

AAST NEWSLETTER

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AAST Base School Visits



January 26 - January 30, 2026



AAST's Student Ambassadors visited base schools this week to speak with current 10th-grade students as these sophomores consider their options for the junior and senior years of high school. During these visits, ambassadors talked about academics, majors, internships, projects, and the tight-knit culture that makes AAST feel less like school and more like a launchpad. Ambassadors gave prospective scholars a student-eye view of what sets AAST apart. They answered questions, busted myths, and showed future juniors that AAST is a place where motivated students can find their people, their purpose, and their path forward. And our Student Ambassadors proved they are some of the best advocates AAST has. If enthusiasm were a major, they'd all be graduating with honors.

Applications are now OPEN! You may apply on the Horry County Schools or AAST website. Application deadline is February 19, 2026.

Upcoming Events



AAST OPEN HOUSE
FEBRUARY 12, 6-7PM

ACT TEST
FEBRUARY 24

SENIOR TRIP
FEBRUARY 25-MARCH 1

HCS BATTLE OF THE
BOOKS COMPETITION
MARCH 5

HOSA STATE
CONFERENCE
MARCH 11-MARCH 13

Open House
February 12,
6pm to 7pm!

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.

a stem school ~ realize the possibilities



News from Environmental Engineering

Environmental Engineering seniors recently harvested broccoli and carrots while rebuilding our vegetable garden as part of Clemson Extension's School Garden Program. The hands-on project gave students practical experience while supporting sustainability and outdoor learning.



Also, spartina germination has begun! We will be growing *Spartina alterniflora* over the next few months to plant in the salt marsh as part of the SC Sea Grant Consortium's From Seeds to Shoreline project.

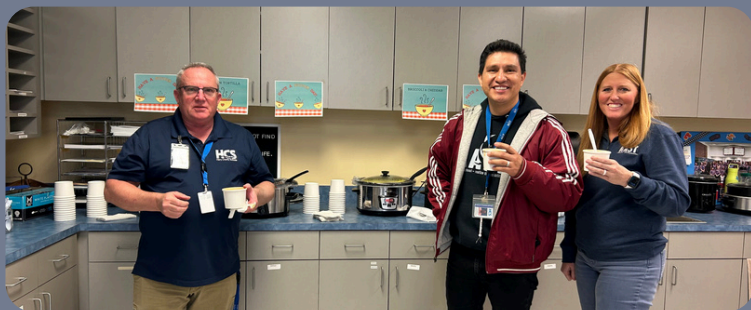
New @ the AAST Library: The Starseekers by Nicole Glover

Indiana Jones meets Hidden Figures in this stand-alone historical fantasy set during the magical space race of the 1960s. Brilliant arcane engineer Cynthia Rhodes works at NASA's Ainsworth Research Labs, balancing math, magic, and her role as host of a magical educational show. When a cursed museum incident and a deadly lab "accident" point to murder, Cynthia teams up with arcane archaeologist Theodore Danner to investigate. As the clues connect, they uncover a dangerous conspiracy involving enchantments, stolen artifacts, and a threat to the space program itself. The Starseekers is a fast-paced mystery where magic, science, and high-stakes adventure collide—this time reaching all the way to the stars.



NEHS Book Drive Results

The National English Honor Society proudly collected 450 books for the Junior League of the Grand Strand as part of its support of the Little Free Library program. Members donated new and gently used books ranging from picture books to 8th grade. These contributions will help children build home libraries and foster a love of reading and learning from an early age.

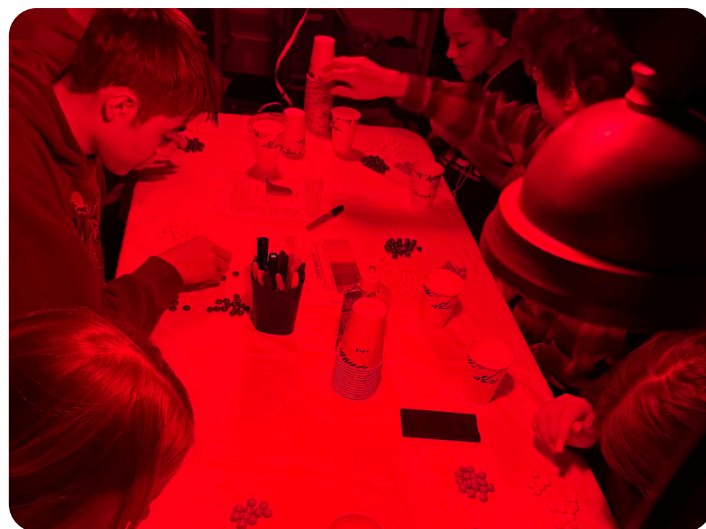
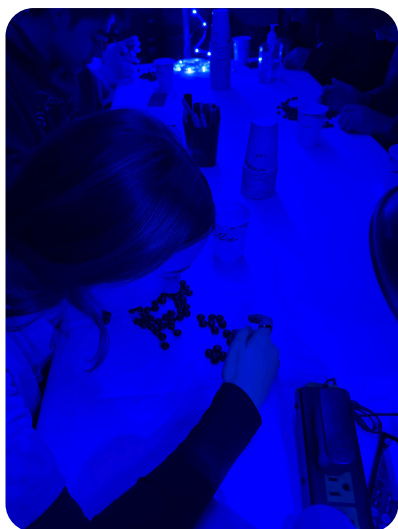


Souper Day at AAST

To kick off the chilly weekend, AAST students, faculty, and staff enjoyed a souper day filled with warm bowls and school spirit. The event brought everyone together to celebrate the season and share a little comfort on a cold day.



Technical Theatre Students Explore the Science of Light (and Skittles!)



Students in Ms. Penn's Technical Theatre classes recently completed a hands-on lab exploring light color theory using colored filters and everyday materials. Their task? Sort Skittles by color under different stage lighting conditions. Through this fun and surprisingly challenging activity, students made big connections between physics, perception, and performance—experiencing firsthand that technical theatre is STEM in action. As they worked, students could be heard exclaiming, "Whoa! My mind is blown!" and "What is happening to my eyes?" while discovering how dramatically lighting affects what we see. The lab blended science, technology, engineering, and creativity, building both technical skills and real-world problem-solving.

FMU STEM Day

AAST students from Biomed, AP Bio and Public Health visited Francis Marion University for Friday STEM Day, an interactive experience designed to explore college STEM majors through hands-on activities. Faculty and students from Astronomy, Biology, Chemistry, Computer Science, Engineering, Environmental Science, Mathematics, and Physics led engaging sessions that gave AAST students a firsthand look at STEM pathways and college-level learning.



Lyric Analysis Via Data Compression in Computer Science

AP Computer Science Principles students are analyzing song lyrics using selected literary devices to analyze how lossless compression (a form of data compression) reduces redundancy without sacrificing information in the process and allowing it to be perfectly reconstructed.

