

AAST NEWSLETTER

January 29 - February 5, 2024

a stem school ~ realize the possibilities

UPCOMING EVENTS

February 12 - 16
Spring Spirit Week

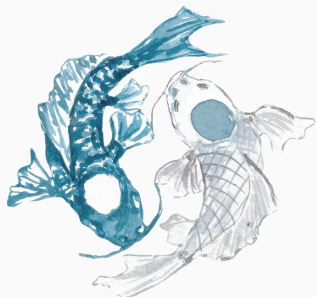
February 13
SIC Meeting

February 27
ACT Test

March 29 to April 8
Spring Break

Spring Gala
April 19

Senior Ceremony
May 29, 7:00pm
MBHS Auditorium



AAST Seniors Go to Orlando!



On this past Wednesday, 110 AAST seniors (and 7 brave chaperones) will visit Walt Disney World and Universal Studios in Orlando for their senior trip! We hope the students (and their chaperones) have a wonderful and safe trip!

AAST on the Web!
Stay Connected!



Leadership Grand Strand Visits AAST



AAST welcomed this year's participants in the **Leadership Grand Strand** program sponsored by the **Myrtle Beach Area Chamber of Commerce**. This program is designed to develop a corps of informed, committed, and qualified individuals capable of providing dynamic leadership for the Grand Strand area. Visitors heard from student representatives of each major during a panel discussion and then toured the school. AAST majors are always eager to partner with local businesses in preparing students for both college and careers.

Guest Speaker: Dr. Anna Mukamal



On Monday, Dr. Anna Mukamal, Assistant Professor of Digital Culture and Design at Coastal Carolina University, graced our school as a guest speaker. Informatics students and Web & Digital Communications students learned from her research expertise, which focused on identifying areas of high interest so that their study is sustainable over a longer period. Dr. Mukamal's visit provided great insight for Senior Mastery research and inspired our students to explore the intersection of digital culture, design, and their personal interests.

Guest Speaker: David Yancey



Dr. David D. Yancey, Associate Registrar for Information Systems at Coastal Carolina University, joined us as a guest speaker for a special mentoring session. Apart from his career at Coastal Carolina University as the Registrar for Information Systems, Dr. Yancey is also recognized as a world-class player in the trading card game Magic: The Gathering. He also has extensive experience with the trading card game, Pokemon. His expertise in these games made him the perfect mentor for Eddy-Morales Bailey. Eddy's project focuses on utilizing data collection and analysis to enhance middle and endgame strategies, as well as creating tools to empower novice players with the insights of "Big Data."

AAST Recognized in Myrtle Beach Airport Student Art Contest

Rylee O'Leary's painting *Otterly* was one of the top three artworks in the Myrtle Beach Airport's 2023-24 Student Art Contest. The Airport will host an event on February 22nd where they will announce the first, second, and third place winners, and all three works will remain on display in the Airport's terminal building for one year.



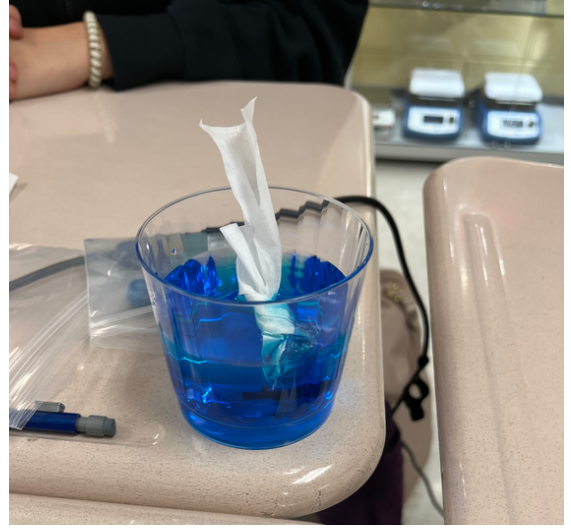
Click Here to Learn More About AAST!



Pharmacology Students Participate in Hands-On Lab

Mrs. Watson's Pharmacology for Medical Careers Honors classes participated in a live, hands-on lab presented by Engineering Tomorrow. The lab was titled "Drug Delivery" and consisted of students conducting lab experiments simulating drug

encapsulation. Students from across the nation interacted with engineers employed in the pharmaceutical industry, asked questions and simultaneously designed and built a small-scale, staged-release drug delivery system. They tested their creations, assessing how various materials release their color, thereby releasing the "drug." Students then reported out to all the participants in the webinar, sharing experiences and ideas. Schools from several cities across the nation were able to gain insight into the engineering process of designing pharmaceuticals and collaborated to improve the medications used in healthcare.



