

# AAST NEWSLETTER

AAST.HORRYCOUNTYSCHOOLS.NET

## AAST Winter Spirit Week



a stem school ~ realize the possibilities

December 15 - December 19, 2025

Thank you to AAST alumni Matthew and Michael Daniel, It's A Twin Thing Entertainment, for bringing the fun to the AAST cafeteria on Friday!

Students have worked hard this semester, and we wanted to reward them before sending them off for a wonderful holiday break! They had a great time celebrating during our AAST Winter Spirit week! Also, special thanks to our amazing Parent Involvement Committee for providing cookies to every student during lunch on Wednesday!



### Upcoming Events



WINTER BREAK  
DECEMBER 22-JANUARY 2

AAST OPEN HOUSE  
JANUARY 22, 6-7PM

US HISTORY EOC  
JANUARY 13

AAST OPEN HOUSE  
FEBRUARY 12, 6-7PM

BIOLOGY EOC  
JANUARY 14

2.5 HOUR EARLY  
DISMISSAL  
JANUARY 16



Open House  
January 22,  
6pm to 7pm!

# AAST Theatre Presents Silent Sky



AAST students performed a special encore presentation of *Silent Sky*, a story about astronomer Henrietta Leavitt's challenges and groundbreaking discovery. This student-produced and student-designed performance was previously recognized by the 2025 All-County Theatre Festival as having an overall superior rating and featuring Best Actress Arwen Laing, Best Projections Designer Rachael Hitt, best Original Music Composition by William Fernandez, and All-Star Cast with Maria Guardado-Gonzalez. Bravo students and Director Mindi Penn!!



## NEHS Fostering Hope Toy Drive

The National English Honor Society recently sponsored a toy drive in support of Fostering Hope. Through the generosity and kindness of AAST students and staff, 254 toys were collected to help brighten the holidays for children in need, truly making the season magical. We are deeply grateful for the continued generosity and support of the Koi community, whose spirit of service makes initiatives like this possible.



# BLOOD DRIVE

SAVE LIVES. EARN REWARDS. DONATE TODAY.  
TBC REWARDS - TBC REWARD POINTS AWARDED IN DONOR PORTAL. REDEEMABLE FOR EGIFT CARDS.

**Academy for the Arts Science & Technology High School**  
 895 International Drive  
 Myrtle Beach, SC 29579

01/09/2026  
 08:30 AM-01:30 PM

Sponsor Code 17AQ

**\$30 IN REWARDS\***  
\$500 grant for each drive collecting 30+ units



## Book Senior IGP Meetings

GORDON

SCAN ME

CFH  
 SJH  
 SH

## MARSHALL

SCAN ME

AH  
 CH  
 GSH  
 LH  
 MBH  
 NMBH

843-903-8460

HAPPY  
*Holidays*  
 from our Koi  
 family to yours!

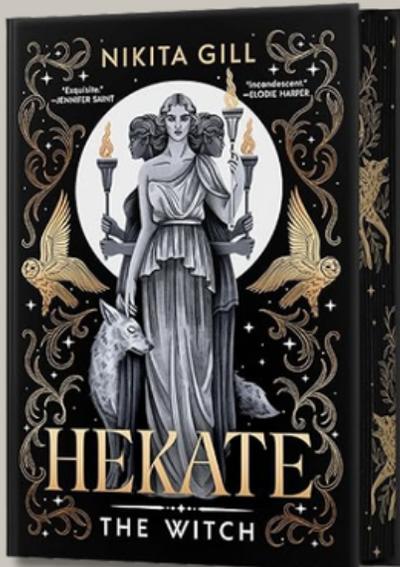
## AAST Senior in Rose Bowl New Years Day Parade

John Buie, an AAST senior we share with Socastee High School, has been selected to perform with the Bands of America Honor Band in the Rose Bowl Parade on January 1 in Pasadena, California. Over the past three years, John has shown remarkable dedication as a drummer with the Socastee Marching Band and Winter Percussion. Largely self-taught, he committed himself to constant improvement through discipline and hard work. John's drive and perseverance set him apart, and we are incredibly proud of this outstanding achievement.



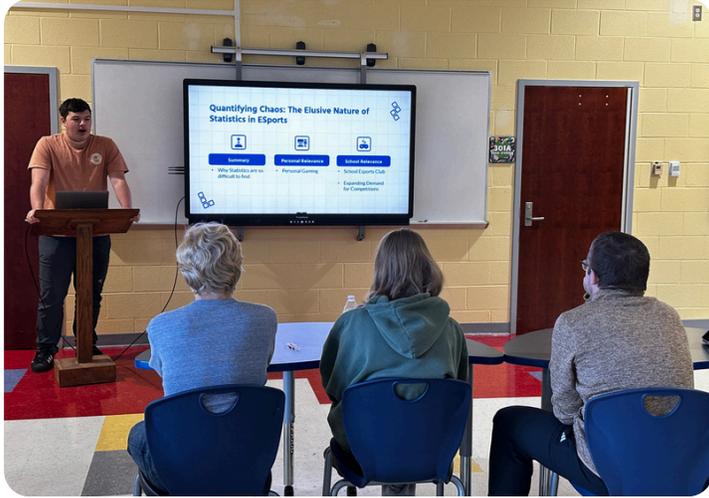
## New @ AAST Library: Hekate, The Witch by Nikita Gill

