



St. John the Baptist Parish Public School District

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ESJH Football Players Also Achieving Success in the Classroom *Principal Proud of “Whole” Learning Experience*

The undefeated East St. John High School football team is enjoying much success on the playing field this season with its 8-0 record. But that isn't all. Many players are also turning in strong academic performances in the classroom.

According to the school's first semester interim report, nearly one-fourth of the team's players are on the school's honor roll, while about 80 percent have grade point averages of 2.0 or above, well exceeding the Louisiana High School Athletic Association's requirements to play high school athletics.

The school's interim report was released Oct. 15, and the report included grades for players in grades 9-12. The LHSAA requires students maintain a 1.5 grade point average to be eligible to play high school athletics.

A closer look at the school's upper-classmen, those students in grades 10-12, shows that more than 95 percent of those players have a “C” average or better.

East St. John High School Principal Patricia Triche also noted that some of the team's players are enrolled in honor courses in core classes, such as Algebra and English.

“We take much pride in our student's successes, both inside and outside of the classroom. But our main focus on our campus is first and foremost academic success. We have set high expectations for our students – all of our students – and they are responding well to those expectations,” Triche said.

She noted that LEAP scores indicate that more than 70 percent of the current football team roster scored basic or above in the subjects of math and/or English/language arts, thereby meeting or exceeding the state's required learning skills in those subjects.

“The LEAP tests measure a student's ability to meet or exceed the academic expectations set by the state. It effectively measures a student's ability to master the math and reading skills needed to be successful in the classroom and beyond,” Triche said. “We are very pleased with the progress that all our students are making on these tests.”

Triche said East St. John High's Growth School Performance Score, which was released this month by the Louisiana Department of Education, shows the school grew its score by 5.3

points, improving from 73.4 points for the 2008-2009 year to 78.7 points for 2009-2010 year. She said the school's SPS is a compilation of GEE scores, attendance and drop rates.

"We have seen improvement in all these key areas," Triche said.

"Clearly, for our school to continue to improve its overall performance, we must continue to have all our students improve their individual performances – at all grade levels and inclusive of as many student groups as possible," she said.

"We know that the best education is always a rich blend of strong academics, and inspirational and motivational extracurricular activities, such as arts and sports," she said.

"We are glad that our students are clearly enjoying a 'whole' learning experience."

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