

# AAST NEWSLETTER

September 18th - September 22nd, 2023

a stem school ~ realize the possibilities

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Senior Makeup  
Picture Day  
September 26

Junior Makeup  
Picture Day  
September 27

Ed-Op Day  
October 4

Schools Closed  
October 9-10

PSAT  
October 23

### Safety Info



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

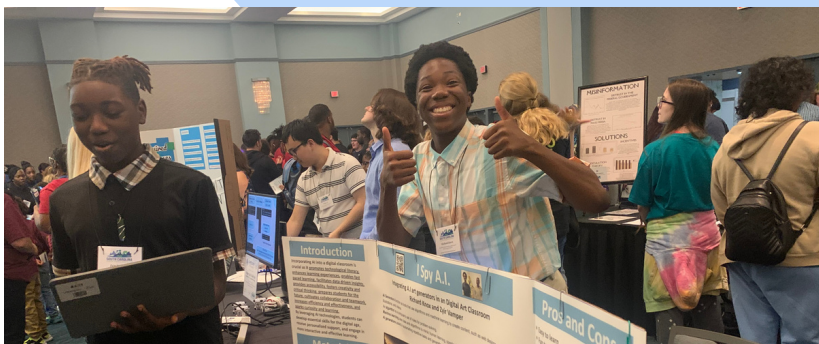
[Standard Response Protocol for Parents \(English\)](#)

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

AAST on the Web!  
Stay Connected!



## South Carolina STEM and Computer Science Showcase



On Monday, September 18, AAST students participated in the Student Showcase at the South Carolina Computer Science & STEM Summit showcase. Students exhibited an impressive array of innovative projects that reflected their unwavering dedication and boundless creativity. These young innovators not only demonstrated technical excellence but also exhibited a deep commitment to addressing real-world challenges. Their participation in the event brought them in contact with a diverse community of STEM enthusiasts and experts from around the state, leading to enlightening discussions and the establishment of valuable connections. The AAST students truly stood out as promising contributors to the ever-evolving field of science and technology.



## AAST Alumni Spotlight: Alijah McDonald, Class of '19

After completing AAST's Pre-Engineering major in 2019, Alijah McDonald went on to study at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University in Daytona Beach, Florida. While at Embry-Riddle, Alijah developed avionics systems in the rocket engineering lab. He played as a guitarist in a local hard rock band playing gigs all around the local Florida music scene. Having just recently graduated with a bachelor's in aerospace engineering in May of 2023, he is now a Guidance & Controls Engineer at Boeing. He is a part of the Precision Engagement Systems division based in the aerospace defense hub of St. Louis, Missouri. On a daily basis, Alijah supports the development of cutting-edge guidance and control algorithms, which play a fundamental role in delivering the world's most advanced smart weapon technologies to the United States military.



## AAST Student of the Month: Isabella Bellamy

Congratulations to Isabella Bellamy, AAST's September Student of the Month! Bella actively engages in various activities at both AAST and her base school. Last year, she held a position in the executive council of the NHS and also participated in the BETA Club, HOSA, and English Honors Society. Her performance at the HOSA State Competition was impressive, with her team finishing in the top 10. She excels in NMBHS and club volleyball, showcasing her talent on the court. Additionally, she willingly volunteers at open houses and demonstrates a positive attitude while taking on any task requested of her. Bella truly embodies what it means to be a koi.

## Security Guard Appreciation Week

Security Officer Appreciation Week is September 17–23, 2023. This week is a time to honor security officers who work hard to keep us safe. Thank you Officers Chad Davison and Elvis Vasquez for everything you do at AAST to keep our koi safe!



### Parents and Students:

Help the yearbook staff!! Upload your own school-appropriate pictures to our yearbook photo pool through Josten's ReplayIt using this QR code:



Upload as many as you want—just make sure they are school appropriate and that they only show AAST students. This code will be open until April 2024. Questions? See Mrs. Rielly in room 602. Thanks!

