are hosting its annual Farmer's Market sale, March 28, where students of Agriscience from Jennifer Baumann's and Mandy Delaune's class, and other FFA members have been working hard to accomplish planting numerous plants to have a successful sale. FFA's market occurs every year. Delaune says, "it's become a staple in our community, people every year look forward to coming, it almost advertises for itself." The sale always has a huge outcome bringing the community of St. Amant together.

To prepare, Agriscience students play a pivotal role in ensuring the sales success, multiple jobs are given to AG students through their class period, "mixing new soil to put in pots, planting herbs, and flowers" are just a few tasks they accomplish during their time. Although students are putting in a lot of effort into this, it is also a fun experience for students to contribute their part and see all the progress that they have made. The sale also showcases team work throughout their planting process. "Ag students might be planting, the carpentry kids may be building, our FFA officer team does all the behind the scenes organizing," Delaune said. Each person has their own job to do to create the success of the sale, without one job not being done it will affect the outcome of the

sale entirely.

The hard work students put into the sale is an example of what their future would be going into a farming/agricultural industry. This event teaches them key lessons and what students would need to know if interested in going into a farmers market business. When putting on the Market sale, students learn how to price match and set appropriate costs for not just plants but for carpentry pieces that students in Carpentry class have created. Delaune says "it shows the students all the sides of the agriculture business," which is beneficial to these students to further help them know how to run a successful business in the future. FFA officers specifically do multiple tasks and take on a "leadership role that really teaches them about a business". Officers play a key role in all the behind the scenes work that creates the production of the Market sale.

Overall, FFA students consistently put time in working incredibly hard to ensure the sale is a hit, leaving their teachers proud of their dedication and work they have been contributing. Delaune said, "I'm always extremely proud of our AG students; most people don't see the amount of work that goes into it." If you are interested in going to the FFA's Farmer's Market, it will be on March 28 at the school.



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So much work was put into the routine the week leading up to nationals, the girls put in multiple hours each practice everyday. They focused on learning new parts, new stunts and new jobs with signs. The team tried to stay positive no matter what curveball was thrown, and the team handled this setback “beautifully” according to Mrs. Lambert. Addison Blanchard, a senior cheerleader says they hyped each other up to help maintain positivity.

Though this year had many setbacks, and they didn't place what they anticipated, the girls were close this year. “I just think this year we were really a family,” Pierce said. “We wanted to go down to Orlando as friends and come back as friends and I think we accomplished our goals, so it was a great year,” said Mrs. Lambert. Many of the girls left the mat pleased with the result of the work they had put into the routine.

“I was proud of our team for getting through all of these obstacles,” senior co-captain Kyleigh Brigalia commented.

After all the speed bumps along the way, placing 7 out of 22 teams at nationals is an accomplishment that shows great improvement from last year. Good job girls!



STA Gators take on D.C.

By: ALLY MECHE
Gata Data Reporter

On February 15 to February 20, Mrs. Abbie Tucker took a group of students to Washington D.C. The trip was available to St. Amant Juniors and Seniors, many of them being a part of Rho Kappa or currently enrolled in AP Government and Politics or Civics.

During the trip, the students experienced many educational and exciting things, such as a private tour of the Capital and House of Representatives. The trip also included a visit to the Holocaust Museum, Washington Monument, U.S Supreme Court, Fords Theatre and much more. “We had a lot of highlights.” Mrs. Tucker said. “When you get to go to Washington and see historical things, you remember that these were real people in History, and get a better understanding on how they felt and what they did.”

Students also were able to apply skills in a mock legislature, where they debated current legislation

being passed such as minimum wage with students from around different states, allowing them to widen their perspective. “I learned how to publicly speak better and have a conversation with someone who holds different ideas and opinions from me.” Senior Kenny Nguyen said. “I think everyone should go, you meet the best people, see the best things, and you will be really happy that you went afterwards.”

While this was Mrs. Tucker's first time taking a group to Washington, she hopes that it is only the beginning. “Now that I have navigated the process, I think it will only get easier. I'm hoping this becomes an annual thing where students can visit, and I think more students should be exposed to the program.” Tucker said. “It is a great opportunity for students to engage in Civic Participation.” Mrs. Tucker is very proud of all those who attended this trip in representation of St. Amant.

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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.**

MEET THE GATORS



Advice to Underclassmen: "Do not pass judgment on others for their differences, but acknowledge them and even celebrate them."

"To me, Black History Month is a time to celebrate the contributions Black people have made to society throughout history. It's a time to celebrate the Black community."

STASTUCO CELEBRATES BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Secret Hobby / Hidden Talent:

Pogo Stick Riding

Delaney Branch

- Junior - Class of 2027
- Color Guard
- Black Inspiration: COACH REED
 - "He works hard to educate students about both the ups and downs of Black history. He's kind and always willing to lend a hand as well."



Advice to Underclassmen: "Enjoy high school because you will have some of your best moments, and to live in it, but also stay on top your grades."

"Black History Month is a month dedicated to celebrating black excellence. It is an upgrade from Negro History Week, so the support is increasing. Black History Month is a month that brings awareness to the contributions of African Americans throughout the years."

STASTUCO CELEBRATES BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Secret Hobby / Hidden Talent:

Sleeping & Eating

Kaven Taylor (KT)

- Senior - Class of 2026
- Football, Basketball, & Track & Field
- Black Inspiration: COACH REED
 - "His constant effort to teach everybody on campus about black history is inspiring. He started the AP African American History class at STA High School and is also really dedicated to his work. He will teach black history to anybody who wants to learn or just wants to listen. He is an inspiration on this campus to everybody."