

AAST NEWSLETTER

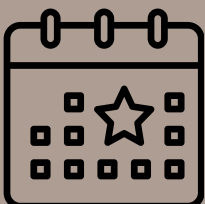
AAST.HORRYCOUNTYSCHOOLS.NET

AAST Moon Tree Dedication



AAST held a dedication ceremony for our Moon Tree. This tree is dedicated to Dr. Rahnda Sprawls Ford, a cherished member of our AAST family. This living tribute honors her unwavering dedication to her students, colleagues, and friends. The tree memorializes a beloved colleague who was passionate about teaching science and deeply cared for her students.

Upcoming Events



SCHOOLS CLOSED
JAN 20-21
MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY
JAN 20
SECOND SEMESTER START
JAN 22
AAST OPEN HOUSE
JAN 23
SENIOR TRIP
JAN 29 - FEB 2

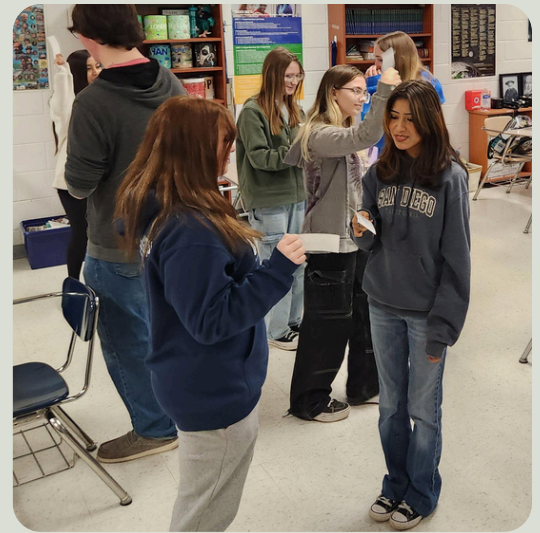
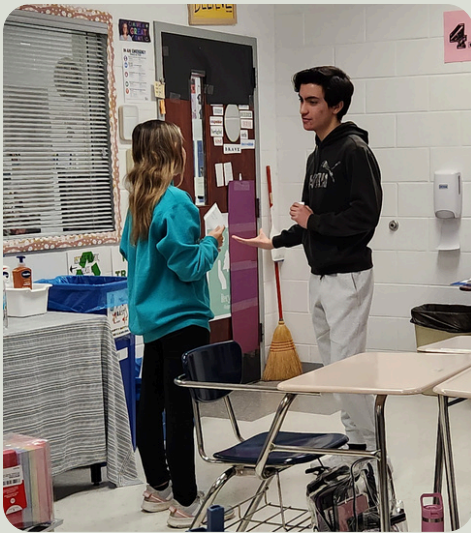


OPEN HOUSE

THURSDAY, JANUARY 23, 2025 | 6:00PM TO 7:00PM
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2025 | 6:00PM TO 7:00PM

Applications will open on January 22, 2025. You may apply on the Horry County Schools or AAST website. Application deadline is February 14, 2025.

Final Exam Studying in English 3



English 3 students helped each other review and study for their final exam using cooperative learning strategies.

Winning Logo Design in DC

Ms. Thompson Receives Presidential Award



Katie Thompson, AAST math and Aerospace Engineering teacher, was recently selected as the South Carolina Mathematics awardee for The Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching (PAEMST) by the White House. This is the highest recognition that a kindergarten through 12th grade science, technology, engineering, or mathematics teacher may receive for outstanding teaching in the United States. Up to 110 teachers are recognized each year. Nominees complete a rigorous application process to demonstrate deep content knowledge and an ability to adapt to a broad range of learners and teaching environments. A panel of distinguished mathematicians, scientists, and educators at the state and national levels assess nominations before recommending awardees to the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP). Teachers are selected based on their distinction in the classroom and dedication to improving STEM education.

