

Sixth grade student takes interest in go-kart racing

BY JESSYCA COOK

In the small sport of go-kart racing, things can get dangerous. There are 10,500 injuries per year. One student at Sevier Middle has chosen to take that path despite the risks: sixth grade student Katy Lane.

"I'm a 3rd generation [kart racer], following in my dad's and my grandfather's footsteps," Lane said. "My dad has been racing karts, cars, and legends cars for about 3 years now. My grandfather has been racing for about 36 years."

Nearly 35 million Americans participate in kart racing. Go-Kart is estimated to be worth 104 million dollars as of 2020, yet many people don't know much about kart racing.

"Racing karts that can be raced on dirt, pavement, or oval tracks that range 45 to 55 miles per hour," Lane said.

Some equipment is needed to minimize the injuries from go-karts.

"The equipment you need is a helmet, HANS, gloves, fire suits, gloves, and other safety equipment," she said.

For a year's competition, kart racing can cost around eleven thousand dollars. That's why some people may not want to participate; it takes a huge sum of money to race.

"You have to buy the kart, safety equipment, tools, a trailer, tires, and a motor that has to be freshened up every ten races or



Scribe Photo/COURTESY OF KEISHA LANE

SUPER SPEED. Sixth grade student Katy Lane poses with her kart. Lane is a third generation kart racer, following in her father's and grandfather's footsteps.

so," Lane said.

Many people have never experienced go-karting before. To Lane, it's a feeling like no other.

"Kart speed ranges about 45 to 55 miles per hour," she said. "It feels like you're almost laying down, but only 3/4 of the way, and it pushes you to the right side

of the seat."

There are many fun things about go-karting, like meeting new people. Lane's favorite part of racing, however, is the learning process.

"My favorite part is probably learning new skills before I advance to cars," she said.

There are many challenging parts of go-kart racing.

"The most challenging part of kart racing is probably being patient and feeling what the kart is doing to make the right adjustments," Lane said.

It can get scary racing on the track because of the speed.

"[I don't really get scared] because I'm in a roll cage and I'm buckled in and I have safety gear on," Lane said.

Although she's not scared of racing, she has gotten in a few accidents.

"I have been in multiple wrecks and they've all been mostly [the fault of] the kart in front of me because they chopped my nose to keep me from trying to pass them," she said. "Occasionally, wrecks do happen because of the setup."

Although some parents may be too scared to allow their children to race go-karts, Lane's parents don't mind.

"They love it because it's one of the things we do as a family," she said. "Racing is what we know."

Lane has even won a few competitions.

"I do compete at races and my greatest success has probably been at Godspeed Raceway with the Burris Southeast tour," Lane said. "I won the championship for my class."

There are many tracks Lane has raced on, but Lane's favorite is the Godspeed Raceway.

"I've raced at the kartway since I started Godspeed," she said. "It is a really fun place."

Lane is an experienced driver who has lots of advice for beginners.

"Hammer down and don't be afraid," she said. "Beware; it's very expensive."

Science teacher brings experience to role

BY ROSALINE ADAMS

Laura Trevino is a 7th grade science teacher at Sevier Middle who joined the staff last year. She is one of many science teachers at Sevier, but she brings a lot of experience to the table. Not only has she been teaching for thirteen years, she has also been an assistant principal and a coach.

She originally taught in Houston, Texas for about twelve years before moving to Tennessee. She has been teaching for thirteen years.

Trevino grew up in Texas. She was born in Austin. Then, when she was about 10 years old, she moved to South Carolina. When she was 23, she moved to Houston.

"I missed some friends, but I actually had friends that I kept way before cell phones and texting and social media," she said. "We used to write letters back and forth. So I kept up with a couple of my friends all the way through high school. It was a little sad, but I made some new friends and eventually got used to, you know, a different pace of life."

In middle school, she was not very interested in academics.

"I didn't get really involved with anything except soccer and swim teams, which were offered outside of school," she said. "I just tried to keep my head low

and stay off of every adult's radar. Do my own thing."

After graduating high school, she worked in a few other jobs before changing careers and becoming a teacher.

"Being a teacher is my second career," Trevino said. "I decided to get into teaching because I wanted people to have a choice in their future, whether they wanted to cut grass or research cures for cancer or sell houses. I just wanted to teach so that people had hopefully a better shot to get through life and have more opportunities."

Trevino puts a lot of effort into her students. She even stands outside of her door every morning with flash cards for her students to help prepare them for future tests.

She was attracted to teaching science because of all the stuff she gets to do in a science classroom.

"Getting to do models and labs and investigate; I really like science myself," she said. "I especially like learning about space and biology, how things work. I think it's fun to teach that to people and help them know more about themselves and the world around them and how things work. It's kind of like sparking curiosity."

Trevino's biggest challenge as a teacher is learning how to teach

the different standards so everyone understands the content.

"I'm really spending time studying them so that I can teach my students the right stuff, because I'd hate for them to be unprepared for the next grade if I forget to teach them something correctly," she said. "This is different stuff that we learned in Texas."

Trevino has not regretted changing careers and becoming a teacher.

"I think it's getting to help people and summers off aren't a bad deal," she said. "So, a lot of holidays, which gives me the opportunity to travel a lot. And even though it's really hard work in between the holidays, it's really rewarding to get to see students just learn, become curious or spark interest in things."

After 13 years in the teaching profession, Trevino has gathered a lot of memories.

"As a student, my most memorable event was probably dissecting a pig," she said. "We dissected a fetal pig in high school. In teaching, probably my most memorable events are just the investigations we do. There are some really fun ones that we've done for Newton's Laws when I taught 8th grade."

Trevino has some advice for her students, as well.

"My best advice to students



Scribe Photo/MIKAELA PYATTE

EXPERIENCE IN THE CLASSROOM. Laura Trevino, a seventh grade science teacher, works with her students. Trevino has been teaching for thirteen years and has worked as an assistant principal and coach.

of anybody, but especially where I'm at currently, is a quote: 'you teach people how to treat you,' she said. "You always have to think about how you're representing yourself with others. And if you're not being treated the way

that you want to be treated or you think it's unfair, take some time to reflect and say 'what am I doing to get the kind of response that I am getting or that I would want instead?'"