

A Magazine by Ascension Public Schools | Fall 2019

ASCEND



*Pecan Grove Primary Physical Education Teacher Auburn Cain
congratulates a student for making a free throw.*



CORE



LEADERSHIP

LEARNING

SERVICE

TEAMWORK

VALUES

This is an exciting time in the history of Ascension Public Schools.

Our student enrollment continues to grow, and we are expanding and updating our facilities to accommodate that growth. This year, we are opening a brand new primary school, moving our alternative school to a new campus, opening new buildings for our preschool students and expanding state-of-the-art classrooms to replace temporary buildings. At the same time, we are prioritizing security enhancements at all of our schools and working to open three additional new schools next year.

A recent economic impact study conducted by LSU's Office of Research and Economic Development validated the investment our citizens make in their local public school system. Not only are quality schools attracting people to Ascension Parish, but schools are also generating multi-million dollar investments in the local economy. We are grateful to be a part of the economic growth that makes Ascension a great place to live.

Our students continue to excel across multiple measures including performing at the highest levels in the state of Louisiana and achieving national recognition for a variety of reasons. That hard work is the direct result of strategic investments in people, time and resources. We want to attract and retain the best teachers and staff for the benefit of our students - for whom we strive each day to provide high-quality educational experiences.

As you read through the pages of the very first edition of our magazine, ASCEND, it is our hope you will have a greater appreciation of the amazing things accomplished by your public school system. We could not realize these accomplishments without the support of our community.

DAVID ALEXANDER
SUPERINTENDENT



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Ascension Parish Schools



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Ascension Public Schools



Ascension Schools



Ascension Public Schools



An Equal Opportunity Employer

— ASCEND —

A MAGAZINE BY ASCENSION PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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Ascension Public Schools
28 SCHOOLS
with 3 More Under Construction



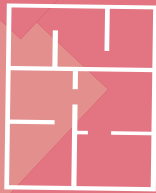
280 BUSES
Run 460 Routes Each Day



98%
School Attendance Rate



3.3 MILLION+
Meals Served Last Year



7,000 MAINTENANCE
Work Orders Completed Last Year

3,250,000 SF
Maintained by Custodians



\$257 MILLION
General Fund Operating Budget



78%
Dedicated to
Salaries and Benefits



AA
Credit Rating



\$30,405,000
in GOODS (615,000 Items)
Purchased and Delivered in a Year

\$25.7 MILLION
in Federal Grants



FACILITIES

BUDGET

BY

THE

IMPACT

TECHNOLOGY



\$421 MILLION
Contributed to the Local Economy



\$25.7 MILLION
Generated in Sales Tax Each Year

70% OF PEOPLE
said Schools were the Most Important
Reason They Chose to Live in Ascension



4,688 JOBS SUPPORTED
by Ascension Public Schools Operations



20,000+
Student Devices



ONE-TO-ONE
Student Computers
in 1st -12th Grade

3 MILLION +
Unique Website Views



2.5 MILLION +
Facebook Reach



471 TREES & 4 MILLION+
Sheets of Paper Saved with
Peachjar Digital Flyer System

RANKED #2
Overall



#1 for Students with Disabilities

#1 ELA & Math in New
Academic Growth Scores

#2 for Economically
Disadvantaged Students

NEARLY ALL 27 SCHOOLS
Earned "A" and "B" Grades for Progress

21 SCHOOLS
Earned Top Gains Awards

9 SCHOOLS
Earned Equity Honoree Awards



3000 EMPLOYEES
(Largest Employer in the Parish)



18 GRADUATES
of Teach Ascension Academy



1000+
Support Staff



1,800 Teachers

101 Teacher Leaders*

76 Principals, Assoc., & Asst.

*Master, Mentor & Teacher Coaches

RANKINGS

EMPLOYEES

NUMBERS

STUDENTS

ACHIEVEMENTS

22,862 STUDENTS
48% Female; 52% Male



44% Minority

51% Economically Disadvantaged

2.5% English Learners



2,500 STUDENTS
with Disabilities



894 ENROLLED
in Early Childhood
(PreK)



88.1%
Graduation Rate



60% OF GRADUATES
Enroll Directly into College

20.3 AVERAGE
ACT Composite Score



2,000+ COLLEGE
CREDIT
Courses Offered
at High Schools



200+ YEARS
OF COLLEGE
or 6,414 College
Credit Hours Earned

4,482 Industry Based Credentials Earned in 2018-19

THE ECONOMIC BENEFITS

OF ASCENSION PUBLIC SCHOOLS



East Ascension High graduate Danae Jackson (left) plans to attend Southeastern Louisiana University for nursing, and St. Amant High graduate Trey Hebert plans to go directly into the workforce with his welding credentials. Both graduates meet Louisiana's workforce demands.

Ascension Public Schools contributes \$421 million annually to the local economy, increases property values, and is the top factor in parish population growth according to a recent study by Louisiana State University's Economics and Policy Research Group.

According to the LSU study, "(w)hile any school district's operations can help support economic activity at some level, Ascension Public Schools stand out in their contribution to long-term population

and income growth within the parish."

ECONOMIC IMPACT OF OPERATIONS

Operations of the Ascension Public Schools district have a total annual economic impact of \$421 million to the local economy and support 4,688 jobs.

The impact of the school district's operations was calculated using three components:

1. \$242 million and 2,917 jobs in Direct Effect: Amount of employment, labor

- income, or output produced directly by the school district.
2. \$69 million and 742 jobs in Indirect Effect: Inter-industry impacts of the school district, such as wholesale suppliers, construction firms, etc.
3. \$110 million and 1,028 jobs in Induced Effect: Impacts generated by household spending by employees of the school district.

An economic impact analysis provides the tools to quantify the full impact

of these ripple effects within an economy using jobs, earnings, and output (or total sales) multipliers.

IMPACT OF SCHOOL QUALITY ON GROWTH

In addition to supporting activity through its operating budget, Ascension Public Schools quality has served as a magnet for growth. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, 30% of Ascension Parish residents work in the parish and 40% work in East Baton Rouge Parish. The

Table 1: Economic Impact of Ascension Public Schools Operations

Impact Type	Employment	Labor Income	Output
Direct Effect	2,917	\$200 million	\$242 million
Indirect Effect	742	\$22 million	\$69 million
Induced Effect	1,028	\$30 million	\$110 million
Total Effect	4,688	251 million	\$421 million

Operations of the Ascension Public Schools have a total economic impact of \$421 million to the local economy and support 4,688 jobs.

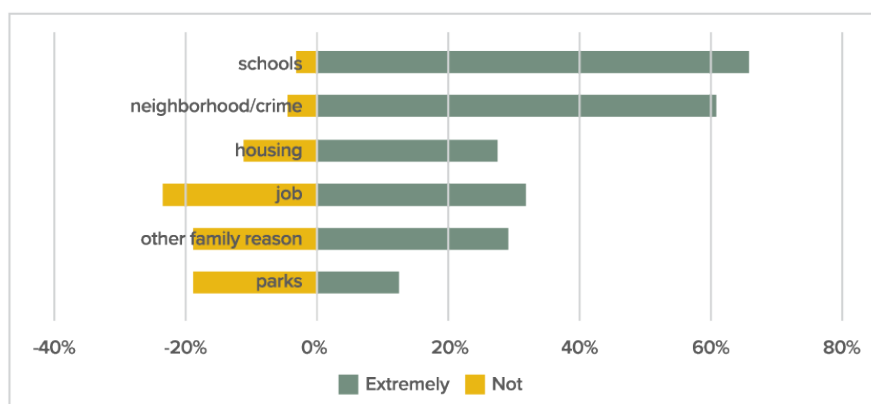
study asserts that the quality of Ascension Schools stands out as a potential factor attracting people to the region despite the "imbalance of local jobs and commuting patterns."

LSU surveyed parents of current students to determine the reasons why they chose to reside in Ascension Parish. The average survey respondent has lived in the Baton Rouge Metropolitan Area for 24 years and, specifically, in Ascension Parish for 13 years. Respondents ranked Ascension Public Schools as the most important factor in their decision to live in Ascension Parish. That was followed closely by family reasons.

Survey respondents were also asked to rank the relative importance of various factors that contributed to their decision to live in Ascension Parish. Once again, schools were listed as the most important factor with almost 70%, followed closely by neighborhood/crime at more than 60%.

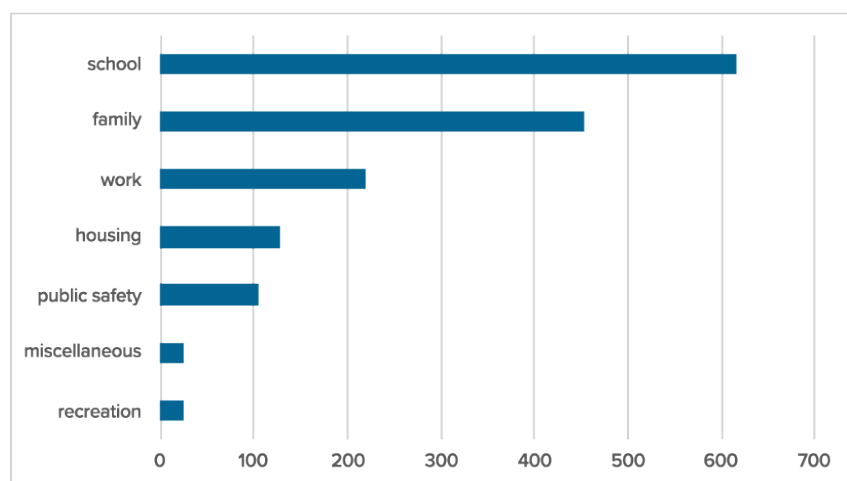
In addition to determining residential factors, the

Figure 5: Extremely Important and Not Important Factors for Living in Ascension Parish



Survey respondents ranked the relative importance of factors that contributed to their decision to live in Ascension Parish. Schools have the most important factor, followed by neighborhood/crime.

Figure 6: Highest Ranked Reason to Live in Ascension Parish



Survey respondents ranked Ascension Public Schools as the most important factor in their decision to live in Ascension Parish. That was followed closely by family reasons.



A GREAT PLACE TO WORK



www.apsb.org/applynow

survey captured income and spending data from Ascension parents. That was applied to population change data to calculate economic growth impacts.

Over the past 10 years, Ascension Parish has grown by 24% from 99,089 in 2007 to 122,948 in 2017. This is the largest percentage growth in the nine-parish Baton Rouge Metropolitan Area. The study calculates 11.5% of the population growth can be attributed to the influence of the school district. The total induced effect from the population change is 1,871 new jobs, \$53 million of labor income, and \$196 million output.