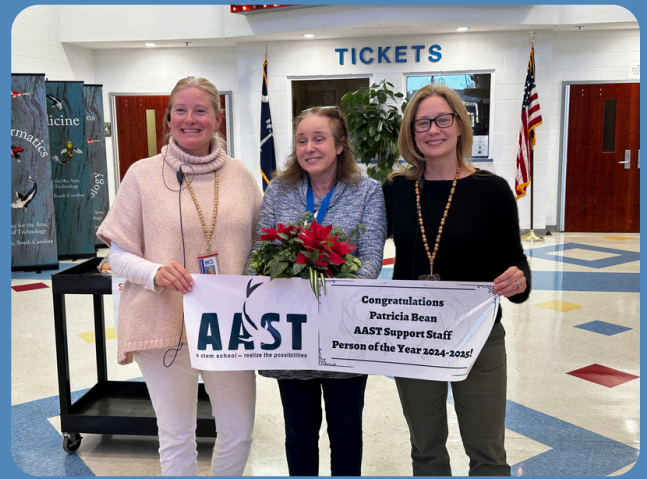


Congratulations, Annabelle Carpentier for winning the logo design competition for the Black Pearl community at Atlantic Beach!



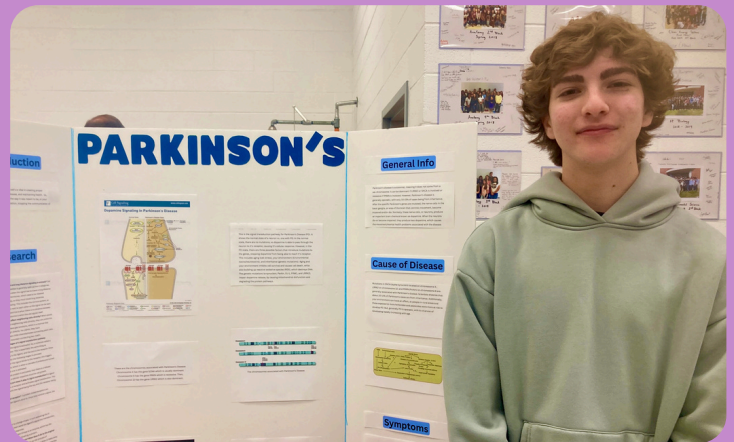
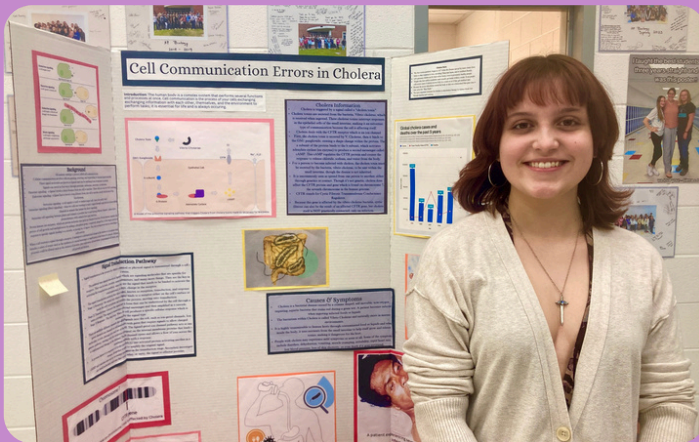
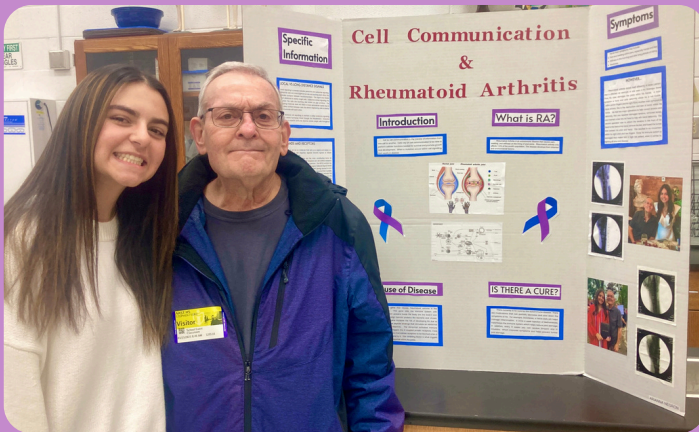
Thank you, Palmetto State Teachers Association, for dropping by today to congratulate Mr. Hernandez!

AAST Support Staff of the Year, Ms. Patricia Bean



Congratulations to AAST bookkeeper, Ms. Patricia Bean, on being named AAST Support Staff Person of the Year for the 2024-2025 school year!

