

AAST NEWSLETTER

AAST.HORRYCOUNTYSCHOOLS.NET

AAST Spring Gala



May 5 - May 9, 2025



Last Friday, AAST held its highly anticipated annual Spring Gala at the House of Blues. Students and staff came together to celebrate a festive gathering filled with music and dance.



Upcoming Events



SENIOR EXAMS
MAY 19, 20

NEW JUNIOR ORIENTATION
MAY 20

SENIOR DAY
MAY 22

SENIOR AWARDS
MAY 22

JUNIOR AWARDS
MAY 23

AAST SENIOR CEREMONY
MAY 27

US HISTORY EOCT
JUNE 3

JUNIOR EXAMS
JUNE 5, 6



National School Nurses Day

Wednesday was National School Nurses Day! We would like to give a HUGE thank you to Nurse Knight for everything she does for the students, parents and staff at AAST!



Teacher Appreciation Week



Thank you to our wonderful Parent Involvement Committee who prepared a beautiful spread of goodies for AAST teachers and staff on Tuesday as part of Teacher Appreciation Week!



The Science of Breath



By using real balloons and straws, students in Mrs. Watson's Health Science 2 class were able to see how air moves in and out of the lungs and how the bronchi split to carry it to both sides. It was a fun, squishy way to understand how we breathe!



New HCS
Electronic
Device
Policy

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

SAFETY
FIRST

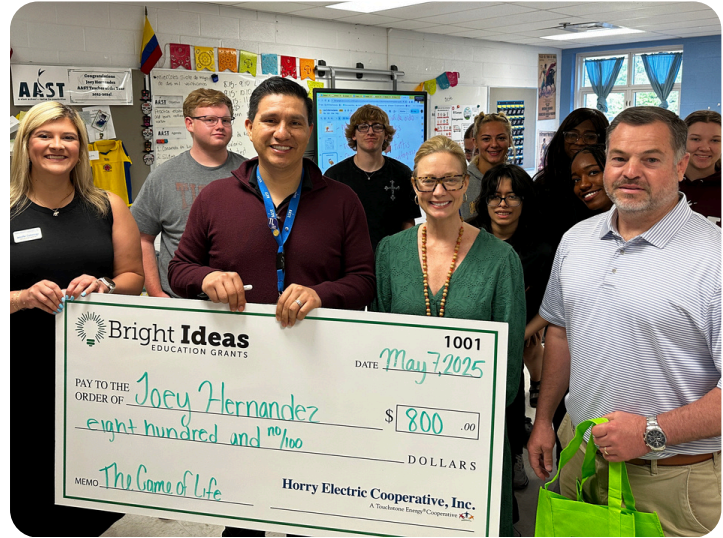
Click the links below to learn more about AAST's plans to keep our koi safe!
[Standard Response Protocol for Parents \(English\)](#)
[Standard Response Protocol for Parents \(Spanish\)](#)
[School Safety Poster](#)

Guest Speaker: Dr. Nancy Collins

Nancy Collins, MD visited Mrs. Watson's Pharmacology for Medical Careers Honors 3rd block class and reviewed the reproductive system drugs. Dr. Collins is an OB/GYN at Conway Medical Center, is a Conway High School alum, and the mother of AAST Pre-Med/Pharmacology senior Margaret Collins.



AAST Receives Bright Ideas Grants



Mr. Sellers and Mr. Hernandez were awarded Bright Ideas grants for the innovative ideas at AAST. Mr. Sellers plans to use the funds to buy handheld GPS devices to help equip students with practical GIS skills through hands-on data collection and spatial analysis. Mr. Hernandez will use his funds towards our annual Game of Life for the Junior class! Thank you, Bright Ideas!

SWA Scholarship

The Horry County Solid Waste Authority (SWA) has awarded nine Environmental Scholarships to eligible high school seniors interested in protecting the environment.

Each recipient receives a \$1,000 scholarship towards college expenses.

Every year SWA awards one eligible graduating high school senior from each high school in Horry County, a one-time \$1,000 scholarship. Over the past twenty years, the Solid Waste Authority has awarded \$197,000 in scholarships through this program. Congratulations to AAST's Tatiana Salcedo for receiving this award!



Tatiana Salcedo
Academy for the Arts, Science
& Technology



Team 1287 Celebrates Most Successful Robotics Season Yet!

The 2025 FRC Robotics season has come to a triumphant close, and Team 1287 - Aluminum Assault - has plenty to celebrate. At our first-ever end-of-season banquet, students, mentors, and families gathered to reflect on what has been the most successful season in team history.

This year, Aluminum Assault ranked 5th in South Carolina and placed in the top 500 teams worldwide—a remarkable achievement given the thousands of teams competing globally in the FIRST Robotics Competition.

Along the way, the team earned two major honors: the Gracious Professionalism Award at the District Championships, recognizing their team spirit, respect, and integrity; and the Excellence in Industrial Design Award, sponsored by General Motors, for outstanding engineering and design excellence.



