About Ascension Public Schools

The mission of Ascension Public Schools is to provide each student the high-quality education necessary to succeed in an ever-changing world.

Our Vision
Rigorous academic standards are the hallmark of our vision and philosophy. We are moving our district forward with the following goals:

- Closing the Achievement Gap
- Literacy and Numeracy
- High Quality Teachers
- Leadership Development
- High Graduation Rates/College and Career Readiness
- Assessment and Technology Implementation
- Support for Underperforming Schools
- Positive Behavior

About the 2016 Community Report
The 2016 Report to the Community has been created and developed as part of our commitment at Ascension Public Schools to keep you informed of the progress of our school system, our talented teachers and our hard-working students.

The district is one of the highest performing school systems in the state, now ranking No. 4 among Louisiana’s 70 school districts. In addition to earning an “A” in academic performance with a 107.3 District Performance Score, Ascension Public Schools remain accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS), which is a designation that is awarded to only those districts that meet a rigorous standard of excellence and accountability.

Ascension Public Schools are Growing at the Pace of Excellence. We invite you to take time to learn about our progress, and we welcome your feedback. Comments can be posted on our Facebook page or by calling the central office at 225-391-7000 or 225-257-2000.

CONTACT US

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Connect with us on social media
Academic Honors and Recognition

Our Outstanding Educators

- **Brenden Simoneaux**
  President’s Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching
- **Jaimee Williams**
  2016 Louisiana Principal of the Year Finalist for Gonzales Primary
- **Danielle Delaune**
  Semi-finalist for 2016 Louisiana High School Teacher of the Year for St. Amant High
- **Janet Brown**
  Louisiana Substitute Teacher of the Year for Kelly Staffing
- **Patrice Pujol, Ed.D.**
  National Superintendent of the Year Finalist and Named President of National Institute for Excellence in Teaching

Academic Honors and Recognition

- Ascension Public Schools rank #4 in academic achievement in the state
- District Performance Score improved to 107.3, earning #4 state ranking
- Two financial awards for accountability and management
- 12 "A" rated schools in 2016
- High school students rank #1 in Louisiana for End of Course passage rates

In 5 Years:

+7 A/B scores
-3 C/D scores
0 F scores

School Grades

2010-2011
2014-2015

2016-15 PRINCIPALS OF THE YEAR
From left: Gonzales Primary’s Jaimee Williams, Galvez Middle’s Sandy Waguespack, and St. Amant High’s Mia Edwards

2014-15 TEACHERS OF THE YEAR
From left: St. Amant High’s Danielle Delaune, Pecan Grove Primary’s Julie Smith, and Central Middle’s Tachelle Herbert

2014-15 STUDENTS OF THE YEAR
From left: St. Amant High’s Christopher Bourgeois, Dutchtown Middle’s Hiba Hasan, and St. Amant Primary’s Jake Rizzo.

**REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY 2016**
Preparing Students for Tomorrow

Across the district, student achievement is the primary focus of all programs and initiatives. Major new career choices have been implemented for students to have access to college and career opportunities. Student success is achieved through high quality teaching and Ascension Public Schools has created innovative options for teacher enhancements and leadership development. Through these leadership enhancements, the district is continuously raising the bar for students. Below are examples of these achievements in action:

By the Numbers

- 6,313 dual enrollment hours earned in 2014-15
  - Southeastern Louisiana University
  - River Parishes Community College
  - Associated Builders & Contractors, Pelican Chapter
  - Baton Rouge Community College
- 33% of Ascension seniors who earned a diploma in 2013-14 also earned a career or technical certification (compared to 20% statewide)
- 639 Industry Based Certifications (IBC) earned by the Class of 2015

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The National Institute for Excellence in Teaching presented Pecan Grove Primary with the prestigious TAP Founder’s Award in 2015. Each year, NIET recognizes one school for its exceptional efforts to implement and represent the principles of the Teacher Advancement System.

