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

- **28 SCHOOLS** with 3 More Under Construction

- **260 BUSES** Run 460 Routes Each Day

- **3.3 MILLION+** Meals Served Last Year

- **7,000 MAINTENANCE** Work Orders Completed Last Year

- **3,250,000 SF** Maintained by Custodians

**BUDGET**

- **$257 MILLION** General Fund Operating Budget

- **$25.7 MILLION** in Federal Grants

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

**IMPACT**

- **$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

- **60% of graduates** Enroll Directly into College

- **20.3 Average** ACT Composite Score

**TECHNOLOGY**

- **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
4,482 Industry Based Credentials Earned in 2018-19

20,000+ Student Computers in 1st - 12th Grade

One-to-One Graduation Rate 88.1%

28 Schools with 3 More Under Construction

Ascension Public Schools Overall Ranked #2

Economically Disadvantaged 51%

Minority 44%

English Learners 2.5%

22,862 students 48% Female; 52% Male

894 Enrolled in Early Childhood (PreK)

2,500 Students with Disabilities

4,688 Jobs Supported Contributed to the Local Economy $421 million

60% of graduates Enroll Directly into College

ACT Composite Score 20.3 Average

2,000+ College Credit Courses Offered at High Schools

200+ years of college Credit Hours Earned

4,482 Industry Based Credentials Earned in 2018-19

3,250,000 sf Maintained by Custodians

7,000 Maintenance Work Orders Completed Last Year in GOODS (615,000 Items) Purchased and Delivered in a Year $30,405,000

78% Dedicated to Salaries and Benefits

Earned Top Gains Awards 21 schools 9 schools Earned Equity Honoree Awards

Earned “A” and “B” Grades for Progress Nearly all 27 schools

ELA & Math in New Academic Growth Scores #1 for Students with Disabilities #1

#2 for Economically Disadvantaged Students

Nearly All 27 Schools

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

1,800 Teachers

101 Teacher Leaders* 76 Principals, Assoc., & Asst.

*Master, Mentor & Teacher Coaches

Sheets of Paper Saved with Peachjar Digital Flyer System

3 Million + Unique Website Views

2.5 Million + Facebook Reach

471 Trees & 4 Million+ Generated in Sales Tax Each Year

$25.7 million said Schools were the Most Important Reason They Chose to Live in Ascension

70% of people

101 Teacher Leaders* 1,800 Teachers 76 Principals, Assoc., & Asst.

*Master, Mentor & Teacher Coaches

4,688 Jobs Supported Contributed to the Local Economy $421 million

60% of graduates Enroll Directly into College

ACT Composite Score 20.3 Average

2,000+ College Credit Courses Offered at High Schools

200+ years of college Credit Hours Earned

4,482 Industry Based Credentials Earned in 2018-19
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
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 operations of the Ascension Public Schools have a total economic impact of $421 million to the local economy and support 4,688 jobs.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Impact Type</th>
<th>Employment</th>
<th>Labor Income</th>
<th>Output</th>
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<tr>
<td>Direct Effect</td>
<td>2,917</td>
<td>$200 million</td>
<td>$242 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indirect Effect</td>
<td>742</td>
<td>$22 million</td>
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<tr>
<td>Induced Effect</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Effect</td>
<td>4,688</td>
<td>251 million</td>
<td>$421 million</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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.

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

ASCENSION
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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 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."

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.
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 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.

**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 activates

**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
- **Ryley 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

#### 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

#### TWELFTH GRADE
- **Tre’von Mitchell**  
  Donaldsonville High

### PRINCIPALS & TEACHERS OF THE YEAR

#### PRINCIPALS
- **Carol Smith**  
  Prairieville Primary
- **Dina Davis**  
  Prairieville Middle
- **Carli Francois**  
  Dutchtown High
- **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

#### PRIMARY SCHOOL
- **Tonya H. Harden**  
  Ascension Head Start
- **Johnna Annie B. Williams**  
  G.W. Carver Primary
- **Maryalice Boss**  
  Central Primary
- **Sarah Trohoske**  
  Lowery Elementary
- **Ashley Townsend**  
  Oak Grove Primary
- **Kelly Naquin**  
  Prairieville Primary

