

AAST NEWSLETTER

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AAST Dropped Everything and Read



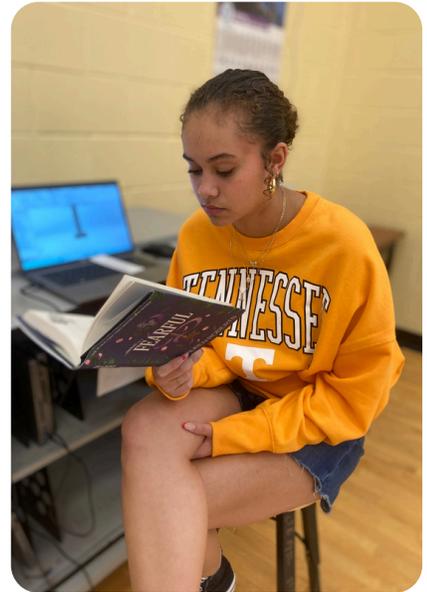
September 8 - September 12, 2025



Join the #RiseWithReading Challenge!

Students are challenged to read 1,000 pages every quarter.

Let's rise together, one page at a time.



AAST celebrated International Literacy Day with a Flash Reading Mob! For 15 minutes, at a surprise time, every student, teacher, and staff member dropped what they were doing to dive into a book.

UNESCO established September 8th as International Literacy Day to remind us that literacy is not just a skill—it's a matter of dignity and human rights, and to raise awareness of the challenges that still exist worldwide.

