

# AAST NEWSLETTER

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## Senior Day and Awards



May 19 - May 23, 2025



On Thursday, seniors participated in AAST's annual Senior Day! Students took a ride on the Sea Screamer with the Myrtle Beach Dolphin Tours followed by a lunch at the North Myrtle Beach Sports Complex. Thank you to the students, community members, and teachers who made it a great day!

That evening, AAST held senior awards night to celebrate the achievements of our scholars and leaders of the class of 2025. Congratulations to all the seniors who were recognized! For more photos, check out our social media!

### Upcoming Events



AAST SENIOR  
CEREMONY  
MAY 27

US HISTORY EOCT  
JUNE 3

JUNIOR EXAMS  
JUNE 5, 6

## Seeds to Shoreline



Ms. Johnson's Environmental Science and Environmental Engineering students spent last Friday planting the *Spartina alterniflora* they have been growing all semester at Huntington Beach State Park. This trip was part of the SC Sea Grant's From Seeds to Shoreline Salt Marsh Restoration project!

## Pre-Medicine Pinning Ceremony



On Wednesday, we proudly hosted a heartfelt pinning ceremony honoring our EKG technicians, Patient Care Technicians (PCTs), First Responders, and Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs). Surrounded by family, friends, and faculty, each student received their pin as a symbol of their dedication, hard work, and commitment to serving others in critical moments. The ceremony served as a powerful reminder of the impact these future healthcare heroes will have on their communities.

## Clean Energy Mural Renewal



Check out our new Environmental Engineering sign! Thank you to Madison Harrison for recreating the mural that her older sister Hannah and Mary Katherine McElveen installed in 2023. It looks amazing! Also thank you to the juniors for helping her!



Before refurbishment

## Student of the Month: Tyler Simpkins



Congratulations, Tyler, on this well-deserved recognition! Your passion and perseverance are truly inspiring.

We are proud to recognize Tyler Simpkins as our AAST Student of the Month for May!

Tyler's journey began as a virtual student in his freshman year, where he first impressed us in Anatomy and Physiology. He continued to shine in his sophomore year through FLEX Virtual Forensic Science, and we were thrilled when he applied—and was accepted—into the AAST Biomedical major program.

Since then, Tyler has exemplified what it means to be a dedicated and driven student. On track to earn an incredible 54 credits—a feat that may well be a school record—he has taken 9 Advanced Placement courses, is a member of several honor societies and clubs, and still manages to hold a job. Tyler is also making history as a triple major completer, possibly the first to do so at AAST. His academic excellence, involvement, and relentless work ethic make him a standout member of our "Koi pond."

## Guest Speaker: Chad Parnell

Mr. Chad Parnell spoke with forensic science students on Tuesday. Mr. Parnell is a retired Secret Service agent and current postal inspector. He discussed a case that he had worked on where forensic evidence was used to solve a murder investigation. Mr. Parnell also discussed how students could have a career with the Secret Service or as a postal inspector. He is the father of senior premed student Addy Parnell.





## Junior Awards

AAST held our junior awards ceremony Friday to recognize the accomplishments of our juniors. Congratulations to all the juniors who were recognized! For more photos, check out our social media!



## Final Exam Schedule

Junior Exams

Thursday, June 5, 2025

2nd Block Exam – 8:15 to 10:15 AM

3rd Block Exam – 10:20 to 12:20 PM

Friday, June 6, 2025

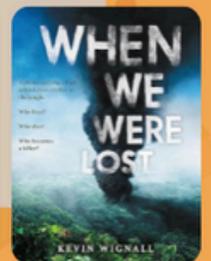
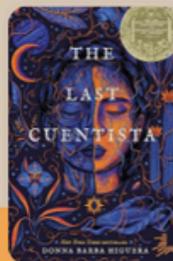
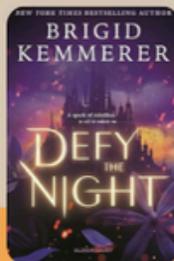
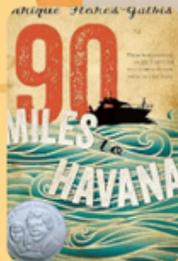
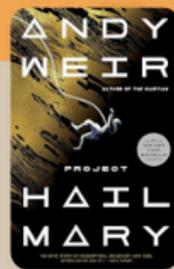
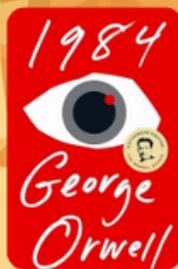
1st Block Exam – 8:15 to 10:15 AM

4th Block Exam – 10:20 to 12:20 PM

Bus riders will grab a bag lunch on the way to the bus exit. The cafeteria will have a station set up in the bus hallway. Students should have their lunch number ready.



