

AAST NEWSLETTER

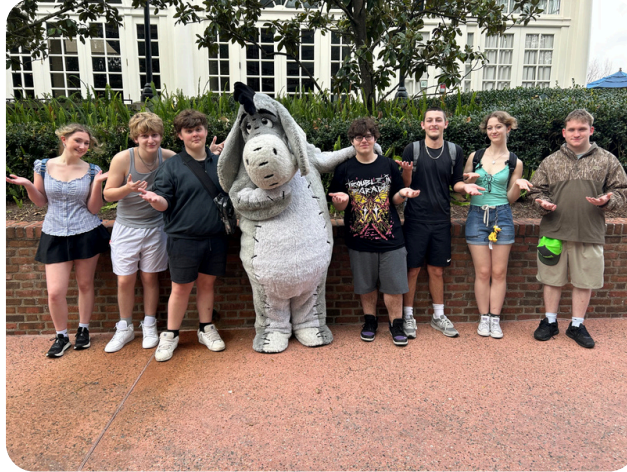
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AAST Seniors in Orlando



a stem school ~ realize the possibilities

February 23 - February 27, 2026



117 AAST seniors (and six brave chaperones) will return on Sunday from Walt Disney World and Universal Studios in Orlando from their senior trip! The students and their chaperones are having a wonderful and safe trip!

Upcoming Events



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

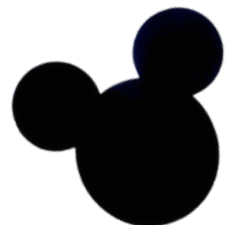
3RD QUARTER END
MARCH 24

ROBOTICS @ HARTSVILLE
MARCH 26 - 28

AAST TALENT SHOW
MARCH 31, 6:00

SPRING BREAK
APRIL 3 - APRIL 10

NATIONAL LIBRARY WEEK
APRIL 19 - APRIL 25



HTC REEL Kid, Kynsli Newman



Congratulations to Kynsli Newman for being recognized as an HTC REEL Kid! This honor highlights students who demonstrate outstanding character, leadership, and commitment to their school and community. We are proud of Kynsli for representing our school so well and making a positive impact both in and out of the classroom.

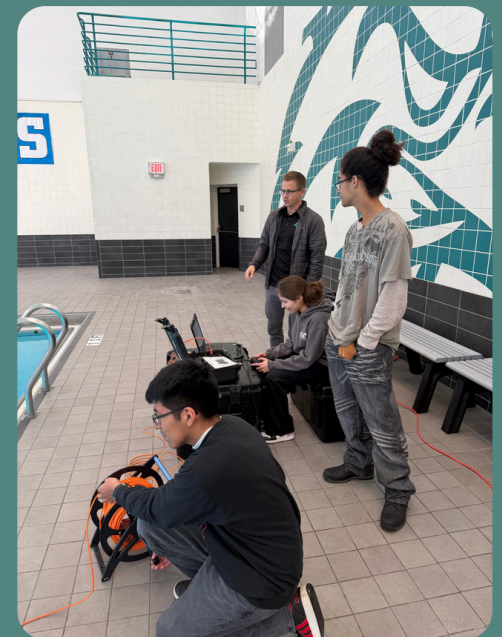
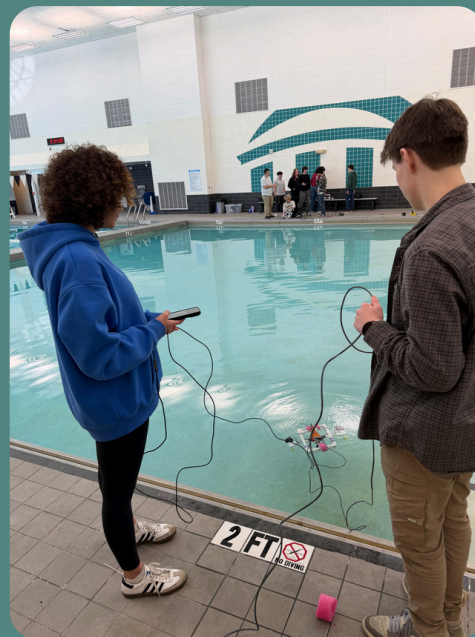
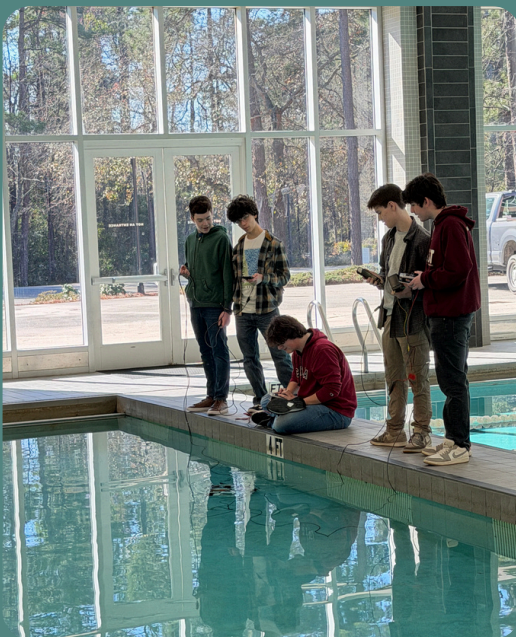