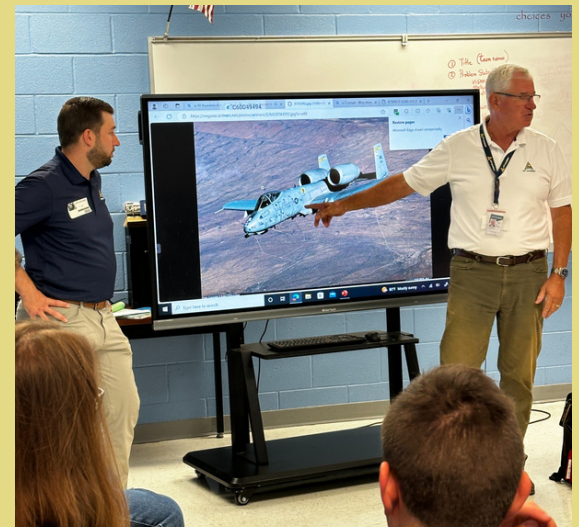
## College App Day

Representatives from colleges around the Southeast visited AAST to talk with students about the college application process. Students were encouraged to apply and were provided with fee waivers for several college applications.



Ms. McCallum's EMS classes had skills day! They practiced infection control, basic hand washing and glove removal skills. Students also learned how to operate a stretcher while learning about neck and back injuries.

## Guest Speaker: Lift Academy



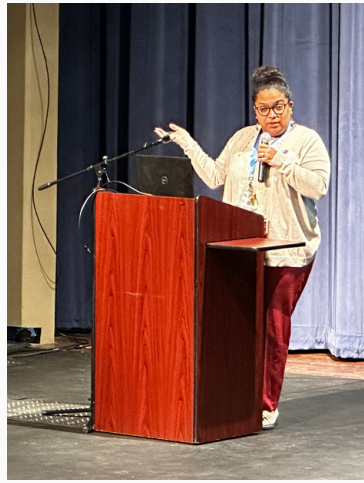
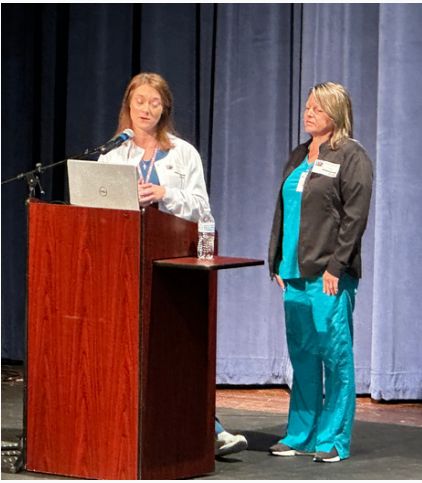
Jim Borggaard, Greg Gilroy, Killian Nowrey, and Vicky Yu, representatives from Lift Academy, recently visited Aerospace Engineering students to discuss the various career opportunities available in the field of piloting. They highlighted Lift Academy's new program at Myrtle Beach Airport, which offers students the chance to obtain a private pilot's license, become a flight instructor, and ultimately earn a commercial pilot's license to work alongside Republic Airlines. During the session, students gained insights into the necessary requirements and licenses, as well as the perks and salaries associated with being a commercial pilot. Additionally, they had the privilege of hearing from an experienced pilot, further enriching their understanding of the profession.

## AAST Tree Huggers



Congratulations to Mr. Cyganiewicz and Ms. Ceron for being the classrooms with the cleanest recycle bins! You are definitely Tree Hugger approved!

## Guest Speaker: Department of Health and Environmental Control



## CATE/SIC Advisory Board Dinner

On September 21, AAST hosted the Fall AAST Majors Advisory Boards and School Improvement Council (SIC) dinner and meeting. AAST Advisory Boards and School Improvement Council are composed of community members, business and industry leaders, and parents who support AAST efforts to improve STEM teaching and learning. The Advisory Boards meet formally twice yearly and SIC meets monthly. Major teachers are in contact with advisory board members throughout the year for curriculum suggestions, field experience opportunities, and job shadowing and internship placement for students.

