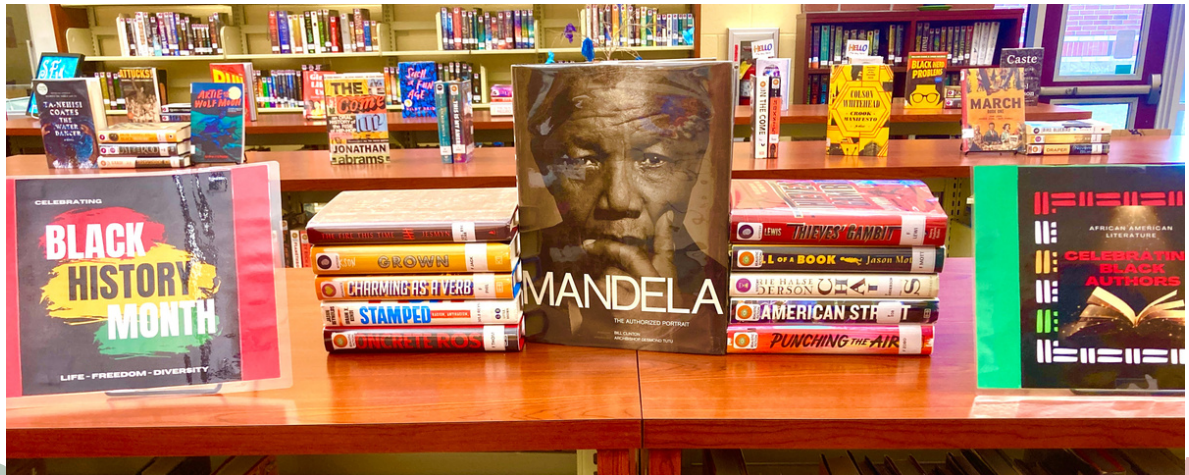


AAST NEWSLETTER

February 5 - February 9, 2024

a stem school ~ realize the possibilities

AAST Celebrates Black History Month



UPCOMING EVENTS

February 12 - 16
Spring Spirit Week

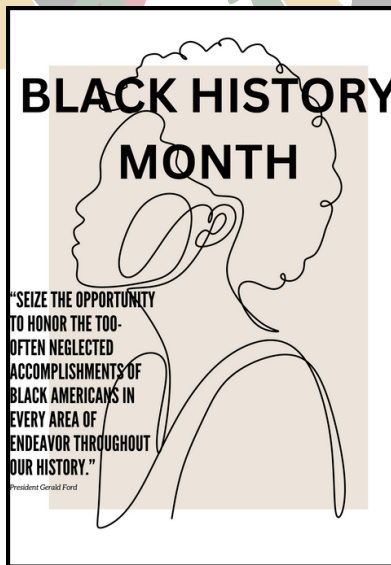
February 13
SIC Meeting 5:00 pm

February 27
ACT Test

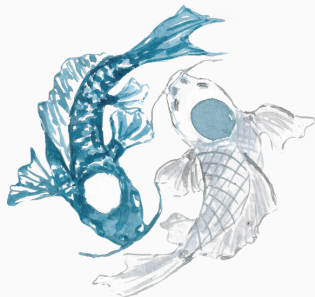
March 29 to April 8
Spring Break

Spring Gala
April 19

Senior Ceremony
May 29, 7:00 pm
MBHS Auditorium



AAST celebrates Black History Month throughout February by spotlighting a notable African American person during daily announcements, creating Advisory lessons highlighting African American contributions, and featuring student-made posters around the school and on the TVs (examples above). The media center has a large display of African American literature. Classes are incorporating Black History into lessons. Ms. Etherson's students built websites about important figures in Black history. Students coming into the building in the mornings are greeted with a playlist of African American music. We celebrate our diversity and honor everyone's contributions to our community, state, and nation.