STEM Educator of the Year Finalist, Ms. Tiffany Sellers



Congratulations to Tiffany Sellers for being selected as a regional finalist for the South Carolina STEM Educator of the Year Award! On March 25, she will attend STEM Day at the Capitol in Columbia, SC, where the statewide winner will be announced. We are incredibly proud of her dedication to inspiring students and advancing STEM education.

ROV Testing at CCU



Learning in action! Our Aerospace Engineering seniors traveled to Coastal Carolina University to test their remotely operated vehicles (ROVs), evaluating stability, maneuverability, and buoyancy in a real-world setting. Professor Cobi Christiansen also demonstrated the university's ROV, giving students the opportunity to operate the device and learn about its advanced features. Thank you to CCU for hosting this valuable hands-on experience that brought classroom learning to life.

Blood Droplet Analysis in Forensics



So much blood! Mrs. Rielly's forensics classes are busy studying the effects of height, volume and angle of impact on blood droplets. Students worked together to look at the size, spacing, and shape of the droplets when these parameters changed.

Flame Testing in Chemistry



Chemistry students recently brought the periodic table to life during our exciting Flame Test Lab! After studying electron configuration, energy levels, and the electromagnetic spectrum, students explored how electrons absorb and release energy in visible and measurable ways.

Students conducted flame tests using various metal ions. As compounds were heated, the classroom filled with brilliant bursts of color – vibrant crimsons, bright yellows, soft lilacs, and glowing greens. Students used their observations to identify unknown samples, applying their understanding of excited electrons returning to ground state and releasing specific wavelengths of light.



Talent Show Auditions



Talent show auditions were held this week, and we are excited about the incredible talent our students showcased. Thank you to everyone who auditioned and shared their skills!

Mark your calendars: the Talent Show will take place on March 31 at 6:00 PM. We look forward to a fantastic evening celebrating the amazing talents of our students.



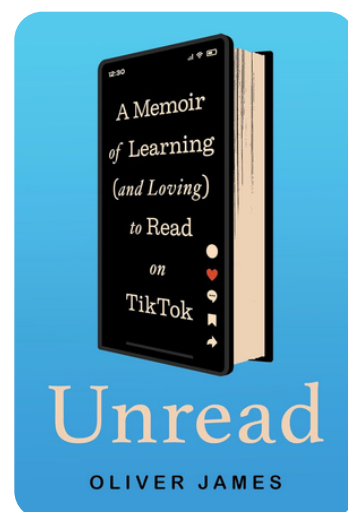
Battle of the Books Competition

Our Battle of the Books team has been hard at work preparing for the upcoming competition. Throughout the year, students have read 12 selected titles and have been sharpening their knowledge in anticipation of the big event. They will compete on March 5 at Early College High School against teams from high schools across the district, putting their reading comprehension, teamwork, and recall skills to the test. We are proud of their dedication and wish them the best of luck! 📖

New @ the AAST Library: *Unread* by Oliver James

In *Unread*, Oliver James shares his powerful journey from functional illiteracy to becoming a passionate reader as an adult. After struggling with learning disabilities and educational neglect, he committed at age 32 to teaching himself to read — a decision he candidly documented online, inspiring thousands.

In just one year, Oliver progressed from reading simple menus to finishing dozens of books, proving that it's never too late to learn and grow. His story is a moving reminder of the life-changing power of literacy, perseverance, and the written word. 📖



Go Team Aluminum Assault!

AAS'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

AAS'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, AAS students who are members of TSA will attend the South Carolina State Conference in Charleston, SC.



Science Olympiad



We wish our Science Olympiad team the best of luck as they travel to Clinton, SC this weekend to compete in their regional competition. We are proud of their hard work, dedication, and passion for science!