LSU found that between \$664 million in personal income was attracted to the parish by the school district and \$53 million was in induced economic activity. Ascension Public Schools quality can be said to add \$717 million in wages and benefits to the Parish of Ascension.

IMPACT OF SCHOOL QUALITY ON PROPERTY VALUE

The families attracted to Ascension Parish by the quality of its schools have helped spur development. This can be looked at as an increase in the number of single and multi-family homes built in the parish over time. The study cites previous research that shows the value of homes is higher in areas with better schools.


Using an analysis of residential property values, the study estimates home values in Ascension Parish have increased by an average of 3-5%, adding between \$138 and \$223 million to the value of homes in the parish. This also has tax implications.

Traditionally, schools are thought of as a sales tax consumer, but they are also part of the sales tax engine in the parish. School operations are exempt from sales tax, but the salaries paid to employees circulate in the local economy and support spending on taxable retail purchases, real estate, and other tax generating activities. In addition, spending at other local businesses ripples through the economy.

It is estimated that Ascension Public Schools generates \$25.7 million in sales tax and \$7.9 million in property tax each year. That can be seen as recapturing a portion of the taxes that form the basis of the school system's budget and can help support other important agencies that operate using sales and property taxes.

"We are the largest employer in the parish with a longstanding reputation of providing a high quality education. It is not a surprise that our school system attracts families to locate in Ascension Parish. This study provides confirmation with detailed information and very specific research regarding

The Economic Benefits of Ascension Public Schools



Economics & Policy Research Group

LSU | E. J. Ourso College of Business

Stephen R. Barnes, PhD | Dek Terrell, PhD | Stephanie Virgets, MA | Preston Watts

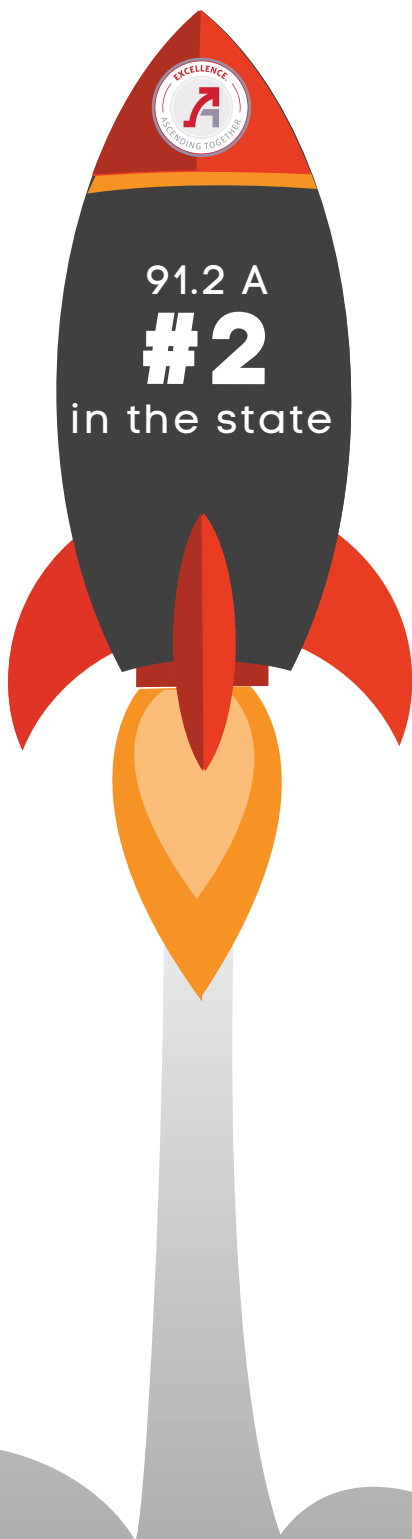


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FULL ECONOMIC IMPACT
STUDY VISIT [WWW.APSB.ORG/
PUBLICATIONS](http://WWW.APSB.ORG/PUBLICATIONS)

the impact a high quality school system brings to a community," said Ascension Public Schools Superintendent David Alexander. "We know there are a lot of factors, reasons, and qualities that make Ascension a great community. It has a healthy economy

and quality of life. We are honored to be able to confirm with certainty that we play a part in this robust economy."

Visit www.lsu.edu/business/eprg for more information about the LSU Economics and Policy Research Group.



Students in Ascension Public Schools soared to new academic heights by meeting the demands of increased rigor and challenges of new scoring methods. They have earned the second-highest ranking in Louisiana's 2018 Accountability Program. The result: a 91.2 "A" and a highly lauded showing in a field of 70 districts statewide.

Perhaps the most exciting results came from a new measure for student progress called the "Growth Score". It shows how a student progresses from year-to-year.

Nearly all 27 schools in Ascension received an "A" or a "B" score for student growth. "These are outstanding results," said Superintendent David Alexander, "and we attribute them to our entire organization for their focused commitment on our mission, vision and purpose."

MORE RIGOR AND FOCUS ON STUDENT PROGRESS

The District Performance Scores (DPS) and the School Performance Scores (SPS) are issued on an annual basis to provide students, parents, teachers and administrators a collective method for measuring academic performance. The tests were given to students in the spring of 2018.

The Louisiana Department of Education and Board of Elementary and Secondary Education revamped the way letter grades were assigned to meet a new federal law called, Every Student Succeeds Act. The new rules came into play for testing during the 2017-18 school year.

One significant change provided a strategic way to report year-to-year student progress. For the first time ever, the progress of each student had a significant measurable impact on state scores for students and districts.

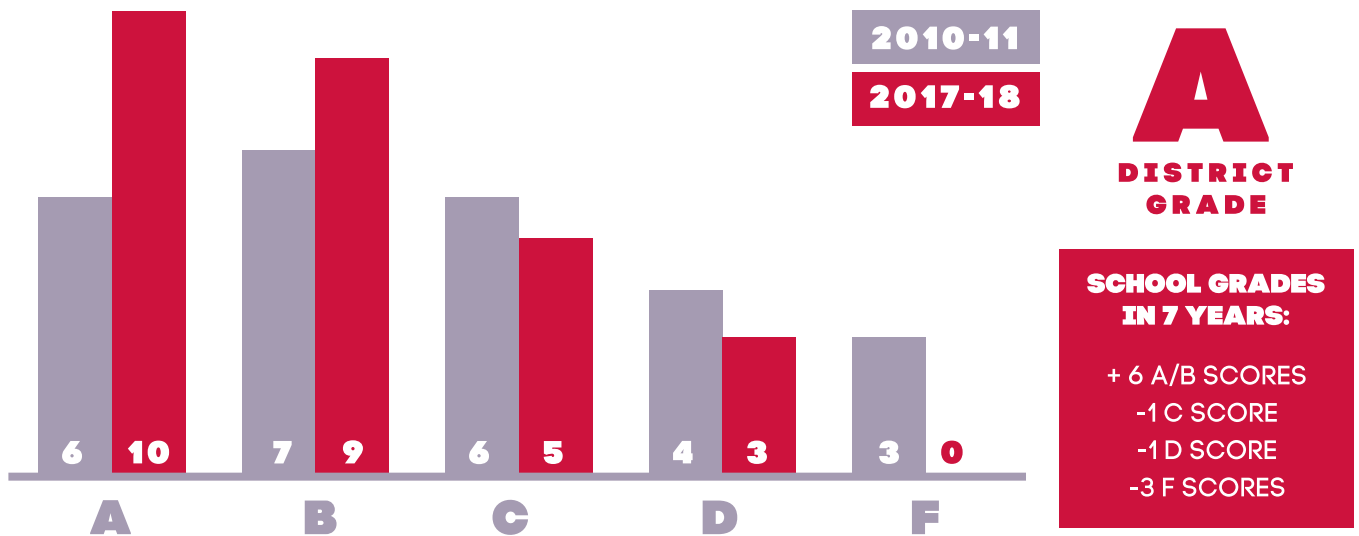
EXCEPTIONAL RESULTS IN "TOP GAINS"

Nearly all 27 schools earned "A" and "B" grades in this measurement with 21 schools also earning "Top Gains" designation. "In every one of our schools, teachers and staff focused on ensuring that students were growing academically," said Superintendent Alexander. "We continue to work collectively to give each and every student the daily experience they need to develop and achieve."

One of the strengths of our dedicated teachers is the focus they give to EVERY student, not merely high performers. The focus is based on understanding and motivating students to a higher level, no matter what they score. This is evidenced by the new progress index, which measures student academic growth.



MEETING THE CHALLENGE



Besides a more rigorous assessment, the new standards also measured subgroups, including students defined by economic status, disabilities, or race. Nine of Ascension's schools outperformed 90% of all schools across the various student groups. "One-third of our schools reached the 90th percentile in all subgroups, and we pledge to continue to make this a priority as we learn new ways to serve students better each year," said Alexander.

Ascension students outperformed the state on each of the 2018 LEAP tests, as well as the overall combined scores. Mastery and Advanced scores were achieved by 50% of students in grades 3-8 and 53% in grades 3-12.

In addition, Ascension students scored high in most subgroups. Subgroups are defined as those economically disadvantaged, disabled, or by race. The following results show subgroup achievements and Ascension's state rankings in these areas:

- #4 State Ranking for Economically Disadvantaged: 35% Mastery & Advanced
- #3 State Ranking for Black/African American: 33% Mastery & Advanced
- #1 State Ranking for Students with Disabilities: 19% Mastery & Advanced

ESCALATING UPWARD EACH YEAR

Since 2010, Ascension Public Schools has markedly moved its school scores upward, demonstrating that teachers are provided with optimal administrative and operational support, according to Superintendent Alexander. "We have a tiered framework around teacher support, which is proven to be the best practice for student support. There are over 100 teacher leaders in our schools, and all of our educators work collaboratively in Professional Learning Communities (PLCs) to drive

MORE THAN A LETTER GRADE:

- The international accrediting agency *AdvancED* scored Ascension with an exceptional ranking
- Last year, students earned 6,414 college credit hours, which equates to over 200 years in college level achievement
- Student Work-Ready credentials increased by 439 percent from 831 to 4,482 in 3 years
- Students have won state and national awards for excellence in academics, performing and creative arts, leadership and philanthropic activities

student success. That is Leadership, Learning, Service and Teamwork in action."

Alexander thanked the community for its ongoing support of Ascension Public Schools through funding initiatives, volunteer efforts, and inspiration to the faculty, staff and administration. "We know you support your public schools and it matters," he adds.

RESOURCES TO LEARN MORE

To find out how scores are calculated specifically, view the Nov. 13, 2018, webinar with Superintendent David Alexander who offers details for parents and community members. (Scan QR code below.)