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



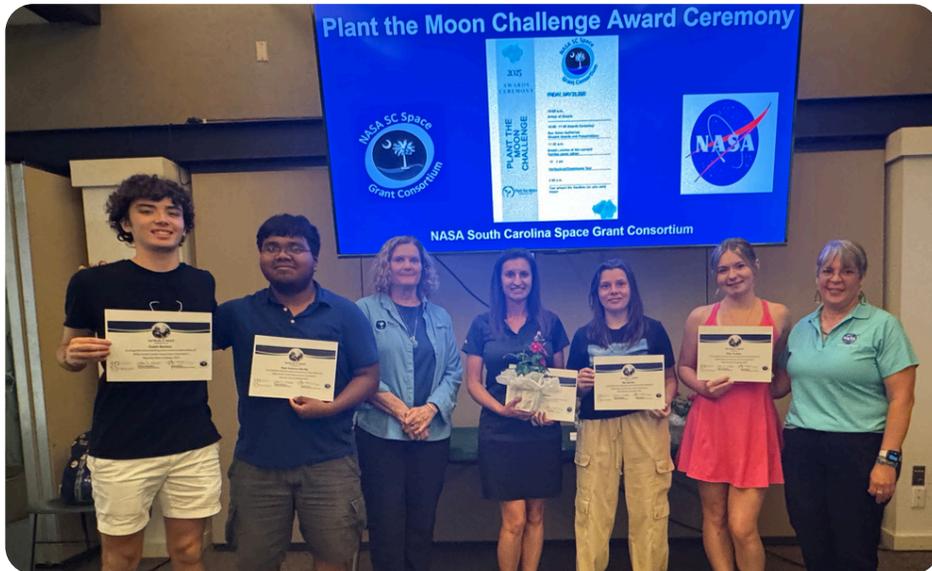
# HCS Tech Fair Awards

Congratulations to all of our HCS Tech Fair Winners! Pictured are just two of the talented winners who received their awards on Friday!

Hudson Milspaugh - 1<sup>st</sup> Place, Audio Production  
Wesley Crosby - 1<sup>st</sup> Place, Coding and Game Development  
Brandon Bernal Andrade - 2<sup>nd</sup> Place, Coding and Game Development  
Joseph Pelley - 3<sup>rd</sup> Place, Coding and Game Development  
Callahan Coggins and Kendall Williamson - 1<sup>st</sup> Place (11<sup>th</sup>), Animation  
Kaelyn Mula - 1<sup>st</sup> Place (12<sup>th</sup>), Animation  
Makenzie Lesley and Molly Barfield - 2<sup>nd</sup> Place (11<sup>th</sup>), Animation  
Annabelle Carpentier - 2<sup>nd</sup> Place, Photo Production  
Alexandra Beltran - 3<sup>rd</sup> Place, Photo Production  
Said Antonio-Sevilla - 1<sup>st</sup> Place, Passion Projects  
James Knaffle - 3<sup>rd</sup> Place, Passion Projects  
Yahir Vazquez Avelandez - 3<sup>rd</sup> Place, Video Production  
Aubrey Coonradt - 3<sup>rd</sup> Place, Video Production  
Greyson McKenzie and Zyir Vamper - 1<sup>st</sup> Place, Website Design



## Plant the Moon Challenge



The NASA South Carolina Space Grant Consortium (SCSGC) is proud to announce that AAST is one of eight student teams from South Carolina who have been named winners in the 2025 Plant the Moon Challenge, a global science experiment and STEM competition designed to simulate growing crops in lunar soil. The winning South Carolina teams – four from middle schools and four from high schools – were selected based on their outstanding scientific design, experimental execution, data analysis, and innovative thinking in addressing the challenge of lunar agriculture.

The Plant the Moon Challenge, hosted by the Institute of Competition Sciences in collaboration with NASA scientists, empowers students to contribute to humanity's future on the Moon by developing strategies for sustainable agriculture using lunar soil simulant. Final projects were evaluated by a panel of NASA researchers and space science experts.

AAST's team from Ms. Johnson's class, the Lunar Landscapers, took home the state Best In Show Award for Innovation! Congratulations, Lunar Landscapers!