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

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

**Jamy Bourgeois**
St. Amant Primary

**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 Troslair**
Early College Option

**Letha Miller**
East Ascension High

**Anne Waguespack**
St. Amant High

**Morgan Hutchinson**
Lake Elementary

**Courtney Harness**
Lowery Middle

**Tab Harris**
Prairieville Middle

**Kellie Duplechein**
St. Amant Middle

**Treenise Moore**
Donaldsonville High

**Ryan Bravata**
Dutchtown High

**Drucilla Bull**
East Ascension High

**Marianne McKeithen**
St. Amant High

**Amanda Dugas**
Sorrento Primary

**Dawn Pontillas**
Spanish Lake Primary

**Megan Starkey**
St. Amant Primary

**Sha’Myra Williams**
Central Middle

**Amie Navarre**
Dutchtown Middle

**Betsey Baldwin**
Galvez Middle

**Bridgette Ford**
Gonzales Middle

**Hannah Kamla**
APPLe Digital Academy

**Rachel Powell**
Early College Option

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

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

Congratulations State Finalist!

for Louisiana Principal of the Year

Carli Francois
Dutchtown High

David Alexander
Superintendent
Louisiana National Guard
Distinguished Civilian Service Medal

Ashley Avants
Lake Elementary
Kelly Services 2019 Substitute Teacher of the Year

Leigh Anne Baker
St. Amant Primary
Louisiana Speech-Language and Hearing Association Special Recognition Award

Monica Bell
Lowery Middle School
JAG Peak Performance Award

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

Kelsi Colligan
St. Amant High School
Star of Stars Special Olympics 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 NCFE 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 Association’s 2019 Coach of the Year

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

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
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
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

NATIONAL HONORS

Mia McDaniel
Special Education Coordinator
Elizabeth Stokes Borel
Award for Excellence, Speech Language Pathologists 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 Champions

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

Hayden Willis
Dutchtown High School
Star of Stars Boys Powerlifting

Zayne Zezulka
Dutchtown High School
Star of Stars Boys Soccer

The St. Amant High Softball Team was recognized at the Ascension Parish School Board meeting on June 18, 2019.
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 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 at Prairieville Middle; 2008 Champion Jody Elizar 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.
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.
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 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-

ons raised nearly $220,000. Dartmouth 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”, Dartmouth 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. Dartmouth 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.
DONATION RECIPIENTS

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

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.
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 building 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
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
Although the time capsule was found behind a building plaque dated 1938, several items found inside proved the capsule was actually placed in 1939.
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.
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 Public 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
“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
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 Dutchtown Middle and Prairieville Middle schools, the new Bluff Primary School that will relieve Dutchtown 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 play pavilions 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.
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 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.

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.
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.
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 presider, 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.
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

