

AAST NEWSLETTER

AAST.HORRYCOUNTYSCHOOLS.NET

Congratulations, Ms. Jodi Rielly
HCS Top 5 Teacher of the Year!



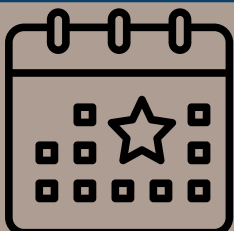
Mar. 3 - Mar. 7, 2025

Congratulations



AAST is honored to announce that Ms. Jodi Rielly is an HCS 2026 Top 5 Teacher of the Year! Ms. Rielly possesses unique talents that span multiple disciplines. She is certified to teach Science, English, Project Lead the Way Biomedical Science, AP Capstone, AP Literature, and AP Environmental Science. Additionally, she teaches our Yearbook class, serves as the Science Department Chair, and is a leader in curriculum and instruction. You can always count on Ms. Rielly to excel in everything she undertakes, and she truly deserves this prestigious award. Please join us in congratulating Ms. Rielly on this well-deserved recognition!

Upcoming Events



SIC
MAR 20

CTE SHOWCASE
MAR 20

SAT EXAM
MAR 27

TSA SLC
MAR 28-29

ROBOTICS
MAR 6-8, MAR 21-22

WIN TEST
APRIL 2

CYBERPATRIOT
COMPETITION
APRIL 12

HCS TECH FAIR
APRIL 16

TEDDY BEAR CLINIC
APRIL 10 AND 17

SIDEWALK CHALK DAY
APRIL 17

AAST SPRING GALA
MAY 2

MAY 27
AAST SENIOR CEREMONY

HOSA State Leadership Conference

52 AAST students competed in the 2025 HOSA Leadership Conference in North Charleston, SC. Students engaged in competitive medical events, educational symposia and fellowship with other HOSA chapters from across the state.



Hailey Goodman has been chosen as the 2025 HOSA Chapter Member of the Year at the 47th Annual SC State Leadership Conference!

Competition Results

Dental Terminology: Sofia Obiena, Top 5 Finish
Medical Assisting: Ricki Knowlin, 3rd Place
Occupational Therapy: Addison Freer, Top 5 Finish
Pharmacology: Jacob Csirke, 1st Place
Pharmacology: Aliza Maravilla, Top 5 Finish
Respiratory Therapy: Cadence Kenion, 3rd Place
World Health and Disparities in Healthcare: Emily Fernandes, Top 5 Finish

Go Team Aluminum Assault!



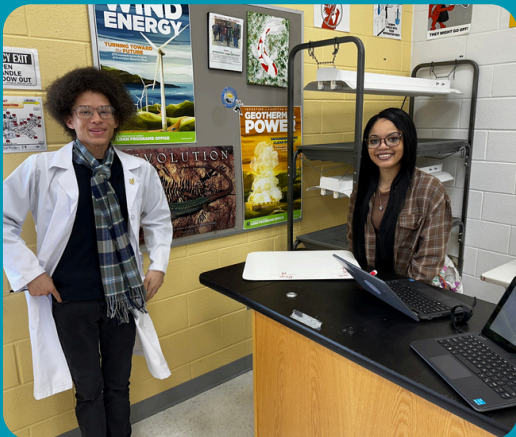
AAST's robotics team, Aluminum Assault, is competing this weekend in their first competition of the season of FIRST Robotics Competition (FRC) in Hartsville, SC. AAST faculty and staff and students showed their team support by wearing Team 1287 shirts on Friday. Check back next week for competition results!

AAST AT THE MYRTLE BEACH MARATHON



On Saturday, March 1, 2025, 24 AAST students volunteered at the annual Myrtle Beach Marathon. They oversaw the Mile 10 water station. They were setting up and preparing water and Gatorade at 6 am. When the race started, they passed them out to runners of the half and full marathon. They also offered support and hyped up everyone who came by. Race officials and law enforcement commented on how hard they were working and how much fun they were having. They were definitely impressed. What an example of #koipride!

Biomedical Science Students Designing Research



Biomedical Innovation students have been learning about the variety of research study designs available and how to set up and conduct valid and reliable studies. They investigated the various ways to manipulate data and explored what to look for when evaluating data presented by others. Additionally, they critiqued scientific data presented in popular media, and compared such data with data presented in scientific journals. Using everything they have learned, Mrs. Sellers' students designed, conducted, and analyzed their experimental study relating to one or multiple body systems.



Guest Speaker: Rae Ann Gruver

On Tuesday, March 4 during Advisory, AAST hosted a senior assembly. The purpose of the assembly was to bring awareness to the tragic reality of hazing on college campuses. Ms. Rae Ann Gruver, mother of Max Gruver, and founder and President of the Max Gruver Foundation, was our guest speaker. Ms. Gruver shared her son's story. The Max Gruver Foundation is committed to creating change by advocating for laws that prevent hazing. In addition to speaking on our campus Monday afternoon, Ms. Gruver spoke at Coastal Carolina University Tuesday evening at 6:00 pm.