Additional information on school scores is available at the state's Accountability Program results website at www.louisianabelieves.com.



DISTRICT HONORS

STUDENTS OF THE YEAR

FIFTH GRADE

Anna Blanchard
G.W. Carver Primary

Madison Hebert
Central Primary

Brody Babin
Duplessis Primary

Jake Albares
Dutchtown Primary

Rylie Causey
Galvez Primary

Jacque Jackson
Gonzales Primary

Lexie Johnson
Lake Elementary

Jessika Graham
Lakeside Primary

Brennan Daggs
Lowery Elementary

Hayden Herring
Oak Grove Primary

Logan McQuarn
Pecan Grove Primary

Brody Clement
Prairieville Primary

Piper Coburn
Sorrento Primary

Zoe Gros
Spanish Lake Primary

Mason Miller
St. Amant Primary

EIGHTH GRADE

Katelyn Frank
Central Middle

Joseph Du
Dutchtown Middle

Ephraim Craddock
Galvez Middle

Desmon Green
Gonzales Middle

Jacob Sonnier
Lake Elementary

Tre'Myai Brown
Lowery Middle

Perry LaBorde
Prairieville Middle

Jake Rizzo
St. Amant Middle

TWELFTH GRADE

Tre'von Mitchell
Donaldsonville High

Parker Blackwell
Dutchtown High

Dajhe' Sullivan
East Ascension High

Reace Dedon
St. Amant High



From left: District winners Central Primary's Madison Hebert, Prairieville Middle's Perry LaBorde, and St. Amant High's Reace Dedon

PRINCIPALS & TEACHERS OF THE YEAR

PRINCIPALS

Carol Smith
Prairieville Primary

Dina Davis
Prairieville Middle

Carli Francois
Dutchtown High

PRIMARY SCHOOL

Tonya H. Harden
Ascension Head Start

Johnna Annie B. Williams
G.W. Carver Primary

Maryalice Boss
Central Primary

Natasha Sheldon
Donaldsonville Primary

Leslie Davidson
Duplessis Primary

Dena Toncrey
Dutchtown Primary

Taylor Hannaman
Galvez Primary

Chasity Carr Franklin
Gonzales Primary

Allison Krouse
Lake Elementary

Donna Condiff Davis
Lakeside Primary

Sarah Trohoske
Lowery Elementary

Ashley Townsend
Oak Grove Primary

Katrina Burgess
Pecan Grove Primary

Kelly Naquin
Prairieville Primary



From left: District winners Dutchtown High's Carli Francois, Prairieville Middle's Dina Davis and Prairieville Primary's Carol Smith

SUPPORT EMPLOYEES OF THE YEAR

PRIMARY SCHOOL

Floyd McGalliard
Ascension Head Start

Debra Watts
G.W. Carver Primary

Charity Marcotte
Central Primary

Gwendolyn Miles
Donaldsonville Primary

Aundean Cormier
Duplessis Primary

Annette Davis
Dutchtown Primary

Haleigh Winston
Galvez Primary

Parisha Jupiter
Gonzales Primary

Aisha Williams-Duncan
Lakeside Primary

Dennis Duplessis
Lowery Elementary

Amanda Babin
Oak Grove Primary

Martha Mayers
Pecan Grove Primary

Kimberly Sonnier
Prairieville Primary

Bonita Haydel
Sorrento Primary

Courtney Sentilles
Spanish Lake Primary

Wendy Broussard
St. Amant Primary

Jamie Bourgeois
Lake Elementary

Paul Woods
Lowery Middle

Jessica Ickles
Prairieville Middle

Tammy Viverata
St. Amant Middle

HIGH SCHOOL

Shelita Dunham
APPLE Digital Academy

Myrna Lewis
Donaldsonville High

Keith Mitchell
Dutchtown High

Melynda Trosclair
Early College Option

Letha Miller
East Ascension High

Anne Waguespack
St. Amant High

MIDDLE SCHOOL

Chanthanasius Hendrick
Central Middle

Lesli Bourgeois
Dutchtown Middle

Jacy Zeringue
Galvez Middle

Amanda Blouin
Gonzales Middle



From left: District winners Duplessis Primary's Aundean Cormier, Lake Elementary's Jamie Bourgeois and St. Amant High School's Anne Waguespack

Amanda Dugas
Sorrento Primary

Dawn Pontillas
Spanish Lake Primary

Megan Starkey
St. Amant Primary

MIDDLE SCHOOL

Sha'Myra Williams
Central Middle

Amie Navarre
Dutchtown Middle

Betsey Baldwin
Galvez Middle

Bridgette Ford
Gonzales Middle

Morgan Hutchinson
Lake Elementary

Courtney Harness
Lowery Middle

Tab Harris
Prairieville Middle

Kellie Duplechein
St. Amant Middle

HIGH SCHOOL

Hannah Kamla
APPLE Digital Academy

Rachel Powell
Early College Option

Treenise Moore
Donaldsonville High

Ryan Bravata
Dutchtown High

Drucilla Bull
East Ascension High

Marianne McKeithen
St. Amant High



From left: District winners Prairieville Primary's Kelly Naquin, St. Amant Middle's Kellie Duplechein and Dutchtown High's Ryan Bravata

STATE HONORS



David Alexander
Superintendent
Louisiana National Guard
Distinguished Civilian
Service Medal

Ashley Avants
Lake Elementary
Kelly Services 2019 Substi-
tute Teacher of the Year

Leigh Anne Baker
St. Amant Primary
Louisiana Speech-Lan-
guage and Hearing Associ-
ation Special Recognition
Award

Monica Bell
Lowery Middle School
JAG Peak Performance
Award

David Boylan
East Ascension High School
Star of Stars Boys Swim-
ming; LHSAA Division 1
State Swimming Champi-
on for 200-yard Individual
Medley and 100-
yard Breaststroke

Kelsi Colligan
St. Amant High School
Star of Stars Special Olym-
pics Athlete of the Year

Danielle DeLaune Caro
St. Amant High School
LACUE State High School
Teacher of the Year

Kerrington Dixon
Dutchtown High School
Finalist at NCFL National
Tournament (Speech and
Debate)

Mark Ebarb
Dutchtown High School
2019 H. Norman Saurage
III Service Award Finalist

FFA
St. Amant High School
Living to Serve Award;
Louisiana State Executive
Secretary Award

Carli Francois
Dutchtown High School
Louisiana Principal of the
Year Finalist

Becky Fritchie
Spanish Lake Primary
Aerospace Education
Teacher of the Year Award
for Louisiana

Adrian Garcia
St. Amant High School
Louisiana High School
Soccer Coaches Associa-
tion's 2019 Coach of the
Year

Grant Gautreau
Dutchtown High School
1st Place at State Literary
Rally in Introduction to
Business Computer Appli-
cations

Reese Godchaux
Dutchtown Middle School
Junior Beta Club State
President

Hannah Grather
East Ascension High School
Star of Stars Girls Bowling

Hiba Hasan
Dutchtown High School
Louisiana Legislative
Youth Advisory Council

Torri Jackson
Dutchtown High School
Senior Beta Club State
President

Darnell Lee
East Ascension High School
LHSAA 5A 2019 Football
Coach of the Year

Ariana Linton
Dutchtown High School
Indoor Track State
Champion

Chad Lynch
*Director of Planning
and Construction*
Louisiana National Guard
Distinguished Civilian
Service Medal

Trent Mahoney
East Ascension High School
Star of Stars Wrestling;
LHSAA Division 1 State
Wrestling Champion for
152-pound Weight Class



The St. Amant High Softball Team was recognized at the Ascension Parish School Board meeting on June 18, 2019.

Mia McDaniel
Special Education Coordinator
 Elizabeth Stokes Borel
 Award for Excellence,
 Speech Language Pathol-
 ogists and Audiologist in
 Louisiana Schools

Kelly Naquin
Prairieville Primary School
 2019 H. Norman Saurage
 III Service Award Finalist

Tarleshia Miles
Donaldsonville High School
 Outstanding JAG Specialist
 award; JAG 5 of 5 Award

Amy Pitre
St. Amant High School
 2019 Louisiana State
 Coaches Association 5A
 Softball Coach of the Year

Softball Team
St. Amant High School
 LHSAA 5A State Cham-
 pions

Casey Walker
St. Amant High School
 A+Pel Volunteer of the
 Year State Finalist

Hayden Willis
Dutchtown High School
 Star of Stars Boys Power-
 lifting

Zayne Zezulka
Dutchtown High School
 Star of Stars Boys Soccer

NATIONAL HONORS



Spanish Lake Primary's Becky Fritchie was chosen as a NASA 2019 Space Educator Expedition Crew Member.

Dutchtown High School
 Spirit of St. Jude Award

Becky Fritchie
Spanish Lake Primary
 Chosen as a NASA 2019
 Space Educator Expedition
 Crew Member

Business Department
Central Office
 Government Finance Of-
 ficers Association Certi-
 ficate of Achievement for
 Excellence in Financial
 Reporting

Daniel Lambert
East Ascension High School
 Shell Science Lab Chal-
 lenge National Grand
 Prize Winner

Jaimie McQuarn
East Ascension High School
 Shell Science Lab Chal-
 lenge National Grand
 Prize Winner

Public Information Office
Central Office
 National School Public
 Relations Association 2019
 Award of Merit for Essen-
 tials of Academic Excel-
 lence Video

Public Information Office
Central Office
 National School Public
 Relations Association
 2019 Honorable Mention
 for Strategic Plan Annual
 Report

Public Information Office
Central Office
 National School Public
 Relations Association 2019
 Honorable Mention for
 #FridayFaces Social Media
 Campaign

Beta Club
Dutchtown Primary
 2018 National Songfest
 Competition Champions

TAG Students
Gonzales Middle School
 Honorable Mention in the
 National Autodesk "Make
 it Real" Challenge

WHO DAT CELEBRATING BREAKFAST

AND JAMBALAYA IN OUR SCHOOLS?



New Orleans Saints Defensive End Cam Jordan makes an exciting entrance during a special pep rally celebration at St. Amant Middle School.

Research shows that one in six students in the United States come to school hungry, then do not receive the healthy foods they need to fight illness or concentrate in class. This leads to missed school days.

A program, sponsored by Dairy MAX and the New Orleans Saints and promoted by the Louisiana Department of Education and Office of the Governor, was created to increase daily breakfast participation in schools and

milk consumption. It is a local version of a nutrition and physical activity program launched by the National Dairy Council, in collaboration with the USDA called, "Fuel Up to Play 60."