Students at Prairieville Primary react to a science experiment: All Ascension Public Schools are integrating STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics) activities into the day-to-day curriculum. Some campuses also sponsor STEAM Clubs.

Lake Elementary ELA teacher Heidi Maul helps a student work on the new Promethean ActivWall using her iPad. Every 5th through 12th grade student has a personal computing device.

The district created a two-year Ascension Leadership Academy that provides intensive training for potential school and district leaders to ensure effective leadership succession. Some of the teacher leaders from this program are also engaged in mentoring new teachers being certified through the Teach Ascension program.

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Our Students’ Safety:
A Priority of Ascension Public Schools

Ascension Public Schools has partnered with Innocent Eyes, a non-profit organization, to provide Internet safety and cyber bullying awareness to students and parents.

Officials have made presentations with Innocent Eyes to all middle and high school students in the district, as well as conducted evening seminars at three of the four parish high schools. The final seminar will be held at Dutchtown High School on Feb. 25 at 6:30 p.m. for all parents who have not yet attended a seminar. The event is sponsored by Cox Communications and is free and open to the public.

Other safety programs include anti-bullying efforts, school bus safety, and prom and graduation safety. The district supports safe and anonymous reporting and a commitment to properly investigate concerns and adopt measures to stop dangerous or undesired behaviors.

At the same time, the district has invested in security cameras at all campuses. Currently the district has nearly 1,200 cameras that record activity on the campuses 24 hours per day, seven days per week. A minimum of two weeks of recorded video is maintained for each camera at all times to assist in investigations.

New Safety Cameras

One-to-One Computers for Students
Ascension Parish voters extended a 15.08 millage in 2009 to improve and expand some of the parish's oldest school facilities. The capital improvements were made with NO increase in the amount taxpayers paid each year. Six years later, the investment is making a positive difference.

Major projects completed in the parish-wide plan include:

- Major “makeover” and renovations to Prairieville Middle School, Gonzales Primary School and Donaldsonville High School
- New architecturally-designed school building for G. W. Carver Primary School at a new campus site
- Begin construction of Freshman Academies at Dutchtown, East Ascension and St. Amant high schools
- Major electrical infrastructure upgrades to support technology and enhance new safety features
- Upgrade of the district’s computer and data network for wireless technology, leading the way for the innovative rollout of a computer for every student
- Security cameras for ALL campuses for optimal safety oversight, two-way radio system for schools, and safety locks on all classroom doors

Freshman Academies Coming Soon

The Freshman Academies will increase capacity at each campus by 600 additional students. When combined (1800), it is nearly equivalent to the capacity of a new high school campus.

Three new Freshman Academy facilities at East Ascension, Dutchtown and St. Amant high schools are currently under construction. Each new facility will house incoming ninth graders, allowing additional space for upper classmen. Research shows freshmen who are in separate major course classes perform better and adjust better to the rigors of high school, resulting in improved grades, better behavior and higher graduation rates.

Ascension Public Schools has provided freshmen with separate classes for the last three academic years to achieve these benefits. However, when the parish’s sales tax revenues spiked due to the recent industrial expansion, school leaders combined those one-time funds with some capital improvement dollars to start constructing the new Freshman Academies.
Ascension Public Schools currently operate

16 Primary and Elementary Schools
7 Middle Schools
4 High Schools

Galvez Middle

Prairieville Middle

Gonzales Primary School
The district paid for improvements with the extension of an existing construction millage with NO increase in annual taxes.

Go to [apsb.org/promises](http://apsb.org/promises) for a complete list of all construction and renovation projects.
Ascension Public Schools was awarded the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) Distinguished Budget Presentation Award and Excellence in Financial Reporting Award. This is the third consecutive year the district has received the Budget Presentation Award, which is only earned by the top 2% of all government agencies in the United States.

In addition, Standard & Poor’s increased the bond rating for Ascension Public Schools to AA to reflect the system’s strong financial health and management. By earning a rating improvement, Ascension Public Schools will be eligible for a better interest rate on its bonds, thereby saving taxpayers millions of dollars.