RETIREES
THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE

Brenda Aikens
Pecan Grove Primary
Paraprofessional

Shelita Boudreaux
Gonzales Middle
Bus Driver

Christine Duhe
Gonzales Primary
Elementary Teacher

Pamela Garrett
East Ascension High
Secondary Teacher

Amy Andermann
Lake Elementary
School Secretary A

Allison Braud
Dutchtown Middle
Gifted Teacher

Linda Dumas
St. Amant High
Bus Driver

Edward Hahn
Dutchtown High
Teacher/Coach

Brandi Anseman
Lakeside Primary
Elementary Teacher

Marilyn Breaux
Gonzales Middle
Elementary Teacher

Kay Dunn
Sorrento Primary
Elementary Teacher

Dwain Hall
Prairieville Primary
Elementary Teacher

Myrtis Babin
Gonzales Primary
Food Service Tech

Robbin Campbell
Donaldsonville Primary
Secretary B

Linda Dupuy
Duplessis Primary
Elementary Librarian

Cynthia Harrell
APPLE Digital Academy
Special Education Teacher

Lauren Bahlinger
Gonzales Middle
Master Teacher

Arlette Carmouche
Lake Elementary
Paraprofessional

Cynthia Earls
Spanish Lake
Cafeteria Manager

Gerald Ireland
Maintenance Department
Maintenance Helper

Myrzer Barney
APSB Child Welfare
& Attendance
Hospital / Homebound Teacher

Saia Charon
Dutchtown High
Secondary Teacher

Suzanne Elisar
St. Amant High
Secretary B

Cynthia James
Pecan Grove Primary
Paraprofessional

Trudie Barras
Gonzales Primary
Elementary Teacher

Donna Davis
Lakeside Primary
Elementary Teacher

Lois Falcon
Donaldsonville Primary
Elementary Teacher

Sherry Johnson
Prairieville Primary
& Prairieville Middle
Bus Driver

Betty Basham
Gonzales Middle School
Paraprofessional

Trudy Dedon
APSB Distribution Center
Central Office Secretary

Mary Ann Favorite
Gonzales Middle
Paraprofessional

Mary Jones
Prairieville Primary
Cafeteria Manager

Gail Blouin
Gonzales Middle
Elementary Teacher

Fran DuBois
Prairieville Primary
Elementary Teacher

Marilyn Foust
Leblanc’s Special Services
Paraprofessional

Denise Kelly
Donaldsonville Primary
Paraprofessional
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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>School</th>
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<tr>
<td>Mary Kennedy</td>
<td>Oak Grove Primary</td>
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<td>Penny Lambert</td>
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<td>Barbara LeBourgeois</td>
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<td>Rachel Welch</td>
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<td>Mar'Sue Woods</td>
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<td>Kindergarten Teacher</td>
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*Please note staff degree updates are self reported and not official.*
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
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SCHOOL DIRECTORY</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Bullion Primary (K-5)</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17005 Sills Dr., Prairieville, LA 70769</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(225) 391-6950</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Central Middle (6-8)</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14101 Roddy Road, Gonzales, LA 70737</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(225) 391-6400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(225) 261-2682 Fax</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Central Primary (K-5)</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>41469 Hwy 621, Gonzales, LA 70737</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(225) 391-7700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(225) 391-7701 Fax</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Donaldsonville High (9-12)</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>100 Tiger Drive, Donaldsonville, LA 70346</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(225) 391-7900</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(225) 473-494 Fax</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Donaldsonville Primary (K-2)</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>38210 Hwy 3089, Donaldsonville, LA 70346</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(225) 391-7600</td>
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<tr>
<td>(225) 473-6920 Fax</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Duplessis Primary (K-5)</strong></td>
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<td>38101 Hwy 621, Gonzales, LA 70737</td>
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<tr>
<td>(225) 391-6650</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(225) 677-5984 Fax</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Dutchtown High (9-12)</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13165 Hwy 73, Geismar, LA 70734</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(225) 391-6200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(225) 677-8191 Fax</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Dutchtown Middle (6-8)</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>13078 Hwy 73, Geismar, LA 70734</td>
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<tr>
<td>(225) 391-7800</td>
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<tr>
<td>(225) 621-2351 Fax</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Dutchtown Primary (K-5)</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>13046 Hwy 73, Geismar, LA 70734</td>
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<tr>
<td>(225) 391-7850</td>
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<tr>
<td>(225) 621-2383 Fax</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>East Ascension High (9-12)</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>612 East Worthy Street, Gonzales, LA 70737</td>
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<tr>
<td>(225) 391-6100</td>
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<tr>
<td>(225) 621-2397 Fax</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Galvez Middle (6-8)</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>42018 Hwy 933, Prairieville, LA 70769</td>
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<td>(225) 391-6350</td>
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<td>(225) 621-2434 Fax</td>
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<td><strong>Galvez Primary (K-5)</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>16093 Henderson Bayou Rd., Prairieville, LA 70769</td>
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<tr>
<td>(225) 391-6600</td>
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<tr>
<td>(225) 621-2447 Fax</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Gonzales Primary (K-5)</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>521 N. Burnside, Gonzales, LA 70737</td>
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<tr>
<td>(225) 391-6700</td>
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<td>(225) 621-2599 Fax</td>
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<td><strong>Gonzales Middle (6-8)</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>1502 W. Orice Roth St., Gonzales, LA 70737</td>
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<tr>
<td>(225) 391-6450</td>
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<tr>
<td>(225) 621-2509 Fax</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Gonzales Primary (K-5)</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>11310 Legacy Oaks, Gonzales, LA 70737</td>
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<tr>
<td>(225) 391-6800</td>
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<tr>
<td>(225) 621-2556 Fax</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>G.W. Carver Primary (K-5)</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Lake Elementary (K-8)</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>14185 Hwy 431, St. Amant, LA 70774</td>
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<tr>
<td>(225) 391-6500</td>
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<td>(225) 621-2573 Fax</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>LeBlanc Special Services &amp; Federal Programs</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>611 North Burnside, Gonzales, LA 70737</td>
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<tr>
<td>(225) 391-7211</td>
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<tr>
<td>(225) 391-7381</td>
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<td>(225) 621-2534 Fax</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Ascension Head Start</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>603 Lee Avenue, Donaldsonville, LA 70346</td>
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<td>(225) 391-6450</td>
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<td>(225) 621-2383 Fax</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>APPLe Digital Academy</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>9697 Airline Highway, Sorrento, LA 70778</td>
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<tr>
<td>(225) 391-6850</td>
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<tr>
<td>(225) 474-2774 Fax</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Early College Option River Parishes Community College</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>925 W. Edenborne Pkwy, Gonzales, LA 70737</td>
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<tr>
<td>(225) 743-8747</td>
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