Networking News

Congratulations on the AAST team's performance in CyberPatriot. Based on their performance in CyberPatriot, AAST has a team qualified to participate in the 2024 Palmetto Cyber Defense Competition (PCDC). PCDC is an opportunity for students to learn and use technical skills & teamwork to run and protect a business network. A team of six students protect their network against external threats while competing against other qualifying South Carolina High School teams in a realistic cyber environment.



Bethany Ai has been awarded the 2024 NCWIT Aspirations in Computing High School Award South Carolina Affiliate Rising Star! Congratulations!



AAST Alumni Anthony Critelli stopped by to talk with the Advanced Networking Major students and assist them with their project responsibilities and provide some insight and assistance. Always great to see a Major Graduate come back and provide their industry insights to current students.



In Ms. Weaver's AP Psychology activity, students (Dakota and Isaac) are demonstrating the lack of communication between the left and right hemisphere when the brain has lost the corpus collosum. They tried to tie a shoe working together, but each hemisphere can only control one arm, cannot see what the other hemisphere sees, and only the left hemisphere can talk. It was certainly a struggle, but the boys persevered.

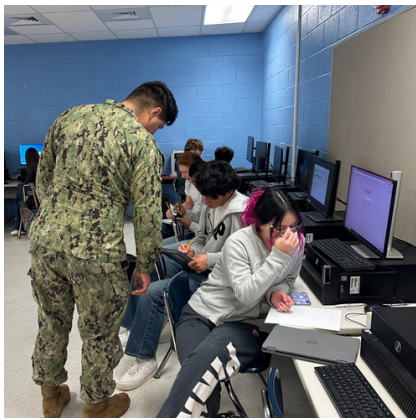
AROUND AAST



AAST Faculty Receive Thumbs Up Awards

AAST recognizes the exceptional work of faculty and staff at every faculty meeting. Teachers and administration give "Thumbs Up" awards to those individuals who go above and beyond to help their students and/or fellow staff members during the month. Ms. Wilson, the principal, recognized the hard work and dedication of AAST's teachers who teach classes with an End-of-Course assessment, major teachers whose students excelled on certification exams, and teachers who organized and supervised internships with various local businesses. We had a successful first semester. Only through the dedication and commitment to excellence of our instructors and staff can AAST students realize their possibilities.

Guest Speaker: Naval Officer David Gomez



Naval Officer David Gomez spoke with Mr. Gibson's Aerospace Engineering students regarding opportunities with the Navy ROTC programs that could lead to educational and career opportunities. Officer Gomez engaged students in hands-on learning regarding nuclear propulsion, nuclear reactors, and the critical role the reactors play on a naval aircraft carrier.

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](#)

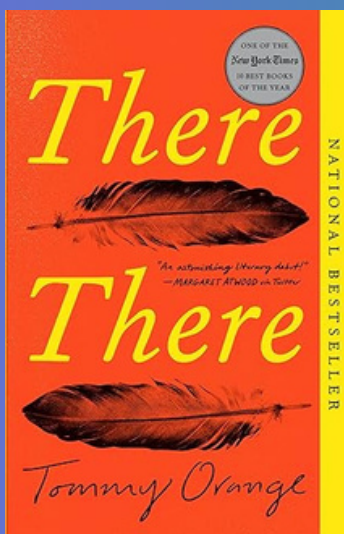
SAFETY FIRST

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



There There by Tommy Orange

A wondrous and shattering award-winning novel that follows twelve characters from Native communities: all traveling to the Big Oakland Powwow, all connected to one another in ways they may not yet realize.

Among them is Jacquie Red Feather, newly sober and trying to make it back to the family she left behind. Dene Oxendene, pulling his life together after his uncle's death and working at the powwow to honor his memory. Fourteen-year-old Orvil, coming to perform traditional dance for the very first time. They converge and collide on one fateful day at the Big Oakland Powwow and together this chorus of voices tells of the plight of the urban Native American—grappling with a complex and painful history, with an inheritance of beauty and spirituality, with communion and sacrifice and heroism