1984
George Orwell

SHERLOCK HOLMES
DEATH CLLOUD
ANDREW LANE

GIRL STOLEN
APRIL HENRY

ANDY WEIR
PROJECT HAIL MARY

THE BOOK JUMPER

THE WATCH
ON NIGHT
ALAN SHARP

90 MILES
HAWANA

BRIGID KEMMERER
DEFY NIGHT

MARCELO
LEGEND

QUEEN SEE

THE LAST CUENTISTA

WHEN WE WERE LOST
ZEYNE WIDWALL

DO YOU LOVE TO READ? JOIN THE 25-26 HCS BATTLE OF THE BOOKS!

JOIN TODAY WITH YOUR SCHOOL MEDIA SPECIALIST!

Led by head coach Matt Vanasse, the team was powered on the field by drive coach TJ Leishear of AAST, with key support from programming mentor Kyle Muffley and business/electrical mentor Mindi Penn, who also serves as the team manager. The team's growth and achievements were bolstered by an incredible surge in parent involvement, making this season a true community effort.

With eyes on the future, Team 1287 is already preparing for the 2026 season—with one big goal: World Championships in Houston. Go Aluminum Assault!



Happenings in Advanced Art

Waccamaw Arts and Crafts Guild

Advanced Art Major students present their artwork to the Waccamaw Arts and Crafts Guild. Junior and Senior Advanced Art Major students recently presented their work at the Waccamaw Arts and Crafts Guild's new home, Gallery 320 in Myrtle Beach. The presentation showcased a remarkable body of 24 original artworks alongside a summary of each student's artist statement, their research, and their chosen Senior Exhibition of Mastery topic. Students also had the opportunity to share their professional digital portfolios and engage in meaningful dialogue with members of the artistic community.

We are very grateful to the Waccamaw Arts and Crafts Guild for their continued support of young artists in our area. Their generosity in offering feedback, encouragement, and insight helps our students grow as both artists and future creative professionals. Experiences like this empower our students to see themselves as part of a larger artistic community and remind them that the skills they are developing here at AAST will continue to benefit them as they begin their college and career journeys.

Featured Students:
Madison McCombs
Zacchaeus Quick
Chayann Hanford
Owen Gutovitz
Sadie Case
Rylee O'Leary
Elizabeth Lawson
Stella McWilliams



Rylee O'Leary, Senior Advanced Art Major

Senior Mastery Topic: Portraying Complex Relationships Through Color and Composition

Title of Work: Lost at Thought | **Material:** Acrylic Paint on Canvas

Process: Contrasting colors between cool and warm tones; drawing the eye throughout the piece with leading lines.

Idea: Lost in the effects of anxiety, thoughts consistently flood the brain and cause a sense of drowning.

Website: RyleeOLeary.weebly.com



Rylee O'Leary, Senior Advanced Art Major

Senior Mastery Topic: Portraying Complex Relationships Through Color and Composition

Title of Work: Scapegoat

Material: Acrylic on Canvas

Process: Using undertones to convey a contrast between light and dark tones, using the perspective and placement of goats to show the intensity of the composition.

Idea: Being blamed for wrongdoings, how that blame can cause a rift in expectations and emotions in a relationship.

Website: RyleeOLeary.weebly.com



The 25th Annual Horry-Georgetown County High Schools Juried Art Exhibition

Several Advanced Art Major students were recognized for their outstanding artwork at the 25th Annual Horry-Georgetown County High Schools Juried Art Exhibition, held at the Franklin G. Burroughs-Simeon B. Chapin Art Museum. This well-known regional show features exceptional student artwork selected from over a dozen area high schools. This year's exhibition was juried by fiber artist and environmental activist Mary Edna Fraser.

1st Place in 2D Art: Rylee O'Leary

2nd Place in 2D Art: Brooklyn Jack Dickson

Beth Eakins Memorial Award (Judge's Choice): Ellarie Fluett

Honorable Mention in 3D Art: Elizabeth Lawson

Honorable Mention in 2D Art: Caroline Boki Cook

We're incredibly proud of these students for their creativity, craftsmanship, and dedication to their work. The exhibit will be on display at the museum until June 1st, 2025. We encourage you to attend and vote for your favorite artwork to receive the People's Choice Award!

ArtFields

Congratulations to Elizabeth Lawson for Receiving an ArtFields, Jr. Merit Award for her artwork entitled The Journey Home!

Elizabeth's work is a stunning 3 foot by 5 foot hand-tufted carpet depicting a riverbed and 17 individually crafted Sockeye Salmon. Its subject is the annual mass migration known as the salmon run, and it also metaphorically represents Elizabeth's own journey throughout her life. The artwork will go on to be featured in the ArtFields, Jr. touring show, which will travel around South Carolina for the next several months.

