

# AAST NEWSLETTER

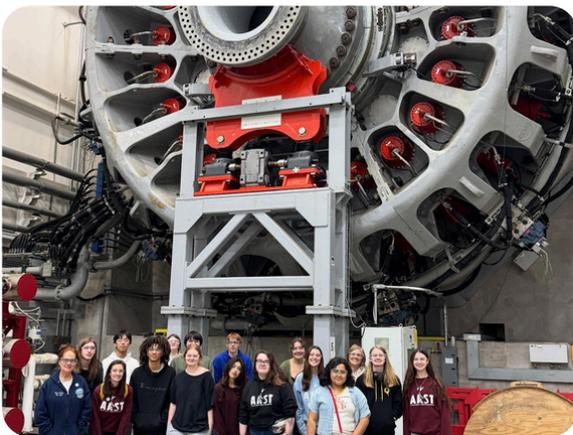
AAST.HORRYCOUNTYSCHOOLS.NET

## Environmental Engineering in Charleston



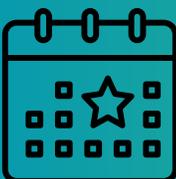
December 1 - December 5, 2025

Our Marine Science and Environmental Engineering students enjoyed an immersive learning experience at the South Carolina Aquarium, stepping into the role of Sea Turtle Biologists. During the visit, students conducted external measurements and observations, analyzed x-rays, and worked through simulated fecal samples and blood tests to determine the cause of their sea turtle patient's stranding. The aquarium provided an exceptional hands-on opportunity to apply scientific skills in a real-world setting.



Next, they explored Clemson University's Dominion Energy Innovation Center, a world-class facility where wind turbines from around the globe are tested and refined. During the visit, students learned how electrical engineers, mechanical engineers, machinists, and technicians at all education levels collaborate with power companies, universities, and government agencies to improve turbine performance. The center works to ensure that wind turbines operate efficiently across diverse weather conditions and electrical grid systems. It was an inspiring experience that highlighted the cutting-edge innovation driving the future of renewable energy.

### Upcoming Events



AAST OPEN HOUSE  
DECEMBER 9, 6-7PM

ASVAB  
DECEMBER 11

WINTER BREAK  
DECEMBER 22-JANUARY 2

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

Open House  
December 9,  
6pm to 7pm!

## George E. Schnibben, Jr. Mathematics Tournament

AAS T students recently competed in the George E. Schnibben, Jr. Mathematics Tournament at Francis Marion University, where they demonstrated strong problem-solving skills and mathematical reasoning. The event began with a challenging written test covering a wide range of advanced math topics. Our students performed exceptionally well, earning high enough scores to qualify for the highly competitive Jeopardy-style final round. Their teamwork and determination paid off with an impressive 2nd place finish among schools from across the region.



## CyberPatriot Competition



The AAS T Cyber Patriot Team earned an impressive 2nd place finish at the 2025 Palmetto Cyber Defense Competition, showcasing their exceptional problem-solving skills and cybersecurity expertise. Throughout the event, students worked together to secure computer systems, identify vulnerabilities, and defend networks against simulated cyberattacks—demonstrating both technical knowledge and strong teamwork under pressure.

Their outstanding performance has earned them a place in the 2026 Palmetto Cyber Defense Competition, which will be held at Trident Technical College. This next step will allow the team to compete against top programs from across the state and continue building their advanced cybersecurity skills.

## AP U.S. History Students Examine Primary Sources

AP U.S. History students engaged in a deep analysis of primary sources from the Reconstruction era as they explored the essential question: “How did the Freedmen’s Bureau define and provide for freedom and equality for African Americans?” Through examining original documents, students gained insight into the challenges of the post-Civil War period and the federal government’s efforts to support newly freed individuals. The activity encouraged critical thinking and a richer understanding of this pivotal moment in American history.



# Majors Spotlight

## Entertainment Technology

The **Entertainment Technology** major is designed for students who are interested in the study of television and video production, advertising, broadcast or print journalism, digital photography, film appreciation, and/or creative writing. Students will have the opportunity to work with state of the art TV and video production equipment. Students will learn multiple production techniques taught by an industry professional with a concentration on scriptwriting, lighting, audio, special effects, and editing. Former Entertainment Technology students are currently working on television shows such as *The Blacklist*, *90 Day Fiance*, *The Walking Dead*, and *Stranger Things*. Former students have also worked on major films such as *The Post*, *Hidden Figures*, *Trolls*, and many more.

