

AAST NEWSLETTER

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AAST Rookie Teacher of the Year, Mr. Heath Jordan



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February 2 - February 6, 2026

Congratulations!



Heath Jordan has been named AAST's Rookie Teacher of the Year. In his first two years in the teaching profession, Mr. Jordan has brought real-world business and logistics experience into the classroom, creating meaningful, high-impact learning experiences for students. His creativity, professionalism, and commitment to preparing students for success beyond high school have made a lasting impact on both his students and the AAST community.

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 - 13

ROBOTICS @ LOWER
RICHLAND
MARCH 12-14

TSA STATE
CONFERENCE
MARCH 20-21

ROBOTICS
@HARTSVILLE
MARCH 26 - 28

AAST TALENT
SHOW
MARCH 31, 6:00

**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.

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Research and Databases Instruction

Mr. Easler worked with pre-medicine seniors to help them locate credible resources for their upcoming PICO papers. Students used HCS SmartSearch to conduct focused research and NoodleTools to create organized annotated bibliographies, strengthening both their research and citation skills.



Drone Technology and Aviation Course



The newly offered Drone Technologies course introduces students to the rapidly growing drone industry and the careers and skills associated with it. Students learn the fundamentals of becoming a commercial drone pilot, including aeronautical regulations, airspace rules, aviation weather, flight procedures, radio communications, airport operations, and maintenance inspections. Recently, students completed the first step toward earning the FAA Part 107 commercial pilot license by successfully passing the TRUST exam and obtaining their recreational drone licenses.

Black History Month Door Decoration Winners



Congratulations to our February Advisory Door Decoration Challenge Winners!

1st - Cyganiewicz

2nd - Ceron

3rd - Burgess

Honorable Mention - Davenport

Honorable Mention - Poston

This week is School Counselors Week, and we want to take a moment to recognize and celebrate our incredible counselors: Lacey Gordon, Amber Marshall, and LaVonda Knox.

Our counselors manage so many responsibilities in our building. They support our students' mental health, work to keep students and parents happy with schedules, navigate social issues, partner with families, address students' social and emotional needs, plan for standardized testing; the list goes on and on. Much of their work goes unseen, but they are truly superstars!

School Counselors Week



thank you

Senior Student of the Month: Rachael Hitt

Rachael exemplifies the best of AAST through her leadership, service, and academic excellence. As captain of the Robotics Team, she coordinated more than ten community outreach events this fall, promoting robotics and STEM education while expanding the team's impact in the community. Rachael is also an accomplished theatre technician for AAST and CFHS, earning local and state recognition for her work as a designer and technician. Balancing these leadership roles with strong academic performance, she leads with professionalism, integrity, and quiet confidence, making her a well-deserved Student of the Month.



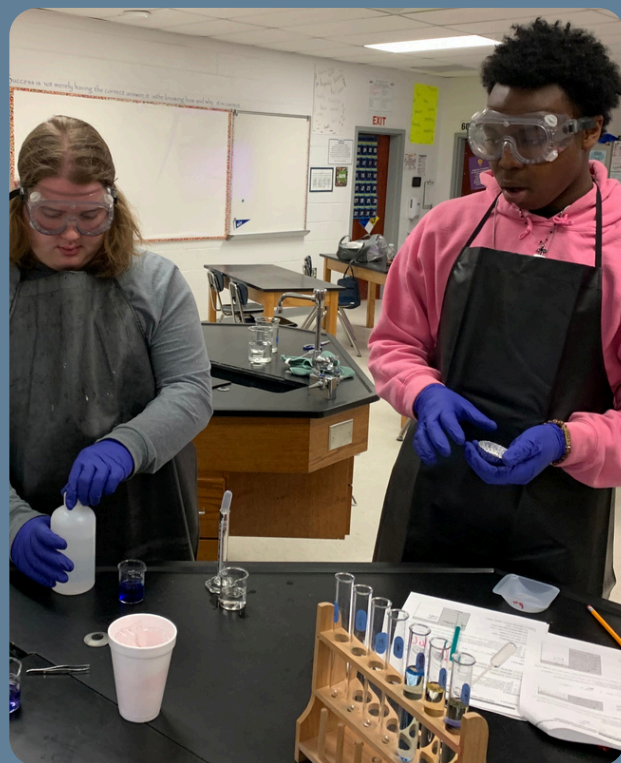
Junior Student of the Month: Armani Cunningham

Armani Cunningham is a standout junior who exemplifies excellence, leadership, and career readiness. He has earned multiple industry-recognized certifications, including Adobe Photoshop, Animate, and Premiere, as well as YouScience Digital Media certifications, demonstrating a strong commitment to his craft. In the classroom, Armani consistently goes above and beyond, approaching projects with enthusiasm, creativity, and a drive to exceed expectations. As a Student Ambassador for the Digital Art and Design major, he represents AAST with professionalism and positivity, welcoming visitors and showcasing the program with pride. Armani's technical skill, work ethic, and character make him a well-deserving Junior Student of the Month.



Chemical Equilibrium

AP Chemistry students explored chemical equilibrium in the lab. With just 87 days until their exam, students created equilibrium systems and applied various stresses—changing temperature, concentration, and pressure, and even generating gases—to observe how the reactions shifted. The result was a vibrant display of colors that reinforced key concepts while giving students hands-on practice with exam-level chemistry skills.



FEBRUARY 9-13

SPIRIT WEEK THEMES

MONDAY

Pink
vs.
Red



TUESDAY

Iconic
Duos



WEDNESDAY

Decades
Day



THURSDAY

Bring
Your
Stuffed
Animal



FRIDAY

Dress to
Impress



SHOUT OUT to AAST's

32 PERFECT ATTENDANCE STUDENTS:

Semester 1, 2025-2026

Your accomplishment is inspiring!

CONGRATULATIONS!

- ALLSBROOK, Chloe
- BARNES, Joshua
- BYSTROM, JamiLynn
- CAMPBELL, Brody
- CHAN DIAZ, Josue
- CHERRY, Blair
- COGGINS, Callahan
- COURTNEY, Taylor
- CUNNINGHAM, Armani
- DRIDI, Eya
- ESCAMIS, Janna
- FROST, Zachary
- FULLER, James
- GARCIA FIERROS, Adriana
- HARE, Lily
- HOLAN, Niina

- KIM, Alin
- KOULLIAS, Costa
- KWIATKOWSKI, Natalie
- LOPEZ GONZALEZ, Alyson
- LUONG, Audrey
- MOURACHIAN, Ryan
- PATEL, Janki
- RAZZAK, Hamza
- RUIZ, Kathleen
- SIMEONOV, Georgi
- STEFANSKI, Jordan
- TORRES, Miguel
- UPCHURCH, Grayson
- WILLIAMSON, Cole