Ascension Public Schools participated in the competition to bump their breakfast participation. "Our school system believes that nutrition and physical activity for students are essential. Healthy foods and daily physical activity help ensure a

strong and high-achieving generation of youth," said Leuna Johnson, Supervisor of Child Nutrition.

Two exciting nutrition-focused events captured the hearts, minds, and taste buds of thousands of students in Ascension's middle schools this Spring: "No Kid Hungry, School Breakfast Challenge" and the Jambalaya Festival Association World Champion chefs serving more than 4,000 middle school students and staff.

ST. AMANT MIDDLE WINS BREAKFAST CHALLENGE AWARD

St. Amant Middle School won the "Fuel Greatness Breakfast Challenge" award for attaining the highest increase in breakfast meal participation of more than 350 schools that participated.

St. Amant students captured the award with a 51% increase in breakfast participation, as well as a 17% increase in milk consumption. This was the highest increase in over

350 schools that participated in the challenge statewide. Districtwide, 30 percent of Ascension's school children eat a school-provided breakfast, through daily breakfast service at each school, according to Johnson.

St. Amant Middle School was rewarded for its success with a pep rally featuring Saints Defensive End Cam Jordan and Mascot Sir Saint. Jordan shared the importance of a healthy breakfast in fueling his day. Dairy MAX was represented by Jennifer Duhon, who shared the many benefits of drinking milk. More than 500 students cheered for the Saints and wore Saints shirts for the pep rally.

Breakfast meals are provided to students throughout the parish with numerous selections, including hot and cold entrees, such as whole grain pancakes, sausage biscuits, French toast, fresh fruit, yogurt, and cereal bars.

WORLD CHAMPION JAMBALAYA CHEFS COOK FOR MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS

The Jambalaya Festival Association partnered this spring with the Ascension Public Schools system to shine a spotlight on eight past Jambalaya Champion chefs who prepared their award-winning recipes and demonstrated cooking skills at eight area middle schools. Near sunrise, each cook arrived at the



Jambalaya Festival Queen Brooke Everett (left) serves jambalaya to students at Central Middle school.

schools to begin all of the preparations and to allow adequate cooking time for a first serving line at 10:30 a.m. By the end of lunch period, more than 4,000 were served all through the parish.

In addition to showcasing excellent local cuisine, the event was a preview of the annual World Champion Jambalaya Festival held each May in Gonzales.

"The students truly love jambalaya so this was a win-win partnership for our schools and the community," said Johnson.

Special thanks to all of the chefs who cooked at the following schools: 1993 Champion Wally Tallion at Lowery Middle; 2006 Champion Mike Gonzales at Dutchtown Middle; 2007 Champion Jeff Parent




2006 champion Mike Gonzales (top left) and Jambalaya Festival Queen Brooke Everett (center) pose with Dutchtown Primary students.

at Prairieville Middle; 2008 Champion Jody Elisar at Central Middle; 2010 Champion Joey Cornett at Lake Elementary; 2014 and 2016 Champion Hoss Reine at Gonzales Middle; 2017 Champion Cade Lanoux at Galvez Middle;

and 2018 Champion Jarett Marchand at St. Amant Middle.

For more information about the Jambalaya Festival Association, visit www.jambalayafestival.net.

A young man with short dark hair, wearing a white hard hat with the BASF logo and a blue t-shirt, is looking intently at a chemistry experiment setup. The setup consists of several glass beakers and test tubes held in a metal rack, with some containing liquids. The background is slightly blurred, showing an industrial or laboratory setting.

Outstanding Partner in Education – BASF

INVESTING IN THE FUTURE

BASF has been creating chemistry in Ascension Parish for more than 60 years. During that time, the company has become a key partner in education. BASF is committed to developing and expanding science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) education opportunities to advance communities and develop the future workforce. Thousands of students enrolled in the Ascension Public School system have benefited from the many programs sponsored by BASF through more than \$100,000 in annual BASF donations and hundreds of hours of employee volunteerism.

Below are highlights of several STEM and workforce development programs sponsored by BASF:

ROBOTICS TEAMS: BASF donates \$10,000 annually to robotics teams at the middle school and high school level, and supports several employees mentoring students for robotics competition preparation.

KIDS LAB: Each year, BASF provides funding for every fourth-grade student in Ascension Parish to visit the Louisiana Arts & Science Museum in Baton Rouge and participate in BASF's Kids Lab to learn the fun of chemistry through hands-on science experiments. To date, 18,500 Ascension Parish students, teachers and chaperones have created chemistry since the program's

start in September 2011.

BASF'S TECH ACADEMY: In its fifth year, TECH Academy provides rising high school juniors and seniors the opportunity to learn through hands on experience about technical and craft careers. The free, week-long program has allowed more than 150 students the opportunity to find their future career. In addition, scholarships are awarded to students interested in pursuing a degree or certification at River Parishes Community College.

BASF'S SCIENCE ACADEMY: For ten years, BASF has invited select students to its corporate headquarters in Florham Park, NJ to participate in a two-week long program hosted at Fairleigh Dickenson University. These 20 students from around North America are chosen to participate in an intense science and business program where they create a product and learn to market and sell their product. Every year, at least one student from Ascension Parish has been selected to participate in the prestigious program.

SCHOLARSHIPS: BASF encourages students to pursue STEM careers after high school by providing annual scholarships for college and technical colleges.

ASCENSION FUND GRANTS: BASF contributes to and serves on the board of the Ascension Fund



awarding annual grants to teachers in Ascension Parish that promote quality education in the classroom.

SCIENCE FAIR JUDGING: When science fair judges are needed at the various schools around Ascension Parish, BASF employees are there to help and provide counsel to students on projects and presentations. The hours these employees donate help students achieve success in and out of the classroom.

CAREER FAIRS: Every year, BASF employees participate in several career fairs at the local high schools and middle schools. Employees from various careers spend their time answering questions students have about career paths. The information imparted is invaluable to these students and their parents.

JUNIOR ACHIEVEMENT: BASF makes possible for many of our schools to participate in the various Junior Achievement programs. Through financial donations and the time donated by BASF employees as instructors, students receive valuable lessons about work, financial responsibility, soft skills and professionalism.

TEACHER/ADMINISTRATOR EXTERNSHIPS: During each summer, BASF makes it possible for teachers and administrators to learn about the manufacturing industry through the Pathways to Prosperity externship program hosted by Baton Rouge Area Chamber. As the largest sponsor of the program, BASF ensures Ascension Parish teachers and administrators are bringing valuable career opportunity information back to the students.



JOB SHADOWING: The best way some of our students learn is by following people while they perform their job. BASF employees volunteer to have high school students shadow them while they work to provide a first-hand look at what certain jobs entail.

Ascension Parish has also experienced trying times during the last several years. BASF has stepped up to lend support to the Ascension Parish schools when needed:

FLOOD RELIEF: During the 2016 flood recovery efforts, BASF donated more than \$115,000 to the Ascension Public Schools system to help with rebuilding efforts. In addition, BASF donated supplies to schools in the parish to replenish what was lost in the flooding. Future Foam, a customer of BASF, donated hundreds of mattresses, mattress toppers and pillows to faculty and staff impacted by the flood. The company and its employees donated hundreds of thousands of dollars to local charities assisting with the recovery efforts.

BACKPACK PROGRAM AND MOBILE FOOD PANTRIES: In partnership with the Baton Rouge Food Bank and the school system, BASF provides annual funding to supply students with enough food for their families on weekends and holidays. Working with school system teachers and bus drivers, eligible students leave on Fridays with backpacks filled with food for them and their families. BASF also funds several mobile food pantries to distribute fresh produce throughout the year in Ascension Parish.



THE GIFT OF GIVING

CULTIVATING STRONG CITIZENSHIP

In Ascension Public Schools, we greatly value achievement and promote dignity and pride in our schools and community. In partnership with our community stakeholders, we are focused on preparing students for their postsecondary experiences, whether they enter an educational institution or the workforce.

We aim to inspire and empower students to excel academically, to develop skills in areas that align with their interests, and to excel socially while preparing them to be productive citizens and future leaders. Instilling the value of giving in our students is one way in which we cultivate strong citizenship.

According to Nationwide Children's Hospital, giving provides many health benefits to children. When done regularly, the act of giving to others in need boosts physical health, happiness and sense of well-being. Additional benefits of philanthropic acts and service also yield the following:

- Promotes positive self-esteem and a sense of purpose.
- Improves a person's ability to manage stress
- Increases self-confidence and promotes positive behaviors

- Helps introduce children to positive role models who may provide positive encouragement and support

Our schools regularly conduct fundraisers for non-profit, charitable organizations. Through dress down days, supply drives, and special programs, our 23,000 students collectively raised over \$165,000 in 2018-19. These are funds that go to improving the lives of others.

NATIONAL RECOGNITION

Three schools were recently recognized nationally for exceptional fundraising efforts.

Central Primary School was the top fundraising school out of Louisiana and Mississippi for the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society's Pennies for Patients campaign for the fifth year in a row with \$17,528.84. Since beginning their participation eight years ago, the Central Primary Colts have raised over \$88,000 for local blood cancer patients.

Lake Elementary's Sandy Lightfoot was named the 2017-18 National Coordinator of the Year for the American Heart Association. Over the past 30 years that she's served as a Jump Rope for Heart coordinator, the Lake Li-



Lake Elementary Sandy Lightfoot (center) was named the national coordinator of the year for the American Heart Association.

OUR 23,000 STUDENTS
COLLECTIVELY RAISED OVER
\$165,000 IN 2018-19



ons raised nearly \$220,000.

Dutchtown High School recently won the "Spirit of St. Jude" award in the 2019 Varsity Brands School Spirit Awards. Inspired by a middle school student who lost her battle to Acute Myeloid Leukemia, and her will to "Never Give Up", Dutchtown High catapulted into raising funds and awareness for the amazing work that St. Jude Children's Research Hospital does each and every day. The student body

participated in multiple class competitions raising over \$6400, and the grand total for Team Up for St. Jude week was \$15,500. Dutchtown High was one of the pilot schools five years ago for the Team Up for St. Jude program and they will continue this legacy of leadership and community service every year. In the six years they have been raising money for St. Jude, they have collected over \$75,000.



Pictured (from left) are Central Primary students who went above and beyond in the Pennies for Patients campaign: Lilah Womack, Ella Russo, Kenzie Capell, Caden Louque, Logan Russo, Alex Guillot, Leyla Sayal, Addison Campbell, Madison Hebert, Brady Freeman, and Brayden Knight.