Hekate tells the story of a young Titaness born into a world consumed by war, as the Olympians rise and overthrow the ancient Titans. Abandoned by the men of her family and later separated from her parents when her father, Perses, is enslaved, Hekate is hidden in the underworld to protect her from the wrath of Zeus and Poseidon. Raised under the care of Styx and Hades, she must navigate grief, displacement, and survival in an unfamiliar realm. Nikita Gill's lyrical reimagining unfolds as a coming-of-age quest in which Hekate searches for her parents, heals from trauma, forges a new sense of belonging, and ultimately steps into her destiny as a powerful goddess.



## NEHS Fundraising

The National English Honor Society has spent several weeks creating handmade bookmarks and holiday ornaments. Funds raised are being reinvested into AAST through initiatives such as a donation to Academy Santa and a future purchase of LEGO bricks and boards for the AAST Media Center. Thank you for the continued support of the Koi community!



## Senior Mastery Practice

Ms. Caudill's Computer Science seniors began practicing their senior mastery presentations this week, marking an important milestone as they prepare to showcase the skills and knowledge they've developed throughout the year. During these practice sessions, students refined their presentations, received feedback, and worked on clearly communicating their projects and problem-solving processes. The experience helped build confidence while encouraging students to reflect on their growth and readiness to present their work to a broader audience.

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.



## Guest Speaker: Dr. Rai Farrelly

Dr. Rai Farrelly of the University of Colorado Boulder spoke with Teacher Cadets this week to help them understand the importance of our Multilingual Learner population and how to better serve them. Dr. Rai is a Senior Instructor and Director of TESOL (Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages) Programs in the Department of Linguistics and an English language instructor in the International English Center at the University of Colorado. She shared valuable insight about all that she has learned and experienced through traveling outside of the U.S. AAST Teacher Cadets received valuable tips about how to best teach ML students that they will have in their class one day.



# Major Spotlight

# Advanced Art

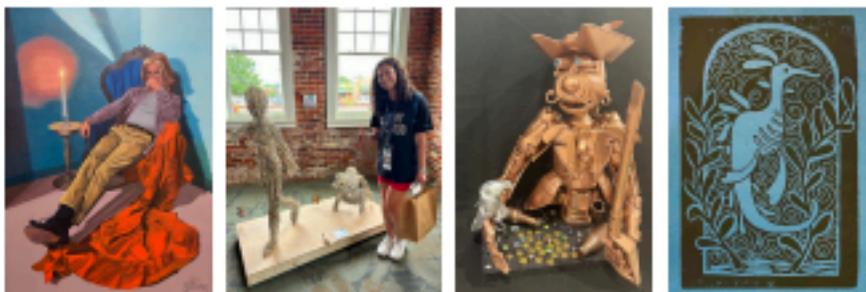
The **Advanced Art Major** is a two year program designed for juniors and seniors interested in studying art at an advanced level. While in this program, students will produce art in one of the largest and best art studios in the state. They will be introduced to varying artistic styles as well as relevant contemporary and historical artists. Students will learn to interpret, analyze, evaluate, and discuss their own work. They will develop the ability to adapt and apply skills while recognizing the important influence of the visual arts in our daily lives.



This major program provides students with the skills needed to work as art professionals or pursue a college degree in the visual arts. The program is designed to promote in students the skills necessary for producing visual art pieces that are creative, well crafted, convey content and meaning through compositional choices, and effectively use the elements and principles of art. Students will engage in all stages of the artistic process while conducting a sustained investigation into the topics, mediums, and techniques that interest them. They will create a professional-quality digital portfolio of their artwork and develop soft skills such as communication, organization, and presentation of self.



Over the course of their junior and senior year, students in the Advanced Art Major will discover and develop their own artistic strengths, which will allow them to create and develop their Senior Exhibition of Mastery - a collection of 24 original works of art, accompanied by relevant research and artist's statements, formally presented as the capstone of their senior year.



Students in this program of study are afforded many unique opportunities, including entry into local and regional art competitions, tours of the arts facilities of several colleges and universities, National Art Honor Society membership (for qualifying students), potential mentorships by professional artists and business professionals, and field experiences relating to the creation and exhibition of the visual arts.

## Career Pathways

Median Salary

Art Director	\$97,270
Craft Artist	\$35,180
Designer	\$63,750
Fashion Designer	\$75,810
Fine Artist (Painter, Sculptor, Illustrator)	\$52,340