

AAST NEWSLETTER

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Veterans Day at AAST



a stem school ~ realize the possibilities

November 10 - November 14, 2025



AAST paid tribute to our veterans with an assembly. Veterans Day honors all military veterans; those we have lost and those still with us. The message to AAST students and staff was to live a life worthy of the ultimate sacrifice and to defend democracy daily. Also, the Beta Club also collected donations for the DAV by selling flags to honor a veteran. In addition, over 250 handwritten cards were created and delivered to veterans! The cards were distributed across nine retirement and assisted living communities and the VFW Post in Murrells Inlet to show our gratitude for their service. Thank you, veterans!

Upcoming Events



**POETRY OUT LOUD
COMPETITION
NOVEMBER 19**

**SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT
COUNCIL
NOVEMBER 20, 5PM**

**THANKSGIVING BREAK
NOVEMBER 24-28**

**AAST OPEN HOUSE
DECEMBER 6, 6-7PM**

**ASVAB
DECEMBER 11**

**WINTER BREAK
DECEMBER 22-JANUARY 3**

**US HISTORY EOC
JANUARY 13**

**BIOLOGY EOC
JANUARY 14**

**2.5 HOUR EARLY DISMISSAL
JANUARY 16**

**AAST OPEN HOUSE
JANUARY 22, 6-7PM**

**AAST OPEN HOUSE
FEBRUARY 12, 6-7PM**

National Honor Society Induction

AAST held its National Honor Society Induction Ceremony this week, celebrating students who exemplify the four pillars of NHS: scholarship, leadership, service, and character. During the ceremony, new inductees were formally welcomed into the organization and recognized for their academic excellence and commitment to serving their school and community. Families, faculty, and current NHS members attended to support the students as they took the pledge and received their certificates.



Principal for a Day

AAST welcomed Mrs. Brandy Incorvia, from Santee Cooper, as this year's Principal for a Day. Mrs. Incorvia was greeted by several of the school's outstanding student ambassadors and had the opportunity to tour classrooms, meet students and staff, and experience firsthand the innovative and inspiring work taking place across the campus.



Thursday was World Kindness Day! World Kindness Day is to highlight good deeds in the community focusing on the positive power and the common thread of kindness for good which binds us. Kindness is a fundamental part of the human condition which bridges the divides of race, religion, politics, gender and location.



AAST Students of the Month

Junior Student of the Month: Catherine Rebollar Soria

Catherine has been selected as our Junior Student of the Month for her exceptional leadership, positivity, and academic excellence. She is always quick to help her classmates, offer encouragement, and contribute thoughtful insight to class discussions. Her talent and dedication were especially evident in her perfect score on the Poetry Out Loud class competition—an outstanding accomplishment that showcases her confidence and poise. We are proud to recognize Catherine for the enthusiasm and integrity she brings to our school community.



Senior Student of the Month: Michael Skotnicki

Michael has been named our Senior Student of the Month for his outstanding curiosity, perseverance, and character. A voracious learner, he consistently asks thoughtful questions and challenges himself to grow, demonstrating an exceptional work ethic even when tasks become difficult. Michael's strong moral compass is evident in the kindness and respect he shows to classmates, teachers, and staff. Always positive and willing to help, he contributes to our school community with genuine spirit and integrity. We are proud to honor Michael for all he brings to AAST.

Clean Energy Students Explore the Outdoors at Playcard



Environmental Engineering with Clean Energy Technology students had an exciting camping adventure at Playcard, taking part in a variety of team-building and outdoor activities. The trip was filled with kayaking, tent construction, stargazing, fire building, s'mores, ghost stories, and classic campfire songs—creating unforgettable memories and strengthening bonds within the group. The students truly embraced the spirit of adventure and "Stay Forever Wild!"