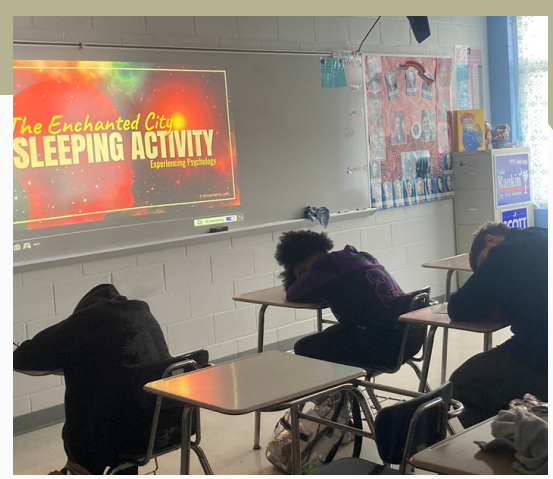
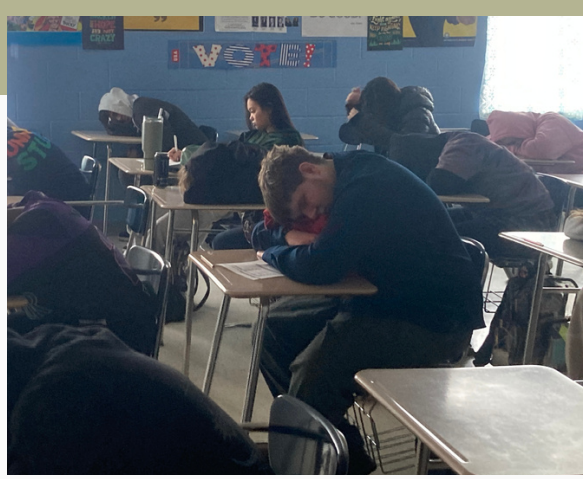


AAST on the Web!
Stay Connected!



AP Psychology

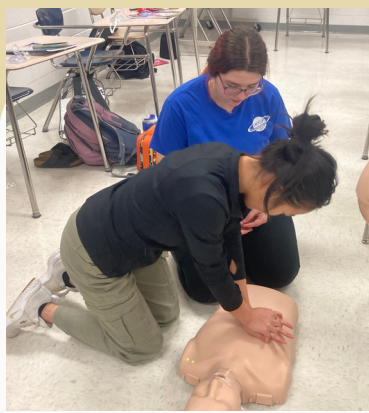
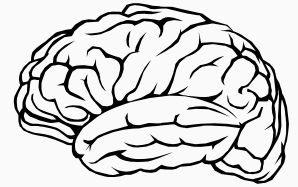
In AP Psychology, students participated in an activity that allowed them to sleep in class (pictured right). With the lights off, rain noises playing, and Ms. Weaver reading a guided meditation, students slept in class and reflected on how they felt before and after. They also reflected on how much of the story they could remember and what stages of sleep they went through. This was a perfect activity for the day after the seniors returned from Disney World.



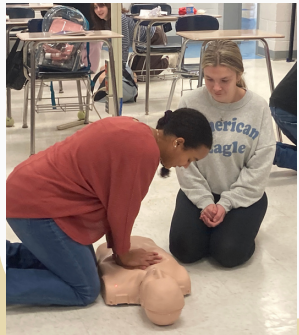
Also, in AP Psychology, the class wrapped up their unit on biological psychology by dissecting a sheep's brain. Students could see the different parts of the brain they had studied, including the cerebellum, medulla oblongata, corpus callosum, and all four lobes.



When the lesson was over, students got to hold the brain and get an up-close look. Sheep brains are different from human brains, but it was great to get a hands-on experience to appreciate the similarities.



Students in Ms. Zanelli's Health Science II classes engage in hands-on activities to practice the proper procedures for donning and doffing personal protective equipment (PPE). This practical experience allows them to develop the necessary skills and knowledge required to protect themselves and others in healthcare settings. By following these protocols, students ensure their own safety and contribute to maintaining a safe and hygienic environment for patients and healthcare professionals alike.



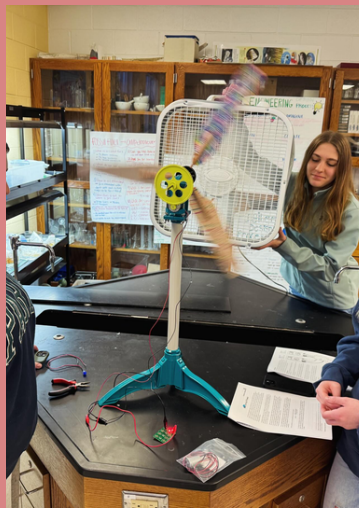
National School Counseling Week



Thank you to our wonderful guidance counselors, Ms. Randall, Ms. Gordon, and Ms. Knox for all that you do for our students and staff! You are truly appreciated!