As juniors, students will spend time researching, writing, learning how to use classroom equipment, acquiring industry related vocabulary, studying film history and digital photography, as well as learning how to take a video or TV project through the three phase of production (pre-production, production, and post-production).

In their senior year, students will focus heavily on television production, critiquing and mastering the skills they have learned to produce a required senior exhibition of mastery project centered around a topic of their choosing. They will also have the opportunity to complete an internship/job shadowing experience with a local entertainment or business establishment,. In addition, seniors will also have special projec tassignments to complete within the school, producing and taping performing arts projects, and local community video related projects.



**You can find the ET major and some of their recent productions on their YouTube channel @HCSAASST!**



Career Pathways	Median Salary
Audio and Video Tech	\$54,000
Broadcast Technician	\$54,200
Camera Operator	\$61,800
Script Editor	\$69,000
Film and Video Editor	\$68,000
Sound Engineering Tech	\$67,000
Producer and Director	\$82,500
Talent Director	\$31,700

# FOSTERING HOPE TOY DRIVE

THE NATIONAL ENGLISH HONOR SOCIETY  
IS HOSTING A TOY DRIVE TO SUPPORT FOSTERING HOPE



Wednesday, December 3<sup>rd</sup> - Wednesday, December 17<sup>th</sup>

Please bring new, unwrapped toy  
donations to Mrs. Hewitt's Room 604

#### DONATION IDEAS:

PUZZLES, PLAY-DOH SETS, TOY CARS OR TRUCKS, BABY DOLLS, COLORFUL BLOCKS,  
ACTION FIGURES, BARBIES AND FASHION DOLLS, LEGO SETS, ART SUPPLIES  
(MARKERS, CRAYONS, SKETCH PADS), CRAFT KITS, SMALL STEM KITS, SOCCER BALL,  
BASKETBALL, HOT WHEELS SETS, JOURNALS AND GEL PENS, BOARD GAMES OR  
CARD GAMES, MAKEUP PALETTES, FIDGETS, PUZZLE BOOKS (SUDOKU, WORD  
SEARCHES), GRAPHIC NOVELS OR POPULAR YA BOOKS, COLORING BOOKS,  
STUFFED ANIMALS, SLIME/DIY KITS, NERF TOYS

**YOUR GENEROSITY WILL HELP BRING JOY TO  
CHILDREN IN OUR COMMUNITY THIS HOLIDAY SEASON**

## Book Senior IGP Meetings

GOOD  
NOON

SCAN ME



CFH  
SJH  
SH

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L

SCAN ME



AH  
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GSH  
LH  
MBH  
NMBH



843-903-8460

**Bookmarks  
\$2**

**NATIONAL ENGLISH  
HONOR SOCIETY  
BOOKMARK & HOLIDAY ORNAMENT SALE  
DECEMBER 8 - DECEMBER 19  
DURING LUNCH**

**Ornaments  
\$3**

**NEHS**

As we prepare for our upcoming AAST Open Houses,  
we invite students and families to explore our major  
brochures online. Each brochure provides detailed  
information about the curriculum, opportunities, and  
career pathways for every program at AAST.

You can find all of the brochures conveniently [here](#)  
to help plan your visit and learn more about what  
each major has to offer.

**AAST**  
a stem school ~ realize the possibilities

## Student Book Review: Lightlark by Alex Aster

One must die for the rest to survive, but who will be the first to sacrifice?  
Lightlark by Alex Aster captivates readers from the first word to the last kill with  
its otherworldly story and unique plot twists. Every 100 years, the island of  
Lightlark appears and the deadly Centennial game is played. Every 100 years, the  
6 rulers of the realms gather together in a vain effort to save their lands from the  
terrible curse. Every 100 years, they all lose; but Isla Crown, the young temptress  
ruler of Wilding, vows that this year will be the last. The perservance of the main  
characters is inspiring to all and is one of the main reasons why I always come  
back to this story. Readers will find themselves enthralled with the secrecy, twists,  
and competition with a touch of romance that is the Lightlark saga.

**Lightlark is coming soon to the AAST Library!**