The 2015-2016 Ascension Parish School System Budget is $341 Million

- State Minimum Foundation Program (MFP) Funds
- Parish Sales and Use Taxes
- Parish Ad Valorem Taxes
- Grants/Insurance Premiums/ Capital Project Funds
- Employee Salaries and Benefits
- Construction
- Operation & Maintenance
- Debt Service
- Substitutes & Other Professional Services
- Technology
- Equipment, Materials, Supplies

Total Revenues

- 22%
- 33%
- 22%
- 23%

Total Expenditures

- 70%
- 10%
- 5%
- 3%
The Ascension Parish School Board is asking voters to extend an existing 15.08 mills to fund much-needed construction projects and improvements across the district. The dedicated millage has been in effect for more than 30 years. By extending the 15.08 millage rate through Year 2036, voters will enable Ascension Public Schools to borrow $120 million for school improvements at NO increased cost. Approval of the school bond proposition will NOT increase the amount of taxes paid each year. It is NOT a new tax!

The following projects are included in the April 9 funding proposal:

- New Primary School – Bullion Crossing $16,100,000
- New Primary School – Hwy 73 $16,600,000
- New Primary School – Germany Road $17,800,000
- New Middle School – Bluff Road $29,300,000
- Complete Freshman Academy Concept at High Schools $12,900,000
- Future High School-Site Planning and Permitting $2,000,000
- Addition/Renovations to Ascension Head Start in Donaldsonville $3,000,000
- Addition/Renovations to Dutchtown Primary $7,400,000
- Continue Security Plan Implementation at ALL campuses $3,000,000
- Addition/Renovations to Lowery Middle School $3,900,000
- Addition of Gym to Prairieville Middle School $3,000,000
- Renovation of old Donaldsonville High Library into classroom/office space $500,000
- APPE Digital Academy $2,900,000
- Exterior Covered Play Areas at ALL Primary Schools $1,600,000

Total Investment $120 million at NO Increased Cost to Taxpayers.
At the same time, more than $2 million of the new bond monies will be dedicated to the planning and preparation of a future high school. Freshman Academies will increase capacity at each campus for 600 additional students, when combined (1,800), is nearly equivalent to the capacity of a new high school campus.

Vote April 9, 2016
Visit www.apsb.org/2016bond for more information
### Ascension Public Schools K-12