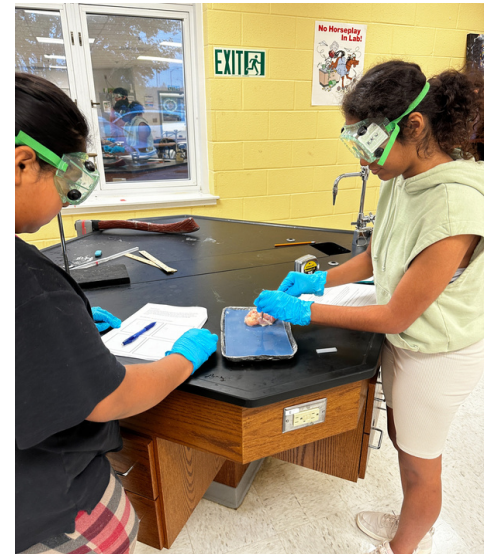


DHEC epidemiologist Ashlyn Lancaster spoke with students about educational requirements and employment opportunities that are available to students looking for a future in Public Health, Epidemiology, or BioMedical science. Students engaged in an outbreak simulation that required participants to use their contract tracing knowledge to determine the cause of the outbreak. DHEC nurses Rebecca Peavey and Shelley Page presented students with information on healthcare as it pertains to the nursing field. Both educational programs offer 2- & 4-year degrees as well as graduate options.

## Chicken Wing Dissection in Anatomy and Physiology



In Mr. Sodano's Anatomy and Physiology class, students conducted dissections of chicken wings. This activity aims to delve into the structure and function of muscles, bones, and joints. By dissecting chicken wings, students gain an understanding of how these different components work in unison, enabling the chicken to move. Furthermore, these systems can be compared to the arrangement of similar anatomical structures in the human body.



# NEED TO KNOW @ AAST



## COVID-19 Information

If your child tests positive for Covid-19, please call the school nurse to inform them of your child's illness. Please take a photo of your positive test result and fill out the Covid home test form and email both to the school nurse at [sknight001@horrycountyschools.net](mailto:sknight001@horrycountyschools.net)

If you have a doctor's excuse, please forward the excuse to [cgrant@horrycountyschools.net](mailto:cgrant@horrycountyschools.net), with the expected date of return. Please remember that the CDC requires 5 days quarantine from the beginning of symptoms and return to school on the 6th day, or next business day after.

Example: If a student tested positive on Tuesday, the student would return to school on the following Monday. Please call Ms. Susan Knight, AAST school nurse at 843-903-8470 if you have any questions.



## AAST Game Club



Are you interested in games? From Dungeons and Dragons to all sorts of board games, the AAST Game Club has it all. The Game Club meets every Wednesday in the Media Center at 2:50 and it ends at 4:00. You need to make sure you have a ride at 4:00. If you have any questions, ask Ms. Weaver, Mr. Sodano, or Mrs. Compton.

## AAST Yearbooks

AAST Yearbooks are now on sale! Click [here](#) to go to the website to purchase your book as well as personalize it and get senior ads. For any questions email Ms. Bonaccorso at [kbonaccorso@horrycountyschools.net](mailto:kbonaccorso@horrycountyschools.net).

**BUY YOUR  
YEARBOOK  
LIKE, NOW**

## NEW @ THE AAST LIBRARY

## Starter Villain by John Scalzi

Charlie's life is going nowhere fast. A divorced substitute teacher living with his cat in a house his siblings want to sell, all he wants is to open a pub downtown, if only the bank will approve his loan. Then his long-lost uncle Jake dies and leaves his supervillain business (complete with island volcano lair) to Charlie. But becoming a supervillain isn't all giant laser death rays and lava pits. Jake had enemies, and now they're coming after Charlie. His uncle might have been a stand-up, old-fashioned kind of villain, but these are the real thing: rich, soulless predators backed by multinational corporations and venture capital. It's up to Charlie to win the war his uncle started against a league of supervillains. But with unionized dolphins, hyper-intelligent talking spy cats, and a terrifying henchperson at his side, going bad is starting to look pretty good. In a dog-eat-dog world...be a cat.