DONATION RECIPIENTS

<i>ALS Association</i>	<i>CARA's House</i>	<i>Iris Domestic Violence Center</i>	<i>Operation Gratitude</i>
<i>Alzheimer's Services</i>	<i>Cheering for Breanna Foundation</i>	<i>LA Pediatric</i>	<i>Out of Darkness</i>
<i>American Cancer Society</i>	<i>Crohn's and Colitis Foundation</i>	<i>Cardiology Foundation</i>	<i>Soldier Care Packages from AP 4-H Foundation</i>
<i>American Heart Association</i>	<i>Cystic Fibrosis Association</i>	<i>LA State Troopers Association</i>	<i>St. Amant Fire Department</i>
<i>Anna's Grace Foundation</i>	<i>Epilepsy Alliance Louisiana</i>	<i>Leukemia & Lymphoma Society</i>	<i>St. Jude Children's Hospital</i>
<i>APSO - Barren's Bears</i>	<i>Families Helping Families</i>	<i>Lion's Club</i>	<i>UNICEF</i>
<i>APSO - Christmas Crusades</i>	<i>Ferocious Fighters</i>	<i>Louisiana Brain Center</i>	<i>Upside Downs Foundation</i>
<i>APSO - Special Olympics</i>	<i>Geaux Teal</i>	<i>March of Dimes</i>	
<i>Capital Area United Way</i>	<i>Guillot Family</i>	<i>Mary Bird Perkins</i>	

To be considered for a school fundraiser, non-profit organizations must first be approved by the Superintendent of Schools, and then each school principal decides which fundraisers are appropriate for the school.

A MOMENT IN TIME



Insights to Donaldsonville School Life

Time capsules have always captured the imagination but the one found in the walls of the old Donaldsonville High School gymnasium caught all of Ascension by surprise. Ascension Public Schools embraced its finding as an educational opportunity, conducting research, consulting with community members, and reaching out to local historians before creating a plan to involve the entire parish in an exciting "reveal" event.

The perfect occasion was a dual event celebrating the official Grand Re-Opening and Ribbon Cutting of the new state-of-the-art Head Start Center, located now in the old Donaldsonville High School gym, the very build-

ing where the time capsule was found.

The community-wide event was hosted by the Ascension Public Schools and held at B. C. Alwes, the building which used to serve as Donaldsonville High School. Public officials, citizens, historians, school leaders, parents, and numerous news media -- all enthralled with learning more of the much whispered about time capsule -- crowded into the auditorium to see first-hand the hidden treasures in a copper box placed neatly and snugly in a wall behind the old gym's building plaque.

Ascension Public Schools earmarked taxpayer-approved construction bond funds to design and renovate



Superintendent David Alexander (right) narrates as Juanita Morgan (left) and Emile Chiquet (center) unveil time capsule contents.

the gym into a new asset for its youngest learners, a state-of-the-art preschool facility. "This is a great asset for our future; the students who attend are our next leaders," said Superintendent David Alexander.

HOW IT HAPPENED

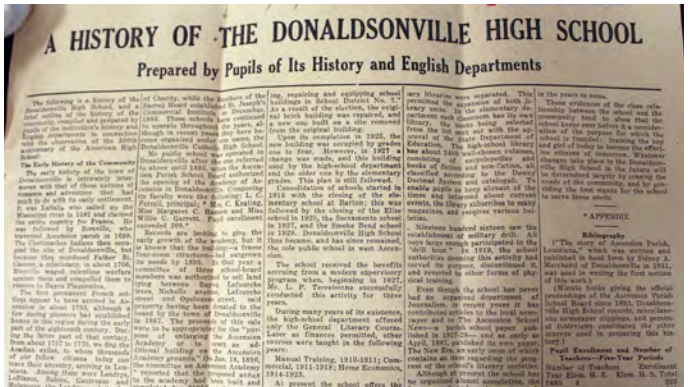
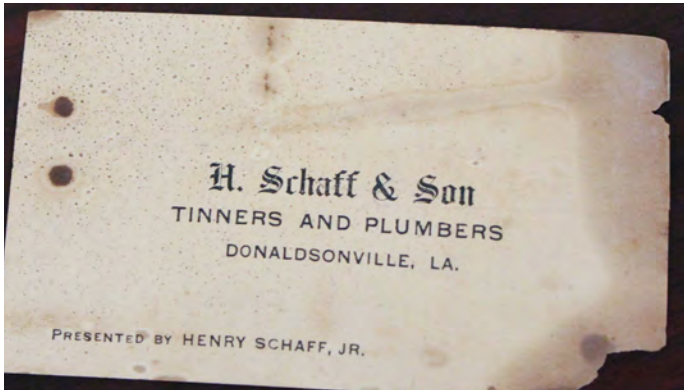
The renovation project was progressing well when construction workers came across the mysterious "box." The construction crew summoned Ascension project manager Jeremy Theriot to the site. The unmarked copper box was the size of a shoe box and soldered closed.

The school system knew it was special and decided to

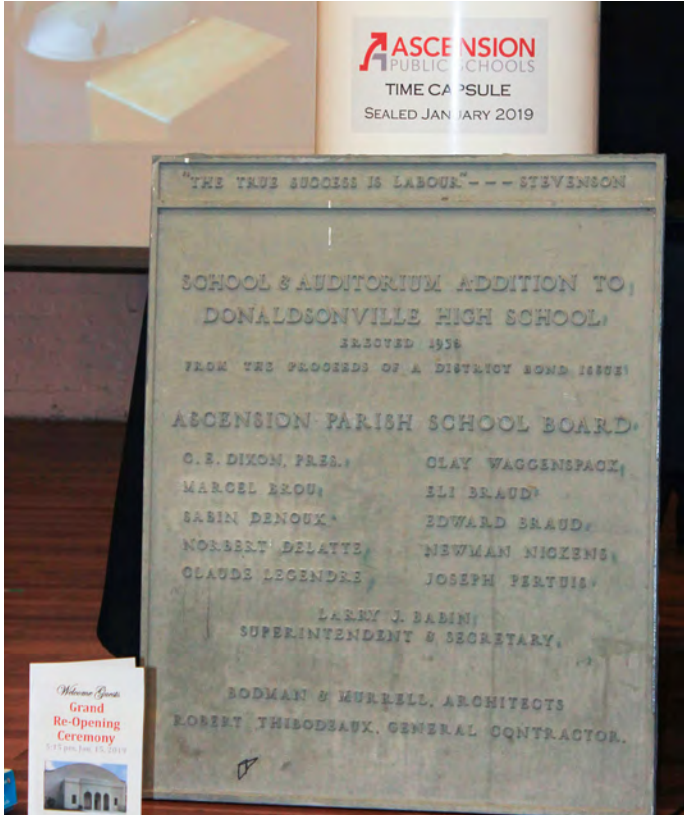
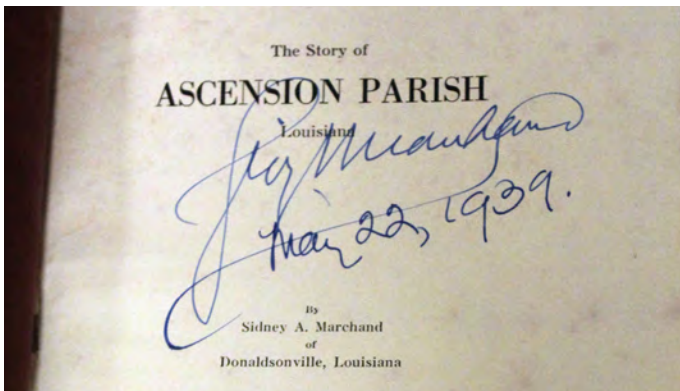
start with local research. Many questions were asked. A committee of parish leaders long involved in the parish, and particularly those in the life and times of Donaldsonville, were queried and assisted in deciding how to move forward with the opening.

They formed a research panel, consisting of Marcelle Brou, Catherine Davis, Louis "Boo" Leblanc, Robyn Penn Delaney, Emile Chiquet, Leroy Sullivan, Nicole Elmore, Chad Lynch, Marlie Lynch, Jackie Tisdell, Kennie Rigdell, Taft Kleinpeter, Sidney Marchand III, Thomas "Moose" Pearce, Jarius Carey, Melanie Victorian, and Marvin Evans. They learned that times were

DONALDSONVILLE HIGH SCHOOL BENTHOLD C. ALWES, PRINCIPAL DONALDSONVILLE, LA.	
Faculty -----1938-39	
Elementary Department:	
Miss Levie Medus	First grade
" Stella Hanson	" "
Mrs. Beulah Rome	" "
Miss Armide Hanson	Second grade
" Marjorie Lemann	" "
" Myrtle LeBlanc	" "
Miss Celine Babin	Third grade
" Susie Ferro	" "
Mrs. A. deBessonnet	" "
Miss O. Arceneaux	Fourth grade
" Julia Welles	" "
Mrs. Henry A. Dugas	" "
Miss Rosemary Guidry	Fifth grade
" Beverly Marchand	" "
" Louise Stout	" "
Mrs. B. C. Alwes	Sixth grade
Mr. Martin Hunley	" "
Miss Marie C. Mistretta	" "
Miss Beryl Glaslard	Seventh grade
Mr. F. A. Rossie	" "
Mr. Jack Terrell	" "
High School Department	
Miss A. Denison	English
" G. Richard	English
" P. Gonzales	Eng.-Chemistry
" C. Gonzales	Gen. Science-Biology
" J. Lunsford	Math.-Commerce
Mrs. T. R. Pregeant	Social Sciences
Mrs. C. J. Dugas	French
Mr. Lewis Plaquehe	Commerce
Mr. Davis Falcon	Math.-Physical Education
Miss Shirley Harp	Home Economics
Mr. B. C. Alwes	Physics
Mr. B. C. Alwes	Principal



ALTHOUGH THE TIME CAPSULE WAS FOUND BEHIND A BUILDING PLAQUE DATED 1938, SEVERAL ITEMS FOUND INSIDE PROVED THE CAPSULE WAS ACTUALLY PLACED IN 1939.





Elected officials and community members cut the ribbon on the new Head Start facility.

tough in 1938 as many were recovering from the Great Depression. President Roosevelt was in his fifth year of office and the WPA Program was in full force. They also decided to ask Nicholls State University for assistance. NSU's History Department was enthusiastic about the project and its importance to public history. History Instructor and Public History Coordinator Jared Wells jumped at the chance to work with student interns to dig into its contents.

In addition, Ascension Schools and the committee thought it important to place a new 2019 time capsule

somewhere in the renovated building to leave a legacy for the next generations. So, that became a part of the planning process too.

