

ALLEMANDS CAJUN DANCERS

Celebrating Culture Through Dance

Located in Des Allemands, Louisiana, **Allemands Elementary School** of St. Charles Parish Public Schools has celebrated and preserved the region's French heritage for more than four decades. The tradition **began in the early 1980s** when French classes were introduced as part of the school's curriculum under the leadership of Betty Hogan. Along with language instruction, students also learned the art of **Cajun dancing**, deepening their appreciation for Louisiana's cultural roots. Building upon this foundation, Madame Carol Touchard established the **Traveling Cajun Dancers group**, providing students opportunities to perform at public events and share their heritage beyond the classroom. After Madame Touchard's retirement, Tonya Tastet and Wendy Solomon carried the tradition forward, with Anne Ardoin continuing French instruction. Through the combined efforts of dedicated teachers and seven supportive school leaders, this cultural program has flourished across generations. Today, the Allemands Cajun Dancers proudly perform authentic Cajun dances that trace back to the Acadians of the 18th century, **preserving a living piece of Louisiana's past.**

Over the years, the Cajun Dancers have entertained audiences across the region with performances at events such as Celebration in the Oaks, Pelicans basketball games, national conferences, Patron Tours/Education Expeditions, SCPPS ArtsFest, Swamp Stomp, and various parish celebrations. This proud tradition continues to inspire community pride and cultural connection. **Allons danser!**