Upcoming Events



SIC & CTE ADVISORY
DINNER
SEPTEMBER 18, 5:00 PM

COLLEGE APP DAY
SEPTEMBER 26

SENIOR PICTURE MAKEUP
DAY
OCTOBER 7

ED OP DAY
OCTOBER 8

FALL BREAK, NO SCHOOL
OCTOBER 13-14

FALL HONOR SOCIETY
INDUCTION
OCTOBER 16, 6:00PM

JUNIOR MAKEUP PICTURE DAY
OCTOBER 22

ALL COUNTY THEATRE @ AAST
OCTOBER 22

PSAT
OCTOBER 23

BLOOD DRIVE
OCTOBER 24

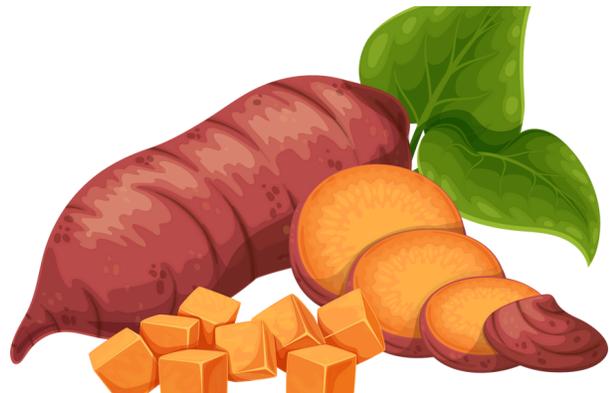
SPIRIT WEEK
OCTOBER 27-31

FALL FESTIVAL
OCTOBER 30, 5-7PM

Environmental Engineering Growing Sweet Potatoes

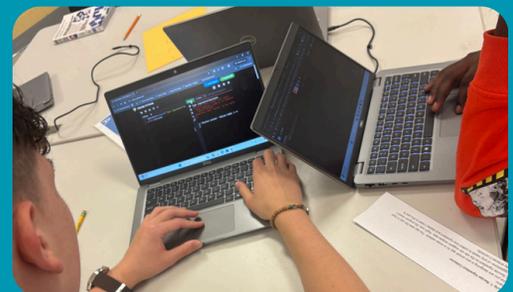
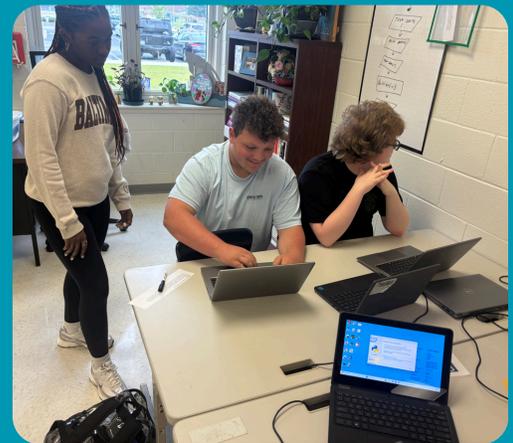
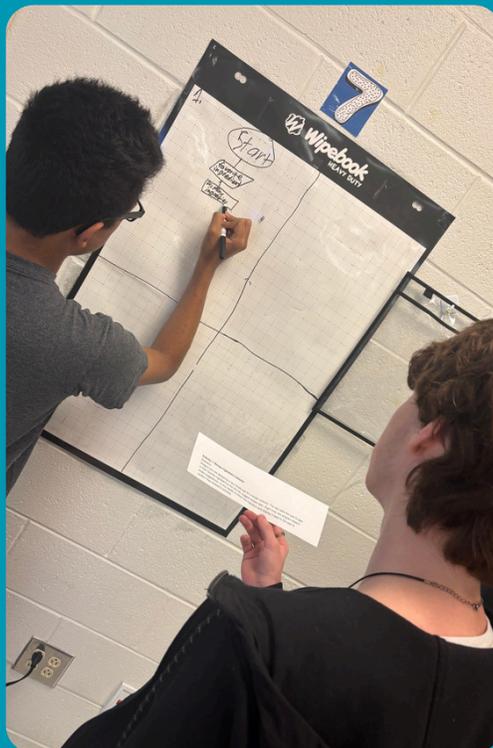
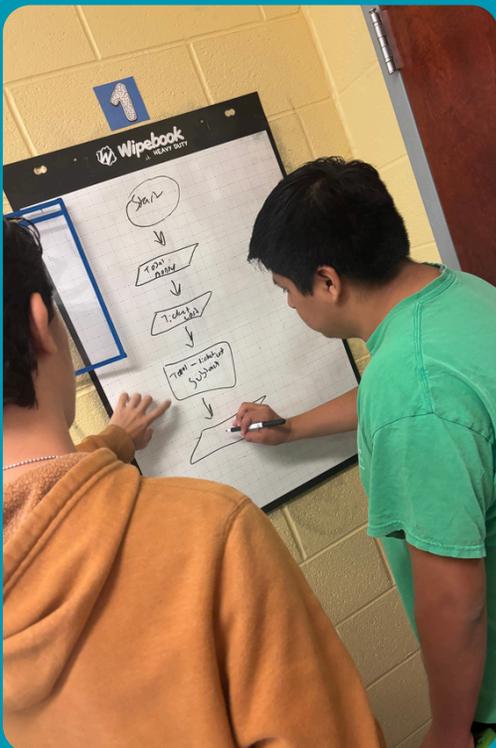
The Environmental Engineering juniors know that literacy goes beyond books—it's about understanding the world around us. As part of their studies, they dug into the science of soil and sustainability, then literally dug up their own harvest of Purple Majesty sweet potatoes!

By combining research with hands-on practice, students are building the kind of literacy that empowers problem-solvers: scientific literacy, environmental literacy, and agricultural literacy. #risewithreading



Computer Science Flowcharts

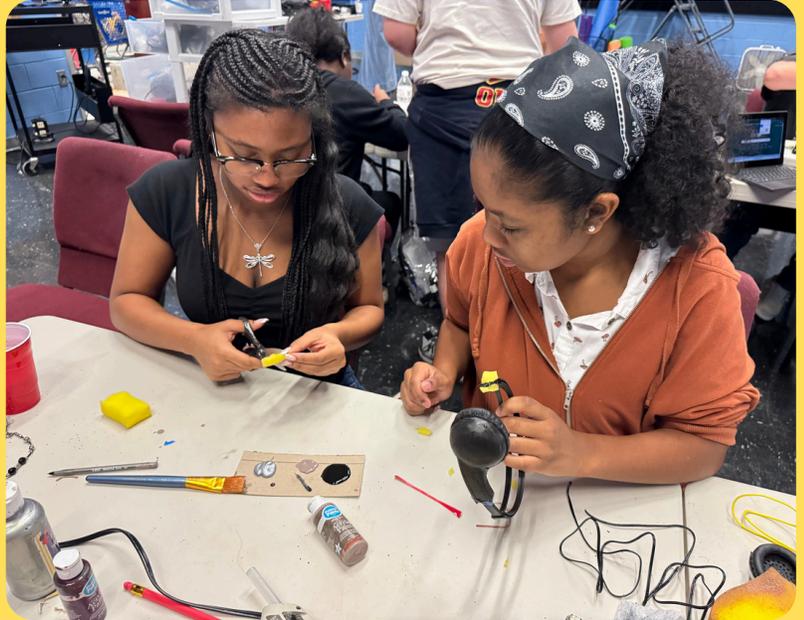
Juniors in Computer Science are learning to flowchart for scenario based problems and then utilize the flowchart to design software solutions. This activity focuses on critical thinking and problem solving.