THE GREAT UNVEILING

In January, the capsule's contents were unveiled immediately prior to the Official Re-Grand Opening Ribbon Cutting. Two former administrators were invited to unveil the contents. Emile Chiquet, former Donaldsonville High School Principal, and Juanita Morgan, former DHS Assistant Principal, removed each item carefully and placed it on display. (See list in box)

"The contents provide significant information about the time period, school and community life, and even the budgets of the schools and the construction costs," said Wells after reviewing them carefully. He credited senior history intern Jacob Williams for his work through the semester to create a detailed inventory, including names of individuals noted in all of the documents. A display case in the lobby of Head Start will house the documents along with plans for a digital archive.

Ascension Public Schools and the research committee also decided that as part of the Grand Re-Opening it was important that a new time capsule be dedicated with items included from the current public schools in Donaldsonville. Each school leader presented their selected items during the ceremony.

Who will open this new time capsule in the next 81 years? Perhaps it will be the grandchildren of this year's preschool students who began classes here in this historic building. And, when they do, we hope they too will make it a community learning event celebrated so richly in 2019. Mark your calendars for 2100, Ascension!

Use the QR code to view the Donaldsonville Chief's live video of the unveiling.



1939 TIME CAPSULE HISTORIC CONTENTS:

- A proclamation from the 1938 newly elected school board
- Two books by Sidney A. Marchand "The Flight of a Century in Ascension Parish Louisiana, 1800-1900" and "The Story of Ascension Parish"
- A signed letter from the creators of the copper box capsule that was made by a well known metal smith shop
- A one-page history of Donaldsonville High School
- A May 2, 1939 edition of the Donaldsonville Chief
- Tiger Times, school newspaper, Vol. 1

CONTENTS OF TIME CAPSULE TO BE OPENED IN 2100

- An academic medallion, signifying four pillars of Ascension Schools: teamwork, leadership, learning and service
- A Jan. 10, 2019 edition of the Donaldsonville Chief
- Cap and gown worn by Head Start graduates in 2019
- Donaldsonville Primary shirt with slogan, "Be the Change, Plant the Seed;" and Parenting Handbook
- Lowery Elementary polo shirt with the official 2015 Crest and a proclamation from faculty
- Lowery Middle student towels with logos, a photo of founder John Lowery, and the faculty statement on teaching
- Donaldsonville High School official crest and a notecard representing their mission and the history

A CONSTRUCTION ZONE

OF ASCENSION PROPORTIONS

UPGRADES TAKING PLACE AT ALL CAMPUSES

All across Ascension Parish, hammers are swinging, bulldozers are moving dirt and hard hats abound as construction and major maintenance projects are taking place at all school campuses.

In 2016, voters approved a millage extension to fund \$120 million in construction projects, and this year, voters renewed general operations and maintenance funding for the public school system. Those essential funds are being put to good use with the construction of four new schools, campus renovations, security upgrades, the removal of old temporary buildings and various improvement projects.

“To my knowledge, this is the most extensive amount of construction taking place simultaneously across the parish in the history of Ascension Pub-

lic Schools. We are working hard to renovate older facilities while building new schools to meet the growing population,” said Director of Planning and Construction Chad Lynch. “Our community expects and our students deserve the best and safest facilities we can provide.”

Opening this school year is the new Bullion Primary, the district’s first two-story primary school that is relieving Oak Grove Primary and Prairieville Primary schools. Also new this year is a new campus for APPLe Digital Academy. The former River Parishes Community College Technical Campus on Airline Highway in Sorrento will be home to our alternative education and digital learning programs, as well as house training centers for welding and mechanics.

Major renovation projects also completing this year include a new



building for Ascension Head Start in Donaldsonville, a new office entrance for Lowery Elementary School, a new classroom wing for Lowery Middle School, and a new, two-story classroom

building for Dutchtown Primary School. The 2019-20 school year will also see the completion of St. Amant High School’s office and entrance renovation and a new Residency Verification and Truancy



Ascension Head Start Renovations



New Bullion Primary School



Dutchtown Primary School Addition

FALL 2019

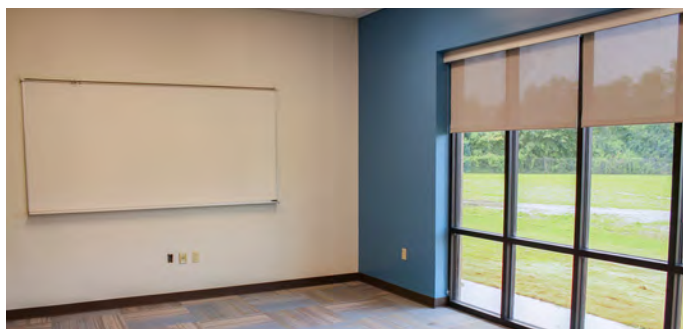
*ESTIMATED COMPLETION TIMELINE FOR MAJOR PROJECTS

"OUR COMMUNITY EXPECTS AND OUR STUDENTS DESERVE
THE BEST AND SAFEST FACILITIES WE CAN PROVIDE."

**DIRECTOR OF PLANNING AND
CONSTRUCTION CHAD LYNCH**



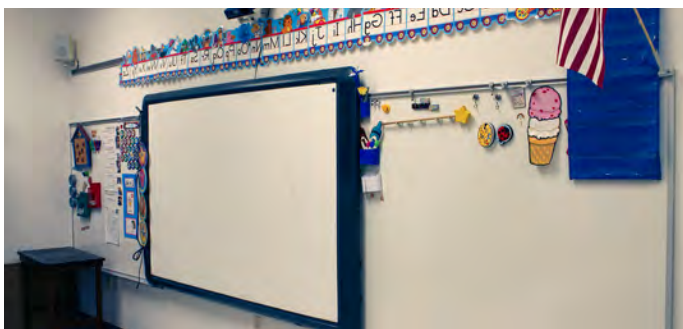
Lowery Elementary



APPLe Digital Academy



Ascension Head Start



New APPLe Digital Academy



*Lowery Elementary Office
and Classroom Addition*



St. Amant High School Renovations

SPRING 2020



LeBlanc Special Services parking lot renovations

Office (RVTO) for the school district.

Construction projects that will begin this school year and are expected to be complete for the 2020-21 school year include the new Bluff Middle School that will relieve Dutch-town Middle and Prairieville Middle schools, the new Bluff Primary School that will relieve Dutch-town Primary and Spanish Lake Primary schools, a

new gymnasium for Prairieville Middle, converting the old library at Donaldsonville High to include office and classroom space, and a new building for our Child Nutrition and Planning and Construction Offices, both of which were destroyed by the 2016 Flood.

Rounding out the long list of construction projects funded by the 2016 bond are covered pay-

vilions at primary schools (see box for details), security upgrades, renovations at East Ascension High School, site planning and permitting for a future high school, and the construction of the new Sugar Mill Primary School that will relieve Central Primary and Duplessis Primary schools. Those projects are expected to be completed by Spring 2021.

SECURITY CONSTRUCTION

Safety and security has always been a top priority for Ascension Public Schools. In 2016, voters approved \$3 million dedicated to security upgrades at our schools. Last year, safety fencing was added across the district, and this year schools are undergoing extensive office construction to provide better access controls for visitors



New Bluff Middle School



New Bluff Ridge Primary School



Prairieville Middle Gymnasium

FALL 2020

***ESTIMATED COMPLETION TIMELINE FOR MAJOR PROJECTS**

on our campuses.

"It is our highest priority to continue to provide a physically and emotionally safe environment for our students and employees so that we can all focus on our primary mission of educating children," said Superintendent David Alexander. "We are blessed to live in a community that prioritizes funding for schools so that we can update our facilities with security enhancements."

The majority of schools received security upgrades during the summer with the following completed by the Fall of 2019: Central Middle, Central Office, Central Primary, Darrow Conference Center, Donaldsonville High, Duplessis Primary, Dutchtown High, Dutchtown Middle, Dutchtown Primary, Gonzales Primary, Lake Elementary, LeBlanc Special Services, Lowery Elementary, Lowery Middle, Oak Grove Primary, Pecan Grove Primary, Prairieville Primary, Spanish Lake Primary, St. Amant Primary and St. Amant Middle. Additional

security projects are soon to begin at the Distribution Center, G.W. Carver Primary, Lakeside Primary and Sorrento Primary.

MAJOR MAINTENANCE PROJECTS

Our Maintenance Department handles more than just routine service orders. Each year, major projects take place to enhance the operations of our schools from roofing to parking to beautification projects.

This year, approximately \$2 million from the maintenance department budget is being invested in following projects: concrete parking at Galvez Primary School, a new concrete drive at Dutchtown High School, a bus load canopy extension at Oak Grove Primary School, phase two of re-roofing at Central Middle School, demolition of the old G.W. Carver Primary School buildings, classroom flooring upgrades at Dutchtown Primary School, a canopy extension at Dutchtown

COVERED PLAY PAVILIONS

\$1.5 million is being invested in covered play pavilions at primary schools that do not already have covered outdoor play areas or access to a gymnasium.

COMPLETED

- Ascension Head Start
- Central Primary School
- Donaldsonville Primary School
- Duplessis Primary School
- G.W. Carver Primary School
- Lakeside Primary School
- Lowery Elementary School
- Pecan Grove Primary School
- Prairieville Primary School
- Sorrento Primary School
- Spanish Lake Primary School

UNDER CONSTRUCTION

- Bullion Primary School
- Dutchtown Primary School
- Lake Elementary School
- St. Amant Primary School

**Please note: Covered play areas are being integrated in the design of new primary schools. Galvez Primary, Gonzales Primary, and Oak Grove Primary schools already have covered play areas.*

Middle School, and a new parking lot for LeBlanc Special Services, which also services East Ascension High's Spartan Field. Also new this year, is the investment in a severe weather system and outdoor warning system at four high schools. This will allow for better coordination and communication

during athletic events.

For detailed information about the progress of all construction projects, visit www.apsb.org/construction.



Donaldsonville High Renovations



New Sugar Mill Primary School



East Ascension High School Renovations

SPRING 2021

BUILDING

from the ground up



With the opening of a brand new school this fall, we took a few minutes to interview Bullion Primary Principal Marguerite Guillot:

WHAT ARE SOME THINGS STUDENTS CAN EXPECT TO SEE AND EXPERIENCE AT BULLION PRIMARY SCHOOL THIS YEAR?

All students at Bullion Primary will get to experience being part of the very first class of Bear Cubs! Students will help develop and experience new traditions beginning on their first day of school. One of the things students will participate in is naming our Bear Cub mascot.

Bullion Primary will offer many opportunities to experience learning outside of the classroom. We are looking forward to having our students join and compete in different clubs such as 4-H, Beta, and Robotics. Our students will also be given the opportunity to engage in Art activities and health and fitness activities through enrichment classes, as well as STEM and literacy activities implemented regularly in our library.