Major Spotlight

Environmental Engineering with Clean Energy Technology



Environmental Engineering with Clean Energy Technology is a diverse and exciting major at AAST. Students who love **hands-on** projects, being outside, and have a desire to preserve our planet's resources for future generations will love this major. No prior knowledge is necessary, just a can-do attitude! Students work in teams and use the engineering design process to create a prototype with the purpose of solving a real-world problem. Example projects include building a solar panel to power a device in a developing country where people may not be connected to a power grid, designing more efficient wind turbine blades, and creating a pyrolysis stove to cook food with waste biomass while reducing emissions. Students conduct an energy audit of their home to discover how their family can reduce energy use and save money on their electricity bills. The projects in this major are ever-changing and adapt to the interest of students. For example, students in previous years were interested in gardening and won grants to design, build, and install both a pollinator garden and a vegetable garden on campus. We have many guest speakers and take field trips to explore the variety of careers relating to solving environmental problems and preserving natural resources. We are a close-knit group and develop life-long friendships while taking the four courses in the major.



According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, Green careers are projected to grow in the future. Environmentally focused occupations range from environmental engineers (media wage \$96,820/yr) and environmental scientists (\$47,670) that do not require advanced degrees. Additional green careers include occupations relating to energy efficiency, agriculture/forestry, environmental protection, construction, manufacturing, recycling and waste reduction, transportation, governmental and regulatory administration as well as renewable energy generation. Regardless of their career path, students in the clean energy major gain valuable 21st century skills such as critical thinking, problem solving, communication, collaboration, and perseverance that will prepare them for a successful future in any field.

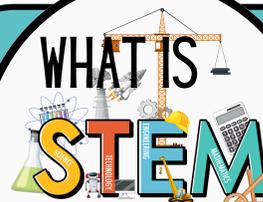
For more information and pictures, follow us on social media @enviro_stem! You can also contact the instructor, Ms. Annie Johnson, at ajohnson013@horrycountyschools.net with any questions.



In Environmental Engineering, we spend a lot of time outside!

Career Pathways Median Salary

Water Resource Engineer	\$118,441
Environmental Engineer	\$100,090
Geotechnical Engineer	\$93,097
Agricultural Engineer	\$88,750
Environmental Scientist	\$78,980
Energy Auditor	\$77,747
Wind Turbine Technician	\$61,770
Solar Panel Technician	\$57,650



STEM is a philosophy of education embracing teaching skills and subjects in a way that resembles real life. STEM is about discovering and creating ingenious ways of problem solving, integrating principles, or presenting information.

Sheep Brain Dissection



Students in Mr. Sodano's Anatomy and Physiology class dissected sheep brains! The brain dissection served as a hands-on demonstration of the students' understanding of major brain structures and their functions. Students used precise scalpel techniques to carefully separate tissues while keeping key anatomical features intact. They were required to expose each structure enough to place a dissecting pin for identification, even when the structure was not immediately obvious.

Book Senior IGP Meetings

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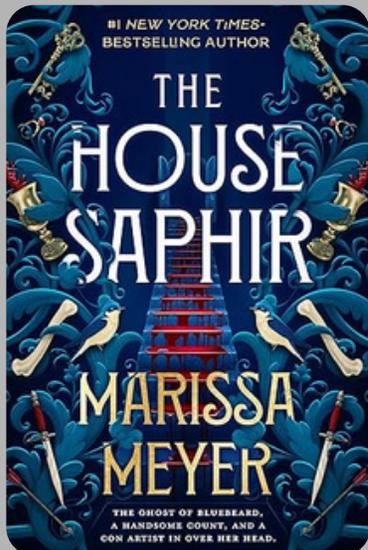
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NMBH



843-903-8460



New @ the AAST Library: *The House Saphir* by Marissa Meyer

Mallory Fontaine comes from a long line of witches—except she isn't one. Her only real ability is seeing ghosts, so she and her sister scrape by selling fake spells and running tours of the mansion where Count Bastien Saphir once murdered his wives.

When Bastien's wealthy descendant, Armand Saphir, hires Mallory to banish the ghost of "Monsieur Le Bleu," she jumps at the chance: great pay, a luxurious estate, and a perfect mark who believes she's the real deal. But once Mallory arrives, a new murder occurs, and she realizes the killer is almost certainly human. To earn her payment, she must keep up the illusion of magic, solve the crime, and deal with the very real ghosts haunting the estate.

What she doesn't expect is the hardest challenge of all—trusting her heart, especially when her biggest suspect might also be the person she's falling for.