Silent Sky Props Project

Technical Theatre students preparing for the "Silent Sky" performance researched Henrietta Leavitt's life at the Harvard Observatory, discovering how her hearing impairment influenced her work. They designed a prop hearing aid from found objects, showcasing the ingenuity of the time. The project integrated history and artistry, requiring research, literacy skills, and a complete design process, emphasizing authenticity and theatrical function. The final prop reflects student creativity, problem-solving, and respect for historical figures. #risewithreading

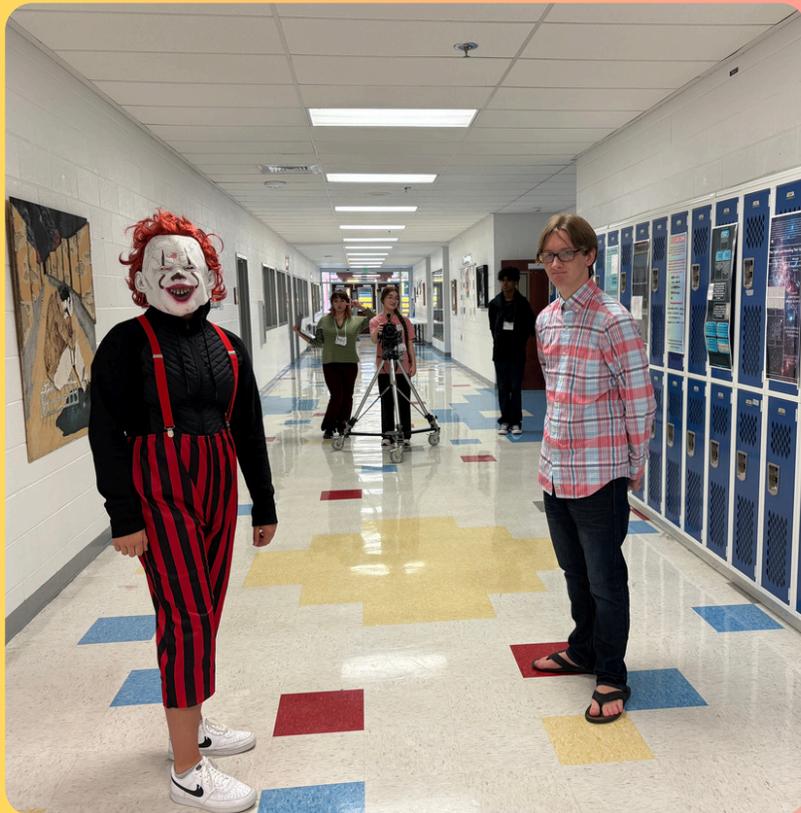


Global Logistics Presentations

This week, Global Logistics students wrapped up their projects on Import/Export, exploring the regulations and documentation required to move products across borders for manufacturing and sales. Through this work, they gained real-world insights into the complex systems that keep global trade moving. #risewithreading



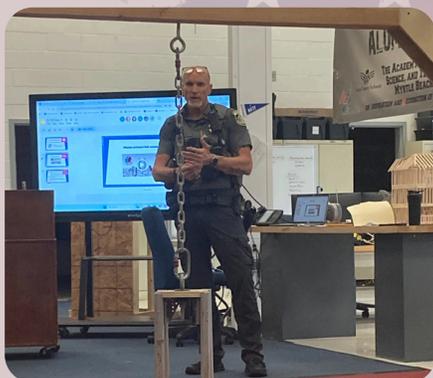
Horror Parody Films in ET



In the Entertainment Technology major, students have kicked off their very first video project—a Horror Parody film! From writing the script to planning out a variety of creative camera shots, students are learning the full production process while putting their own twist on a classic genre. #risewithreading

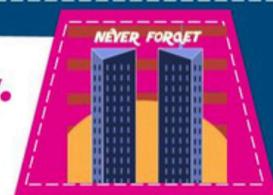
Remembering 9/11

Officer Dukes, AAST's School Resource Office, spoke to Mr. Vanasse and Ms. Cornelison's advisories this Thursday September 11 to tell of his experiences as a NY city police officer during 9/11.



