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## **Villa del Rey School to host its annual Mardi Gras Parade on Feb. 5**

**BATON ROUGE, La.** — Villa del Rey Creative Sciences and Arts Magnet School will host its annual Mardi Gras Mambo parade at noon Thursday, Feb. 5.

The parade, which began in 2022, has become a cherished tradition in the school community. The route will wind through the streets surrounding the campus at 9765 Cuyhanga Parkway.

This year's celebration will feature bands from Park Forest Middle, Liberty Magnet High and Scotlandville Magnet High, along with performances by Villa del Rey's extracurricular programs.

The grand marshal will be Joachim Lomongo, Villa del Rey's 2025-26 Student of the Year. The king and queen are Kenia Palacios and Santos Garcia Ortez, and the prince and princess are Chaya Irvin and Michael Guevara Poche.

"Overall, this event is a joyful opportunity for our students to experience and celebrate Mardi Gras while embracing the rich traditions and culture of Louisiana," said Dr. Roya Ledé, who helped found the parade five years ago along with fellow staff member Carlye Gongora. "We look forward to a fun-filled parade and strong community support."

Villa del Rey features an innovative pre-K-5 STREAM (science, technology, reading, engineering, arts, mathematics) program designed to foster creativity, critical thinking and academic excellence.

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