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Kelly Wilson, **Principal**
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a stem school ~ realize the possibilities

OUR MISSION

AAST is a Cognia STEM certified school committed to preparing its students to be college and career-ready global citizens by fostering creativity, innovation, systematic problem solving, and critical thinking through participation in rigorous and authentically collaborative academic and career experiences.

AAST Quick Facts

- **Student Population: 554**
- **Academic Pathways Include: Advanced Art, Aerospace Engineering, Environmental Engineering & Clean Energy, PLTW - Computer Science, Entertainment Technology, Global Logistics & Supply Chain Management, Informatics, Innovations in Science & Tech with Pre-Engineering, Pre-Medicine, PLTW - Biomedical Science, and Web & Digital Communications**
- **99.5 % of the seniors met College OR Career Ready criteria**
- **80 % of the seniors met College AND Career Ready criteria**
- **89% of seniors were Completers in their major**
- **95% of CTE seniors earned a professional credential; 586 credentials earned overall**
- **1048 Work Based Learning student experiences for 2022-23**
- **88% of AAST students scored 3 or higher on AP exams (168 tests administered)**
- **97% of AAST seniors scored at silver or above for the career readiness assessment**

AAST on the Web!
Stay Connected!

The Academy for the Arts, Science and Technology (AAST) is a program academy located in Horry County, South Carolina and is part of the Horry County School system. Based on interest in one of the career- focused major programs at the academy, students apply to attend AAST during their junior and senior years of high school, In addition to career focused major courses, AAST offers students a variety of rigorous academic options designed to prepare them for their post-secondary goals and to complement their major course of study.

AAST has a longstanding reputation in Horry County as being a school of innovation and excellence. Students at AAST have led Horry County Schools in accomplishments related to the school's career cluster majors: Engineering, Health Sciences, Information Technologies, and Fine Arts. The faculty and staff at AAST work extremely hard to make the educational experience worth the student sacrifice of leaving the base school environment. Students apply rigorous academic content while exploring career fields in their major.

In April of 2021, AAST renewed its accreditation from Cognia (formerly AdvancEd) as a whole school STEM learning environment through a rigorous, research-based, evaluative process. The school has adopted the Koi fish as its unofficial mascot. Like the Koi, which will grow as large as its environment
will allow, the students at AAST are encouraged to take advantage of the many great learning opportunities the school has to offer as a means of fostering their individual growth.

Course Offerings

AAST major programs offer many STEM elective classes in the areas of Engineering, Health Sciences, Information Technologies, and Fine Arts. AAST offers honors in all four content areas as well as in foreign language starting at the third level. AAST offers 20 Advanced Placement courses. Dual Enrollment course opportunities through Horry Georgetown Technical College include: English 101, English 102, Psychology 201, Sociology 101, Sociology, Speech 102, Math 120, Music Appreciation 105, and Speech 205. Students who have room in their schedules for additional fine arts credits can take Art or Theatre electives at the school as well. AAST's curriculum guide can be viewed on the school's website **here**

Grading and Course Transcription

AAST complies with the SC Department of Education's requirements for high school graduation. A complete explanation of the South Carolina Uniform Grading Policy outlining the course weighting and transcripting procedures can be found at the SC Department of education link below. SC high school grduation requirements can be found on the website **here**.

South Carolina Department of Education

Recent Achievements

- 52 Pre-Med students earned National EKG Technician Licenses; 21 students received their Pharmacy Technician certification.
- Art students recognized in the Burroughs and Chapin High School Art Competition.
- Senior student selected to participate in the SC STEM Signing Day 2023.
- AAST's robotics team placed 12th in the regional FIRST Robotics competion.
- TSA students placed 1st in 3 categories at state; 2nd in 8 categories, and 3rd in one category.
- HOSA students won 1st place in 2 categories and finished in the top 5 for 14 categories in state competition.
- Three AAST students named National Merit Semifinalists.
- The Entertainment Technology students placed 1st, 2nd, and 3rd in this year's Historical Sites and Structures Video Contest sponsored by the Horry County Historic Preservation Commission.
- Senior student awarded the Conway Chamber of Commerce Most Outstanding Senior and scholarship in 2023.
- Senior student awarded the DAR Good Citizens Award
- AAST Clean Energy and Aerospace teams recognized in the Plant the Moon Challenge: one team named Best in Show for Experimental Design in the high school category and was named the top overall high school team in the nation.
- AAST's Mr. Sellers won the ESRI K-12 ArcGIS Online Teacher of the Month Challenge for September 2022