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School Name</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Phone Numbers</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Central Middle (6-8)</td>
<td>14101 Roddy Road, Gonzales, LA 70737</td>
<td>225-391-6400, 225-621-2682-F</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Central Primary (K-5)</td>
<td>41469 La Hwy 621, Gonzales, LA 70737</td>
<td>225-391-7700, 225-391-7701-F</td>
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<tr>
<td>Donaldsonville High (9-12)</td>
<td>100 Tiger Drive, Donaldsonville, LA 70734</td>
<td>225-257-2900, 225-473-4496-F</td>
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<tr>
<td>Donaldsonville Primary (EC-2)</td>
<td>38210 Hwy 3089, Donaldsonville, LA 70734</td>
<td>225-257-2600, 225-473-6920-F</td>
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<tr>
<td>Duplessis Primary (K-5)</td>
<td>38101 Hwy 621, Gonzales, LA 70737</td>
<td>225-391-6650, 225-677-5984-F</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dutchtown High (9-12)</td>
<td>13165 Hwy 73, Geismar, LA 70734</td>
<td>225-391-6200, 225-677-8191-F</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dutchtown Middle (6-8)</td>
<td>13078 Hwy 73, Geismar, LA 70734</td>
<td>225-391-7800, 225-621-2351-F</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dutchtown Primary (K-5)</td>
<td>13046 Hwy 73, Geismar, LA 70734</td>
<td>225-391-7850, 225-621-2383-F</td>
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<tr>
<td>East Ascension High (9-12)</td>
<td>612 East Worthy Road, Gonzales, LA 70737</td>
<td>225-391-6100, 225-621-2397-F</td>
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<tr>
<td>Galvez Middle (6-8)</td>
<td>42016 Hwy 933, Prairieville, LA 70769</td>
<td>225-391-6350, 225-621-2434-F</td>
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<tr>
<td>Galvez Primary (K-5)</td>
<td>16090 Henderson Bayou Rd, Gonzales, LA 70737</td>
<td>225-391-6600, 225-621-2447-F</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gonzales Middle (6-8)</td>
<td>1502 W. Orice Roth St, Gonzales, LA 70737</td>
<td>225-391-6450, 225-621-2509-F</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gonzales Primary (K-5)</td>
<td>521 N. Burnside, Gonzales, LA 70737</td>
<td>225-391-6700, 225-621-2663-F</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lake Elementary (K-8)</td>
<td>14185 Hwy 431, St. Amant, LA 70774</td>
<td>225-391-6550, 225-621-2476-F</td>
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<td>Lakeside Primary (K-5)</td>
<td>16500 Hwy 431, Prairieville, LA 70769</td>
<td>225-391-7750, 225-391-7751-F</td>
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<td>Lowery Elementary (3-5)</td>
<td>2389 B Hwy 1 S, Donaldsonville, LA 70734</td>
<td>225-257-2500, 225-473-2539-F</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lowery Middle (6-8)</td>
<td>2389 A Hwy 1 S, Donaldsonville, LA 70734</td>
<td>225-257-2550, 225-473-2514-F</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oak Grove Primary (K-5)</td>
<td>17550 Old Jefferson Hwy, Prairieville, LA 70769</td>
<td>225-391-6750, 225-621-2370-F</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pecan Grove Primary (K-5)</td>
<td>1712 S. Pecan Grove Ave, Gonzales, LA 70737</td>
<td>225-391-7450, 225-644-6985-F</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prairieville Middle (6-8)</td>
<td>16200 Hwy 930, Prairieville, LA 70769</td>
<td>225-391-6300, 225-673-4883-F</td>
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<tr>
<td>Prairieville Primary (K-5)</td>
<td>40228 Parker Road, Prairieville, LA 70769</td>
<td>225-391-7400, 225-391-7401-F</td>
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<tr>
<td>St. Amant High (9-12)</td>
<td>12035 Hwy 431, St. Amant, LA 70774</td>
<td>225-391-6000, 225-621-2517-F</td>
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<tr>
<td>St. Amant Middle (6-8)</td>
<td>44317 Hwy 429, St. Amant, LA 70774</td>
<td>225-391-6500, 225-621-2593-F</td>
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<tr>
<td>St. Amant Primary (K-5)</td>
<td>44365 Hwy 429, St. Amant, LA 70774</td>
<td>225-391-7950, 225-621-2613-F</td>
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<tr>
<td>Spanish Lake Primary (K-6)</td>
<td>13323 Bluff Road, Geismar, LA 70734</td>
<td>225-391-7650, 225-391-7651-F</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sorrento Primary (K-5)</td>
<td>42211 N. City Parc Dr, Sorrento, LA 70778</td>
<td>225-391-6900, 225-391-6901-F</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Other Schools/Facilities

<table>
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<tr>
<th>School Name</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Phone Numbers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>LeBlanc Special Services &amp; Federal Programs</td>
<td>611 North Burnside, Gonzales, LA 70737</td>
<td>225-391-7211, 225-391-7381, 225-621-2534-F</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ascension Head Start</td>
<td>603 Lee Avenue, Donaldsonville, LA 70734</td>
<td>225-391-7351, 225-474-2752-F</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>APPLe Digital Academy</td>
<td>38608 Hwy 22, Darrow, LA 70725</td>
<td>225-391-6850, 225-474-2774-F</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Early College Option River Parishes Community College</td>
<td>925 W. Edenborne Pkwy, Gonzales, LA 70737</td>
<td>225-743-8747</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>