Health Science 2 students are working on the emergency care module of the curriculum. This week, students learned about adult, child, and infant CPR for the healthcare provider. CPR can double or triple a person's chance of survival from sudden cardiac arrest. This certification helps prepare students for their future healthcare careers and may save some lives!

Clean Energy Students Build Wind Turbines



Clean energy juniors researched, designed, created, and tested some fantastic wind turbine blades! They first maximized voltage and efficiency for electrical power. Next, they put their turbines to work pumping water, lifting weights, and lighting some LEDs.

The Plant the Moon Challenge has begun! The Environmental Engineering and Aerospace Engineering seniors are divided into 3 teams for the national competition sponsored by the South Carolina Space Grant Consortium. Students must design and carry out an experiment to grow food crops for NASA's Artemis Program using at least 50% lunar regolith simulant. They are testing watering methods, soil amendments, and light wavelengths on various crops such as potatoes, spinach, snap peas, arugula, turnips, and radishes.



Guest Speaker: George Hansen, WMBF



George Hansen visited Aerospace Engineering and demonstrated a drone that he uses on his job with local news station WMBF. He gave students tips on flying the drone, explained the process of becoming licensed to operate drones, and shared how he uses drones as a videographer. The drone will be donated to AAST for use in the Aerospace major.

Drew Bellah Wins Lowcountry Art Award

Congratulations to Drew Bellah for being awarded a Scholastic Art and Writing Silver Key Award for the South Carolina Lowcountry Art Region. Drew's outstanding work, along with other recipients of Gold and Silver Key awards, will be featured in the regional exhibition at SCAD Savannah from March 8-9.

The Scholastic Art & Writing Awards are presented by the Alliance for Young Artists & Writers. The Alliance is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization whose mission is to identify students with exceptional artistic and literary talent and present their remarkable work to the world through the Scholastic Art & Writing Awards. The Awards give students opportunities for recognition, exhibition, publication, and scholarships. In 2023, students across the United States and Canada entered more than 300,000 original works in 28 different categories of art and writing. Every year, regional, national, and traveling exhibitions are organized to showcase the exceptional work of awarded students.



AAST Wears Red for Heart Health

Did you know that cardiovascular disease is the number 1 killer of women?

Students and staff wore red on Friday to help raise awareness for women's health and the American Heart Association's GO RED campaign.



VALENTINE'S SPIRIT WEEK!

FEBRUARY 12TH - 16TH

Monday Feb 12th - Heartbreak Day :
• Dress in all black



Tuesday Feb 13th - Dress To Impress!
• Wear your fanciest attire *school appropriate*

Wednesday Feb 14th - Dynamic Duo!
• Dress with your friend(s) as iconic duos!



Thursday Feb 15th - Juniors VS Seniors!
• Juniors wear red & seniors wear pink!



Friday Feb 16th - I ♥ My Major Day!
• Dress like your major or your future career!



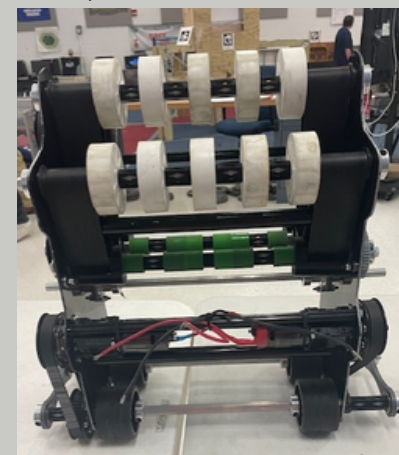
Health Science 3 students made models of skeletal muscles to reinforce their learning. They started with actin and myosin represented by thin and thick spaghetti and joined them together within a straw. They then found partners and combined their straws, which represented myofibrils together into bigger, milkshake straws, to represent muscle fibers. They then combined their muscle fibers together to make fascicles, and then the whole class combined their fascicles together to create a muscle. They also created endomysium, perimysium, and epimysium, which wrap around various parts of the skeletal muscle.