Today is 9/11, Patriot's Day.

You all were born after the terrorist attacks of September 11th, 2001, but your teachers and family members most likely have memories of that day.



As a group take about 10 minutes to discuss what you just watched.

Possible discussion questions:

- What new insight did you gain from watching this video today?
- In your own words, what does it mean for a country to remember an event?
- How do different media sources shape your emotions and understanding of the same moment?

In Advisory, students honored the anniversary of 9/11 by watching a memorial video and engaging in thoughtful discussions. This time of reflection encouraged students to remember, ask questions, and share perspectives about the significance of the day.

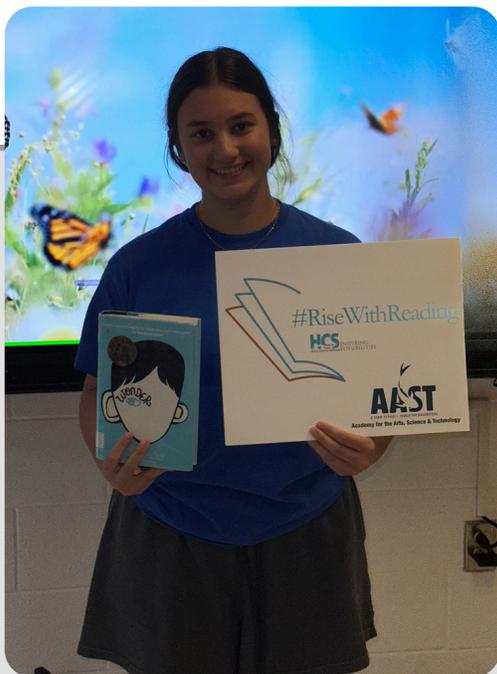
Germ Simulation in Health Science

Mrs. Lewis' Health Science 1 students participated in a hands-on lesson using Glo-germ, a tool that simulates germs with a special lotion that glows under UV light. Students applied the product, washed their hands as usual, and then inspected them under a black light to see how well they removed the "germs." This activity shows how important handwashing is for preventing the spread of illness and breaking the chain of infection.



#RiseWithReading

"I love Wonder because I can relate to the main character." -Laura Clardy (pictured left)



August Pullman was born with a facial difference that, up until now, has prevented him from going to a mainstream school. Starting 5th grade at Beecher Prep, he wants nothing more than to be treated as an ordinary kid—but his new classmates can't get past Auggie's extraordinary face. Beginning from Auggie's point of view and expanding to include his classmates, his sister, her boyfriend, and others, the perspectives converge to form a portrait of one community's struggle with empathy, compassion, and acceptance. In a world where bullying among young people is an epidemic, this is a refreshing new narrative full of heart and hope.

New Books @ AAST: Up In Smoke by Nick Brooks

Unmask a murderer or take the fall.

After Cooper King is pressured by big brother figure Jason to go on a looting spree during a local march, the unthinkable happens: gunshots ring in the air and someone ends up dead. After Cooper flees, the news shows four teens in ski masks near the scene of the murder—Cooper and his friends. Cooper fears the cops will come knocking at his door, and the pressure only mounts when a suspect is taken into custody: Jason.

Monique, Jason's sister and Cooper's longtime crush, is willing to go any length to clear her brother's name. Even if she needs to go into the belly of the beast and confront the killer herself. When she teams up with Cooper, they fall down the investigation rabbit hole and start to fall for each other. But little does Monique know that within this web of deception, Cooper is shrouding the truth that he was there when the shots went off. If the pair fail to uncover the real murderer, Jason will get locked up for a crime he didn't commit—and drag down Cooper with him.