We believe information is a powerful tool for success. It is important for our scholars to be prepared for success in their next steps academically, socially, and emotionally. Ms. Gruver's talk was truthful about hazing incidents that led to death in recent years on college campuses in the US. She shared incidents of hazing and harassment including abuse of alcohol, drugs, and violence.

In life after high school, your scholar may find themselves in a situation where hazing is prevalent. As an informed young adult, he or she may be in a position to prevent a hazing incident or to spark change the culture on college campuses to reject the practice all together. We are honored to have had this opportunity to arm our future leaders with knowledge that may preclude another tragic loss of a promising future. You can find out more about the Max Gruver Foundation at the following site: www.maxgruverfoundation.com

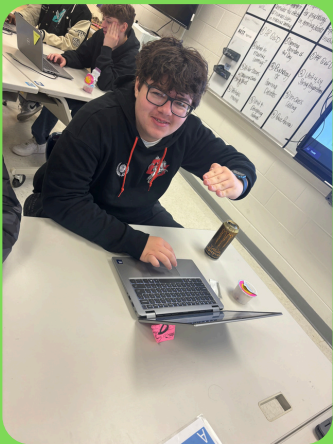
SC Science Olympiad



Last weekend, AAST students participated in the South Carolina Science Olympiad State Tournament. Congratulations to Anna Maroz and Crystal Dudley for their first-place win in the Air Trajectory category and to Rachel Hitts and AK Chapman on their third-place win in Entomology!

Rock, Paper, Scissors with AI

Students in AP Computer Science Principles had the opportunity to learn about Machine Learning and Artificial Intelligence and actually trained their own "Pose Model" of Rock, Paper, Scissors for AI detection.



Students in Mrs. Watson's Health Science 2 class worked collaboratively to create a life-size, two-dimensional poster of the human body, accurately labeling body planes, directional terms, cavities, quadrants, and regions. As part of their review for an upcoming written assessment, students named their model and presented their work to their peers, demonstrating their understanding of anatomical terminology.

Leadership Grand Strand

On Thursday, March 6th, 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.



Advisory Door Challenge Winners

Congratulations to our February Advisory Door Challenge Winners!

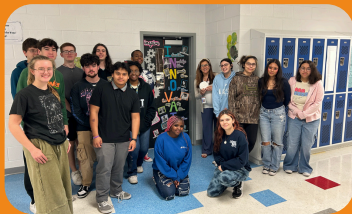
Tied for 1st Place: Ms. Thompson and Ms. Hewitt

2nd Place: Mr. Cyganiewicz

3rd Place: Ms. Caudill

Tied for 4th Place: Ms. Ceron and Ms. Fletcher

Tied for 5th Place: Ms. Burgess and Ms. Cornelison



The yearbook cover from last year's annual will be included in Josten's international publication called the Look Book, which showcases the best yearbook elements of the year. This cover was designed by Lesley Etherson, our Web & Digital Communications teacher.

AAST CAREER FAIR!

a stem school ~ realize the possibilities

JOIN US!

APRIL 4, 2025
8:15AM - 10:45AM
Academy for the Arts,
Science, and Technology
895 International Drive,
Myrtle Beach, SC 29579



SCAN HERE

If you are interested in attending, please register by scanning the QR code above OR clicking [here!](#)

Set up time will be from 7:45am to 8:10am.

NATIONAL ENGLISH HONOR SOCIETY



DRIVE

MARCH 3 - MARCH 28

CANNED PASTA, RAMEN NOODLES,
CHEESE CRACKERS, INDIVIDUAL CEREAL,
RICE, GRANOLA BARS, SPAGHETTI,
SPAGHETTI SAUCE, CHICKEN NOODLE
SOUP, PUDDING CUPS, APPLESAUCE OR
FRUIT CUPS, POP-TARTS, MAC & CHEESE,
SCHOOL SUPPLIES, HYGIENE PRODUCTS
(SOAP, DEODORANT, SHAMPOO,
TOOTHPASTE, TOOTHBRUSHES)

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY
AND SUPPORT!

AAST Alumni: Drew Bellah, Advanced Art



Drew Bellah, a Senior Art Major from the graduating class of 2024, recently visited the Academy to present to Art Majors as they prepare for their upcoming Senior Exhibition of Mastery. He highlighted the importance of building strong portfolios and developing themes for their mastery projects. His own mastery project at AAST was titled "The Exploration of Creature and Character Creation Through Mixed Media Sculpture and Puppetry." He has also taken on a leadership role, mentoring students as they prepare for future exhibitions. Recently, Drew's award-winning work was showcased at Brookgreen Gardens in the ArtFields Jr Traveling Exhibition. During his presentation, Drew emphasized the significance of planning and preparation, sharing how the Academy for Arts, Science, and Technology (AAST) has shaped his artistic journey. His dedication to giving back and motivating his peers makes him a remarkable leader within the AAST community. Drew attends Coastal Carolina University, pursuing a degree in Theater Design and Production.

**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 koi safe!

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