WHAT ARE YOU MOST EXCITED ABOUT FOR THE UPCOMING SCHOOL YEAR?

It is difficult to pinpoint one thing that I am most excited about, but the mere idea of being able to play a

major role in opening a new school and growing it from the ground up, is by far the most exciting challenge that I have taken on in my profession. The opportunity to collaboratively create a school culture and to foster our Bear Cub pride as well as to build the best possible academic programs is very exciting!

TELL ME ABOUT THE MAKEUP OF THE NEW SCHOOL STAFF?

Bullion Primary's faculty and staff will be the "Gumbo" of Ascension Public Schools. Our staff is unique in that it will be made up of members from various schools from within our district. Our staff is comprised of members from Prairieville Primary, Oak Grove, Pecan Grove, Gonzales Primary, Sorrento Primary, Duplessis Primary, St. Amant Middle, Lakeside Primary, and Central Primary. No matter where they have been in the past, all of our faculty members are excited to become a Bullion Bear Cub!

There are a few staff members who were part of the Oak Grove / Prairieville Primary Split in 2009. These people are excited about opening a brand new school for the second time in their career, something they never thought would happen again!

The Bullion Primary faculty and staff ranges from



brand new teachers at the very beginning of their careers to teachers with over 30 years of experience in their field! No matter the years of service each member has, I am confident that we have one of the best faculty and staff who will love, nurture, and provide the best possible education to each and every child who walks through the doors of Bullion Primary.

In addition, I am excited to work alongside Brandie Edwards as my assistant principal. We have worked together in the past as instructional coaches and assistant principals. It is exciting to now to be able to work together as a team to open a brand new school!

WHAT MAKES BULLION PRIMARY UNIQUE?

Bullion Primary will be the first two story primary school in Ascension Parish.

One thing that I think is really neat and unique is that

with Bluff Middle set to open in August of 2020, our 5th graders will be part of a class that will get to attend two brand new schools, two years in a row!

WHY DID YOU WANT TO BECOME PRINCIPAL OF BULLION PRIMARY?

The Prairieville Community is very special to me. I was raised and educated in the Ascension Public School system, particularly in the Prairieville area. I began my teaching career at Oak Grove Primary in 2005 then shortly moved to Prairieville Middle. I loved my time at Prairieville Middle, both as a teacher and an assistant principal, but always knew my heart belonged back at a primary school. In August of 2014, I was given the opportunity to move to St. Amant Primary as the assistant principal. When the Bullion Primary Principal position opened, I knew in my heart that was the position I wanted. As much as I loved working with the St. Amant faculty, staff, students, and community, I wanted to move back “home.” I wanted to be given the opportunity to serve and contribute to the community that has given me so much. It is my goal to strengthen our community by making Bullion Primary one of the best places to learn and grow!

HOW CAN PARENTS OR COMMUNITY MEMBERS ENGAGE WITH THE NEW SCHOOL?

We have a parent and community involvement organization called PAWS (Parents Active With School). Parents, guardians and community members are encouraged to get as involved as they can with the group. Anyone looking to become active with the new school can either email their contact information with ideas to PAWSvolunteersBPS@gmail.com or sign up at the school. Parents and community members can also stay up-to-date with events and school news by following the school's Facebook Page. We are excited about building and strengthening our partnership with parents and community.



ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL
BRANDIE EDWARDS

PRINCIPAL
MARGUERITE GUILLOT

STAFF NOTES

2018-2019

Congratulations to our teachers and staff who earned postsecondary degrees and credentials during the past year and new leadership positions!

Sandra Alfred
Dutchtown Primary
Appointed Principal

Brooke Babin
Lakeside Primary
Special education teacher, earned a master's degree in special education early intervention (birth-5) from Southeastern Louisiana University in May 2019

Jay Brignac
Central Office
Appointed Supervisor of Information Technology

Chasity Carr
Gonzales Primary
Teacher, earned a master's degree in teaching from Louisiana College in May 2018

Lisa Carter
Central Office
Appointed Supervisor of Human Resources

Shelby Cavalier
Ascension Head Start
Teacher, earned a master's degree in early childhood from Nicholls State University in May 2019

Jelice Chatman
Sorrento Primary
Appointed Assistant Principal

Brandy Chilton
Gonzales Primary
Librarian, earned an add-on certification in library science administration from Southeastern Louisiana University in December 2018

Jeanne Daigle
Prairieville Primary
Instructional coach, earned a master's degree in educational leadership from Texas Tech University in August 2018

Leslie Davidson
Bullion Primary
Teacher, earned a master's degree in educational leadership from Southeastern Louisiana University in December 2018

Keith Dickerson, Sr.
Lowery Middle
ISSP president, earned a master's degree in sports administration from Grambling State University in May 2019

Glenda Dorsey
Dutchtown High
Teacher, earned a master's degree in educational leadership from Louisiana State University in May 2019

Brandie Edwards
Bullion Primary
Appointed Assistant Principal

Staci Felder
Prairieville Middle
Teacher, earned a master's degree in educational leadership from Southeastern Louisiana University in December 2018

Sally Franklin
Central Primary
Teacher, earned a master's degree in educational leadership from Southeastern Louisiana University in December 2018

Eve Frederic
Central Office
Appointed Instructional Supervisor



Jeanne Daigle (left) and Kasielynn Smith earned master's degrees from Texas Tech in August 2018.



Eve Frederic was appointed an Instructional Supervisor for primary schools.



Congrats to the first recipients of the district's Core Values Medallions: Andrea Amedee, Kim Ammons, Wanda August, Kelli Baham, Michelle Bordelon, Shawn Boudreaux, Leslie Buratt, Heather Caruso, Kenneth Castro, Kim Colligan, Dennis Duplessis, Shelbie Fontenot, Christie Freshwater, Nafes Furqan, Angelique Gaudin, Mandy Gomez, Courtney Harness, Dawn Johnson, David Joshua, Matt Lambert, Melissa Langlois, Sandra Lawless, Kellie Lee, Linda Lewis, Susan Lindsey, Marlie Lynch, Chrystal Matthews, Amber Miller, Matthew Monceaux, Loretta Moody, Sheila Moore, Travis Parker, Kennie Ridgedell, Chiquetta Rodriguez, Sharon Saia, Tricia Signorelli, Sherri Stevens, Tara Trabeau, Loriann Warnke, Cleveland Washington, Chazz Watson, Van Williams, and Moquita Winey.

Johnnie Galbo
St. Amant High
 Teacher, earned a master's degree in science education from Western Governors University in September 2018

Noelle Graham
Central Primary
 Special education lead teacher, earned a master's degree in curriculum and instruction from Louisiana State University in Shreveport in December 2018

Laura Gilbert
Spanish Lake Primary
 Appointed Principal

Marguerite Guillot
Bullion Primary
 Appointed Principal

Jessica Hill
Central Primary
 Teacher, earned a master's degree in elementary education from Louisiana State University in May 2018

Erin Holley
Spanish Lake Primary
 Appointed Assistant Principal

Bridgett Hudson
Oak Grove Primary
 Appointed Principal

Stacey Hughes
St. Amant Primary
 Appointed Assistant Principal

Sondra Isenhower
Prairieville Middle
 Teacher, earned an education specialist credential in gifted education from Louisiana State University in May 2018

Dawn Johnson
East Ascension High
 Teacher, earned a master's degree in educational leadership from Southeastern Louisiana University in December 2018

Sharon Joseph
Donaldsonville Primary
 Paraprofessional, earned a master's degree in public administration from Southern University A&M in December 2018

Darby Lambert
Central Office
 Appointed Supervisor of Information Technology

Yvette Langlois
Lakeside Primary
 Appointed Assistant Principal

Amber Lavergne
East Ascension High
 Teacher, earned a bachelor's degree in biological sciences from Louisiana State University in May 2018

Honey Lundin
Sorrento Primary
 Appointed Principal

Laurel Luecke
Ascension Head Start
 Teacher, earned a master's degree in curriculum and instruction from Northwestern State University in December 2018

Keragan McCready
Dutchtown High
 Teacher/coach/assistant athletic director, earned a master's degree in sports management from Louisiana State University in June 2018

Jaimie McQuarn
East Ascension High
 Teacher, earned a master's degree in curriculum and instruction from the University of Louisiana at Lafayette in December 2018

Loretta Moody
Dutchtown Primary
 Appointed Assistant Principal



Wanda August was selected as a Core Values Medallion recipient by Donaldsonville High Principal Marvin Evans.

Erica Ramos
Lowery Elementary
 Teacher, earned a master's degree in education from Nicholls State University in May 2019

Ashley Rouyea
Donaldsonville High
 Teacher, earned a bachelor's degree in secondary education from Nicholls State University in May 2018

Deshay Savoy
Lake Elementary
 Secretary, earned an associate's degree from River Parishes Community College in May 2019

Patricia Signorelli
Central Office
 Appointed Instructional Supervisor

Robyn Simmons
Early College Option
 Appointed Principal

Dominique Suel
Donaldsonville High
 Librarian aide, earned a master's degree in psychology from the University of Louisiana at Monroe in May 2019

RETIREEES

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE

Brenda Aikens
Pecan Grove Primary
 Paraprofessional

Amy Andermann
Lake Elementary
 School Secretary A

Brandi Anseman
Lakeside Primary
 Elementary Teacher

Myrtis Babin
Gonzales Primary
 Food Service Tech

Lauren Bahlinger
Gonzales Middle
 Master Teacher

Myrzer Barney
APSB Child Welfare & Attendance
 Hospital / Homebound Teacher

Trudie Barras
Gonzales Primary
 Elementary Teacher

Betty Basham
Gonzales Middle School
 Paraprofessional

Gail Blouin
Gonzales Middle
 Elementary Teacher

Shelita Boudreaux
Gonzales Middle
 Bus Driver

Allison Braud
Dutchtown Middle
 Gifted Teacher

Marilyn Breaux
Gonzales Middle
 Elementary Teacher

Robbin Campbell
Donaldsonville Primary
 Secretary B

Arlette Carmouche
Lake Elementary
 Paraprofessional

Saia Charon
Dutchtown High
 Secondary Teacher

Donna Davis
Lakeside Primary
 Elementary Teacher

Trudy Dedon
APSB Distribution Center
 Central Office Secretary

Fran DuBois
Prairieville Primary
 Elementary Teacher

Christine Duhe
Gonzales Primary
 Elementary Teacher

Linda Dumas
St. Amant High
 Bus Driver

Kay Dunn
Sorrento Primary
 Elementary Teacher

Linda Dupuy
Duplessis Primary
 Elementary Librarian

Cynthia Earls
Spanish Lake
 Cafeteria Manager

Suzanne Elisar
St. Amant High
 Secretary B

Lois Falcon
Donaldsonville Primary
 Elementary Teacher

Mary Ann Favorite
Gonzales Middle
 Paraprofessional

Marilyn Foust
Leblanc's Special Services
 Paraprofessional

Pamela Garrett
East Ascension High
 Secondary Teacher

Edward Hahn
Dutchtown High
 Teacher/Coach

Dwain Hall
Prairieville Primary
 Elementary Teacher

Cynthia Harrell
APPLe Digital Academy
 Special Education Teacher

Gerald Ireland
Maintenance Department
 Maintenance Helper

Cynthia James
Pecan Grove Primary
 Paraprofessional

Sherry Johnson
Prairieville Primary & Prairieville Middle
 Bus Driver

Mary Jones
Prairieville Primary
 Cafeteria Manager

Denise Kelly
Donaldsonville Primary
 Paraprofessional

Kasielynn Smith
Donaldsonville High
 Master teacher, earned a master's degree in educational leadership from Texas Tech University in August 2018

