



St. James Parish Government COMMUNICATIONS

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St. James Parish Library selected by Public Library Association to Boost Digital Literacy

Convent — St. James Parish Library is among over 100 public libraries nationwide awarded funding by the Public Library Association (PLA) to increase digital literacy using Digitallearn.org resources, powered by a generous \$2.7 million contribution from AT&T. The PLA Digital Literacy Workshop Incentive and the new PLA Digital Navigator Workshop Incentive support public libraries in their work of improving basic digital skills among families and communities. The workshops will utilize DigitalLearn training materials, created in collaboration with AT&T, that are freely available to anyone through DigitalLearn.org and AT&T ScreenReady.

St. James was one of the few libraries awarded both grants for a total of \$9,000. Funds are being used to host workshops to teach internet, MacOS, Windows 10, Android device, iOS device, video conferencing, cybersecurity, and email basics. The library's Digital Navigator, Charlotte LaGrange, is also available by appointment to teach one-one sessions.

Library Supervisor Keri Walker said, "We absolutely love helping our visitors when they need help using our computers, and we will continue to do so. However, we now have our Digital Navigator on hand to empower visitors feel more confident when using the computers or navigating the internet so that they can do these tasks independently!" The Library kicked off this exciting new series by inviting the ARC to learn internet basics. Participants learned new skills and were empowered to navigate the digital world.

PLA President Michael Lambert said, "PLA is proud to support public libraries in being at the forefront of boosting digital literacy skills and bridging the digital divide in their communities. With another year of PLA's sustained collaboration with AT&T, more learners across the nation than ever before will get connected to vital digital literacy skills and technology resources at the library. PLA's free training site, Digitallearn.org, helps community members build skills and confidence using technology.

Residents can check the newspaper, the Library's Facebook page, or Website to learn about upcoming classes, or call 225-869-3618 to request a one-on-one session with our Digital Navigator. Anyone interested in becoming a Digital Navigator for the library can contact Charlotte at charlotte.lagrange@stjamesla.com. It's a great way for digital savvy teens to earn some service hours and a small stipend!

About the Public Library Association

The Public Library Association (PLA) is the largest association dedicated to supporting the unique and evolving needs of public library professionals. Founded in 1944, PLA serves nearly 9,000 members in public libraries large and small in communities across the United States and Canada, with a growing presence around the world. PLA strives to help its members shape the essential institution of public libraries by serving as an indispensable ally for public library leaders. For more information about PLA, contact the PLA office at 1 (800) 545-2433, ext. 5PLA, or pla@ala.org.