

AAST NEWSLETTER

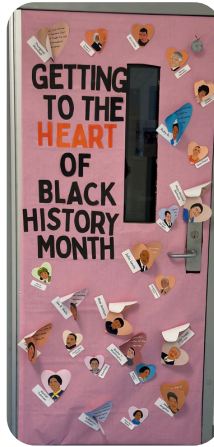
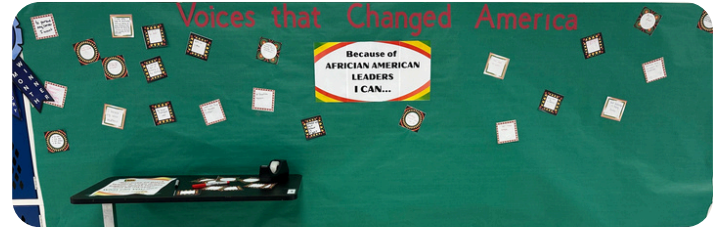
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Black History Month



a stem school ~ realize the possibilities

February 16 - February 20, 2026



AAST celebrates Black History Month throughout February by spotlighting a notable African American person during daily announcements, creating Advisory lessons highlighting African American contributions, and featuring student-made posters around the school and on the TVs (examples above).

The media center has a large display of African American literature. We also welcomed guest speaker Chris Singleton (you can read more about his visit in last weeks newsletter).

We celebrate our diversity and honor everyone's contributions to our community, state, and nation.



Upcoming Events



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

ROBOTICS @ LOWER RICHLAND
MARCH 12 - 14

TSA STATE CONFERENCE
MARCH 20-21

ROBOTICS @ HARTSVILLE
MARCH 26 - 28

AAST TALENT SHOW
MARCH 31, 6:00

SPRING BREAK
APRIL 3 - APRIL 10

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

National Merit Scholarship Finalist



Congratulations to Vivian Xiao for advancing to Finalist standing in the National Merit Scholarship Program! This outstanding achievement reflects Vivian's exceptional academic dedication, hard work, and commitment to excellence. We are incredibly proud of this accomplishment and look forward to seeing all that Vivian will achieve in the future.



No matter where you are...
just **keep reading.**

Guest Speaker: Morgan Wing, MUSC College of Pharmacy



AAST was excited to welcome Morgan Wing, Student Recruitment Coordinator from the Medical University of South Carolina (MUSC) College of Pharmacy, to speak with our students. Ms. Wing shared valuable information about academic pathways into pharmacy, admission requirements, and the wide range of career opportunities available within the profession, including clinical practice, research, and community pharmacy.

STEAM Night at Burgess Elementary



Members of the National English Honor Society and the Science National Honor Society showcased their STEAM skills at the STEAM Night at Burgess Elementary School. AAST students are helping current elementary students "Realize the Possibilities!"

AP Psychology Sensation Fair



Ms. Weaver's AP Psychology class participated in the Sensation Fair this week. Their current unit is focused on the theories of sensation and perception and how each of our seven senses works. The Sensation Fair has different stations to test six of those senses. A few examples include: To demonstrate kinesthetic sense, students tested how well they could accurately touch the tip of their nose with their finger while their eyes were closed. The vestibular sense focuses on balance, so students spun around baseball bats several times and tried to balance on one foot. For touch, students had Q-tips and toothpicks pressed along their arms to see if they could accurately tell the difference between the sharp and soft stimuli. This continued into a second round, where students tested their taste, smell, and vision. Overall, it was a great time with many laughs as students got into hilarious situations when their senses failed.

Clean Energy Highlights

Environmental Engineering Seniors Test Pyrolysis Stoves

This week, Environmental Engineering seniors are putting their pyrolysis stoves to the test. Pyrolysis involves heating organic materials such as wood, plastic, or biomass to high temperatures in the absence of oxygen, causing them to decompose into bio-oil (liquid), biochar (solid), and syngas (combustible gases) without combustion. The aim is to generate heat without releasing carbon dioxide. The biochar produced can enhance soil fertility.



Environmental Engineering Juniors Test Wind Turbine Blades

This week, Environmental Engineering juniors are actively testing their wind turbine blades. They are using multimeters to measure voltage and an oscilloscope to calculate the tip speed ratio, assessing efficiency. Next, they will challenge their turbines to lift weights and pump water.



This week, the Science National Honor Society planted flowers and vegetables in the greenhouse. They are planning a plant sale this spring!



Go Team Aluminum Assault!

AAST's robotics team, Aluminum Assault, is gearing up for competition season! Their first competition in Lower Richland is March 12-14. This year, they have ramped up their outreach efforts by attending multiple STEM nights and elementary events and spreading their love of robotics to future engineers!



HOSA SLC in Charleston

AAST's HOSA team will travel to North Charleston to compete in the State Leadership Conference (SLC), where students will showcase their knowledge and skills in a variety of healthcare-related events. HOSA-Future Health Professionals provides opportunities for students interested in medical careers to develop leadership, teamwork, and professional skills through competitive events and hands-on experiences.

We are proud of our students for their hard work and dedication as they represent our school, and we wish them the best of luck as they compete against top students from across the state.

Upcoming TSA Competition

From March 20-22, AAST students who are members of TSA will attend the South Carolina State Conference in Charleston, SC.

The Technology Student Association (TSA) is a national organization for students interested in STEM, preparing members to become innovative thinkers, problem solvers, and leaders in a technological society. Through competitions, leadership roles, and chapter activities, students build skills in communication, teamwork, and creative design.