The AAST Robotics Team is in full swing! Since AAST does not have sports teams, some of us like to think of Robotics as our NFL Championships and SuperBowl. Every year, the competition changes. There is always a theme, and this year is music. All the pieces and parts have music related names. The meets consist of about 30 teams, 90+ qualifiers, then finals. We are Team 1287 - Aluminum Assault. Being number 1287 out of over 9000 teams worldwide shows that we have been in this for a while! Our colors are black and "safety" orange. The first meet for 1287 is in Anderson, March 7-9, followed by North Charleston, March 21-23.

Aluminum Assault Competition Season Ramping Up

Pictured: This machine will pick up game pieces and launch them into ports on the field for points.



AROUND AAST



Ms. Penn's theater classes have embarked on a journey into the world of puppetry. Students are focused on scriptwriting and performance skills. They learn to convey emotions, create dynamic relationships, and construct compelling narratives while mastering puppetry's technical aspects. One of the remarkable benefits of incorporating puppetry into the curriculum is its ability to minimize anxiety and stage fright. Stepping onto a stage can be an intimidating experience, particularly for young performers. However, by working with puppets initially, our students have the opportunity to build confidence and develop a strong foundation before taking center stage themselves.

AAST Celebrates Lunar New Year

Chúc mừng năm mới! The Multicultural Planning Committee handed out red envelopes on Friday morning. Traditionally, a red envelope filled with money is given to younger people by their elders. Because the envelope is not typically shared among peers, and it is bad form to give an empty envelope, they have created educational inserts for the envelopes as a way of giving this iconic symbol to their classmates. This allows our students to experience the tradition while still respecting the customs of their culture.

Click the links below to learn more about AAST's plans to keep our koi safe!

[Standard Response Protocol for Parents \(English\)](#)
[Standard Response Protocol for Parents \(Spanish\)](#)
[School Safety Poster](#)

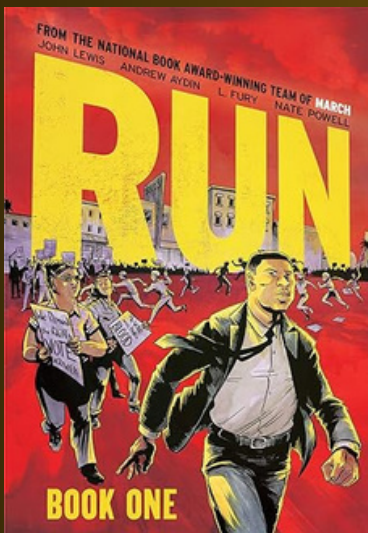
**SAFETY
FIRST**

Guidance Information

For up to date scholarship information, [click here!](#) You can also find this link on your grade level Google Classroom!

It is time to schedule your student's Senior Individual Graduation Plan (IGP) meeting! During this meeting, we will discuss college applications, post-secondary plans, scholarships, and remaining graduation requirements. The meeting should last no longer than 30 minutes. Please contact your student's school counselor to schedule a meeting. You can also contact Ms. Moore at the front desk to schedule an appointment.

CLASSIC @ THE AAST LIBRARY



Run by John Lewis

To John Lewis, the civil rights movement came to an end with the signing of the Voting Rights Act in 1965. But that was after more than five years as one of the preeminent figures of the movement, leading sit-in protests and fighting segregation on interstate busways as an original Freedom Rider. It was after becoming chairman of SNCC (the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee) and being the youngest speaker at the March on Washington. It was after helping organize the Mississippi Freedom Summer and the ensuing delegate challenge at the 1964 Democratic National Convention. And after co-leading the march from Selma to Montgomery on what became known as "Bloody Sunday." All too often, the depiction of history ends with a great victory. But John Lewis knew that victories are just the beginning. In *Run: Book One*, John Lewis and longtime collaborator Andrew Aydin reteam with Nate Powell—the award-winning illustrator of the March trilogy—and are joined by L. Fury—making an astonishing graphic novel debut—to tell this often overlooked chapter of civil rights history.