Courtney Tabor
St. Amant High
 Teacher, earned a master's degree in business education from Nicholls State University in May 2019

Denise Thomas
Gonzales Middle
 EL teacher, earned an add-on certificate in English as a second language from

Southeastern Louisiana University in July 2018

Megan Trahan
St. Amant High
 Teacher, earned a bachelor's degree from Nicholls State University in May 2018

NaKesha Vernon
Duplessis Primary
 Teacher, earned a master's degree in curriculum and instruction from Grand Canyon University in September 2018

Caryn Vincent
Duplessis Primary
 Appointed Assistant Principal

Rochelle Waggenpack
Lake Elementary
 Teacher, earned 30+ hours graduate credit with an add-on certificate in library science from Northwestern State University of Louisiana in May 2019

Barry Whittington
Dutchtown High
 Appointed Assistant Principal

Sha'Myra Williams
Central Middle
 Teacher, earned a master's degree in educational leadership from Southeastern Louisiana University in December 2018

Samantha Young
Oak Grove Primary
 Appointed Assistant Principal

**Please note staff degree updates are self reported and not official*

Mary Kennedy
Oak Grove Primary
 Elementary Teacher

Penny Lambert
Duplessis Primary
 Elementary Teacher

Kitty Landry
Sorrento Primary
 Food Service Tech

Shirley Landry
Oak Grove Primary
 Bus Monitor

Jana Landry
Dutchtown Middle
 Secondary Teacher

Barbara LeBourgeois
St. Amant Middle
 Paraprofessional

Walter Lemons
Dutchtown High
 Secondary Teacher

Linda Levert
APSB Transportation Dept
 Bus Driver

Nancy Luter-Schilling
St. Amant High
 Bus Driver

Mia McDaniel
Leblanc Special Services
 Special Ed. Coordinator

Stephen McKinney
Donaldsonville High
 Custodian

Patricia Miller
Galvez Primary
 Elementary Teacher

Dayna Nagin
Galvez Primary
 Food Tech

Scharmion Pape
Lake Elementary
 Bus Driver

Rose Scott
Lakeside Primary
 SPED Bus Driver

Deborah Sledge
Lowery Elementary
 Facilitator

Floyd Smith
Donaldsonville High School
 Custodian

Kristie Stapler
Leblanc Special Services
 Facilitator



Director of Human Resources Randy Watts retired with 29 years of service this past year.

Robyn Tadda
Central Primary
 Speech Therapist

Mary Talbot
Gonzales Middle School
 Paraprofessional

Lisa Templet
Donaldsonville Primary
 Speech Therapist

Randy Watts
APSB Personnel Dept
 Director of Human Resources

Rachel Welch
St. Primary
 Paraprofessional

Melba Wilson
St. Amant Primary
 Elementary Teacher

Mar'Sue Woods
Central Primary
 Kindergarten Teacher

SCHOOL CALENDAR

2019-2020



Official Opening of School
Tuesday, August 6, 2019

Professional Preparation Days
*Tuesday, August 6, 2019
& Wednesday, August 7, 2019*

1st Day Students Attend
Thursday, August 8, 2019

Staff Development
(Student Holiday)
Friday, September 13, 2019

Staff Development
(Student Holiday)
Friday, January 17, 2020

Last Day Seniors Attend
Wednesday, May 6, 2020

Last Day Students Attend
Thursday, May 21, 2020

Official Closing of School
Friday, May 22, 2020

HOLIDAYS

Labor Day
Monday, September 2, 2019

Fall Break
*Monday, October 14, 2019 &
Tuesday, October 15, 2019*

Thanksgiving Break
*Monday, November 25, 2019 -
Friday, November 29, 2019*

Christmas Holidays
*Monday, December 23, 2019 -
Friday, January 3, 2020*

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s Birthday
Monday, January 20, 2020

Mardi Gras Holidays
*Monday, February 24, 2020 &
Tuesday, February 25, 2020*

Easter Holidays
*Monday, April 6, 2020 -
Monday, April 13, 2020*

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATIONS

St. Amant High School
Wednesday, May 13, 2020

East Ascension High School
Thursday, May 14, 2020

Dutchtown High School
Friday, May 15, 2020

Donaldsonville High School
Friday, May 15, 2020

GRADING PERIOD ENDINGS
(Block schedule grading periods to be announced by schools)

1st Grading Period
Thursday, October 10, 2019

2nd Grading Period
Friday, December 20, 2019

3rd Grading Period
Thursday, March 12, 2020

4th Grading Period
Thursday, May 21, 2020

PARENT TEACHER CONFERENCE DAYS
(Primary Schools - Students Off)

*Monday, October 21, 2019
Monday, March 23, 2020*

HIGH SCHOOL TEACHER PLANNING DAY
(High Schools - Students Off)

Monday, January 6, 2020



SCHOOL DIRECTORY

Bullion Primary (K-5)
17005 Sills Dr.,
Prairieville, LA 70769
(225) 391-6950

Central Middle (6-8)
14101 Roddy Road
Gonzales, LA 70737
(225) 391-6400
(225) 621-2682 Fax

Central Primary (K-5)
41469 Hwy 621
Gonzales, LA 70737
(225) 391-7700
(225) 391-7701 Fax

Donaldsonville High (9-12)
100 Tiger Drive
Donaldsonville, LA 70346
(225) 391-7900
(225) 473-4496 Fax

Donaldsonville Primary (K-2)
38210 Hwy 3089
Donaldsonville, LA 70346
(225) 391-7600
(225) 473-6920 Fax

Duplessis Primary (K-5)
38101 Hwy 621
Gonzales, LA 70737
(225) 391-6650
(225) 677-5984 Fax

Dutchtown High (9-12)
13165 Hwy 73
Geismar, LA 70734
(225) 391-6200
(225) 677-8191 Fax

Dutchtown Middle (6-8)
13078 Hwy 73
Geismar, LA 70734
(225) 391-7800
(225) 621-2351 Fax

Dutchtown Primary (K-5)
13046 Hwy 73
Geismar, LA 70734
(225) 391-7850
(225) 621-2383 Fax

East Ascension High (9-12)
612 East Worthy Street
Gonzales, LA 70737
(225) 391-6100
(225) 621-2397 Fax

Galvez Middle (6-8)
42018 Hwy 933
Prairieville, LA 70769
(225) 391-6350
(225) 621-2434 Fax

Galvez Primary (K-5)
16093 Henderson Bayou Rd.
Prairieville, LA 70769
(225) 391-6600
(225) 621-2447 Fax

Gonzales Middle (6-8)
1502 W. Orice Roth St.
Gonzales, LA 70737
(225) 391-6450
(225) 621-2509 Fax

Gonzales Primary (K-5)
521 N. Burnside
Gonzales, LA 70737
(225) 391-6700
(225) 621-2663 Fax

G.W. Carver Primary (K-5)
11310 Legacy Oaks
Gonzales, LA 70737
(225) 391-6800
(225) 621-2556 Fax

Lake Elementary (K-8)
14185 Hwy 431
St. Amant, LA 70774
(225) 391-6550
(225) 621-2476 Fax

Lakeside Primary (K-5)
16500 Hwy 431
Prairieville, LA 70769
(225) 391-7750
(225) 391-7751 Fax

Lowery Elementary (3-5)
2389 B Hwy 1 S.
Donaldsonville, LA 70346
(225) 257-2500
(225) 473-2539 Fax

Lowery Middle (6-8)
2389 A Hwy 1 S.
Donaldsonville, LA 70346
(225) 257-2550
(225) 473-2514 Fax

Oak Grove Primary (K-5)
17550 Old Jefferson Hwy
Prairieville, LA 70769
(225) 391-6750
(225) 621-2370 Fax

Pecan Grove Primary (K-5)
1712 S. Pecan Grove Ave.
Gonzales, LA 70737
(225) 391-7450
(225) 644-6985 Fax

Prairieville Middle (6-8)
16200 Hwy 930
Prairieville, LA 70769
(225) 391-6300
(225) 673-4883 Fax

Prairieville Primary (K-5)
40228 Parker Road
Prairieville, LA 70769
(225) 391-7400
(225) 391-7401 Fax

Sorrento Primary (K-5)
42211 N. City Parc Dr.
Sorrento, LA 70778
(225) 391-6900
(225) 391-6901 Fax

St. Amant High (9-12)
12035 Hwy 431
St. Amant, LA 70774
(225) 391-6000
(225) 621-2573 Fax

St. Amant Middle (6-8)
44317 Hwy 429
St. Amant, LA 70774
(225) 391-6500
(225) 621-2593 Fax

St. Amant Primary (K-5)
44365 Hwy 429
St. Amant, LA 70774
(225) 391-7950
(225) 621-2613 Fax

Spanish Lake Primary (K-5)
13323 Bluff Road
Geismar, LA 70734
(225) 391-7650
(225) 391-7651 Fax

OTHER PROGRAMS

**LeBlanc Special Services
& Federal Programs**
611 North Burnside
Gonzales, LA 70737
(225) 391-7211
(225) 391-7381
(225) 621-2534 Fax

Ascension Head Start
603 Lee Avenue
Donaldsonville, LA 70346
(225) 391-7351
(225) 474-2752 Fax

APPLe Digital Academy
9697 Airline Highway
Sorrento, LA 70778
(225) 391-6850
(225) 474-2774 Fax

**Early College Option
River Parishes
Community College**
925 W. Edenborne Pkwy.
Gonzales, LA 70737
(225) 743-8747



1100 Webster Street
Donaldsonville, LA 70346
Phone: (225) 391-7000 or (225) 257-2000