Cell Signaling Disorder Symposium



Communication between cells is important in order to ensure that all cells are performing their required functions. Cell to cell communication usually takes the form of a signal transduction pathway. You can think of such a pathway as a row of dominoes, all standing on their ends. Push one domino over, and the rest fall, due their direct or indirect association with the first one you pushed over.

Unfortunately, signal transduction might go awry. Because there are so many players and so many steps in the process, it is easy to see how this might happen. Mrs. Sellers' AP Biology students researched complex biochemical pathways and the disorders caused by their malfunction. Their results were presented in a Cell Signaling Disorder Symposium. The students were supported by parents, staff, and other classes who all came by to see the presentations.

Major Spotlight

Web and Digital Communications



The **Web and Digital Communications** major is designed for students with a desire to pursue careers such as Photo Editor, Graphic Artist, Web Page Developer, Webmaster, Illustrator, 3D Animator, and Multimedia Specialist. Students will gain knowledge through Adobe industry standard software including Photoshop, Illustrator, Adobe Animate, Adobe Character Animate, Adobe Lightroom, and Dreamweaver. Courses will also incorporate AI tools used to make digital media content.

Juniors will participate in job shadowing/career experiences for the purpose of experiencing real world applications of their education along with focusing on the 21st Century STEM skills. These opportunities illustrate the importance of these competencies and skills in the business and professional world. Juniors will blog weekly about the skills they learn, along with reflecting on the many experiences offered to them through the major.



Seniors are required to complete a senior exhibition of mastery portfolio. Students will spend a great deal of time researching and producing a portfolio centered on specific areas of Digital Communications.

Opportunities

- Junior job shadowing
- Opportunity for senior internships
- Local, regional, & national projects and contests
- Industry guest speakers
- College visits and guest speakers
- Opportunity to join a professional organization
- Design for AAST, HCS, and the community
- Use of industry standard software with Adobe

Career Pathways

Median Salary

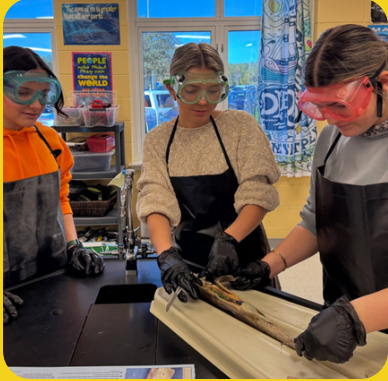
Video Game Designer	\$77,200
Web Administrators	\$92,870
Web and Digital Designers	\$77,200
Web Developers	\$77,200
Photographers	\$41,280
Graphic Designers	\$53,380
Special Effects Artists	\$77,700
Animators	\$77,700





Marine Science Dissection

Ms. Johnson's classes did a shark and squid dissection to finish a great semester of Honors Marine Science!



**New HCS
Electronic
Device
Policy**

Please review
the AAST
Student
Handbook
linked below:
**AAST Student
Handbook**

**SAFETY
FIRST**

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

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

Parents of Seniors - Scholarships

Please make sure your students are checking the scholarship information posted in the Senior Schoology page and on the website. They should also check their base school for scholarships.

**GUIDANCE
INFO**

Attention:
Junior IGP meetings will
start after winter break.

Health Science Board Games



ALL ELECTRONIC DEVICES ARE PROHIBITED FROM 8:10 TO 3:15.

DEVICES MUST BE TURNED OFF AND IN
BOOKBAGS THROUGHOUT THE ENTIRE
SCHOOL DAY.



PERSONAL ELECTRONIC DEVICES SUCH AS CELL
PHONES, EARBUDS, AND SMART WATCHES ARE
NOT PERMITTED DURING THE SCHOOL DAY.

DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS

1ST VIOLATION: WARNING

2ND VIOLATION: 1 DAY ISS

3RD VIOLATION: 2 DAYS ISS

4TH VIOLATION: 1 DAY OSS

5TH VIOLATION: 3 DAYS OSS

6TH VIOLATION: 5 DAYS OSS

7TH VIOLATION: EVIDENTIARY HEARING

ALL VIOLATIONS WILL RESULT IN CONFISCATION OF THE DEVICE.
A PARENT IS REQUIRED TO PICK UP THE DEVICE BEFORE OR AFTER SCHOOL.



**Remember, schools are closed on
Monday and Tuesday. Have a
safe and warm long weekend!**

Health Science 1 students created a board game for each unit throughout the semester to prepare for their final exam.

