

AAST NEWSLETTER

AAST.HORRYCOUNTYSCHOOLS.NET

HOSA State Leadership Conference



March 9 - March 13, 2026



49 AAST students competed in the 2026 HOSA Leadership Conference in North Charleston, SC. Students engaged in competitive medical events, educational symposia, and fellowship with other HOSA chapters from across the state.

Competition Results

Dental Terminology: Natalie Kwitkowski, Top 5

Human Growth and Development: Morgan Shuler, Top 5

Respiratory Therapy: Cadence Kenion, Top 5

Medical Terminology: Jamileth Yoshizaki Acosta, Top 5

Forensic Science: Kati Chalecki & Vivian Xiao, Top 5

Occupational Therapy: Claire Livingston, Top 5

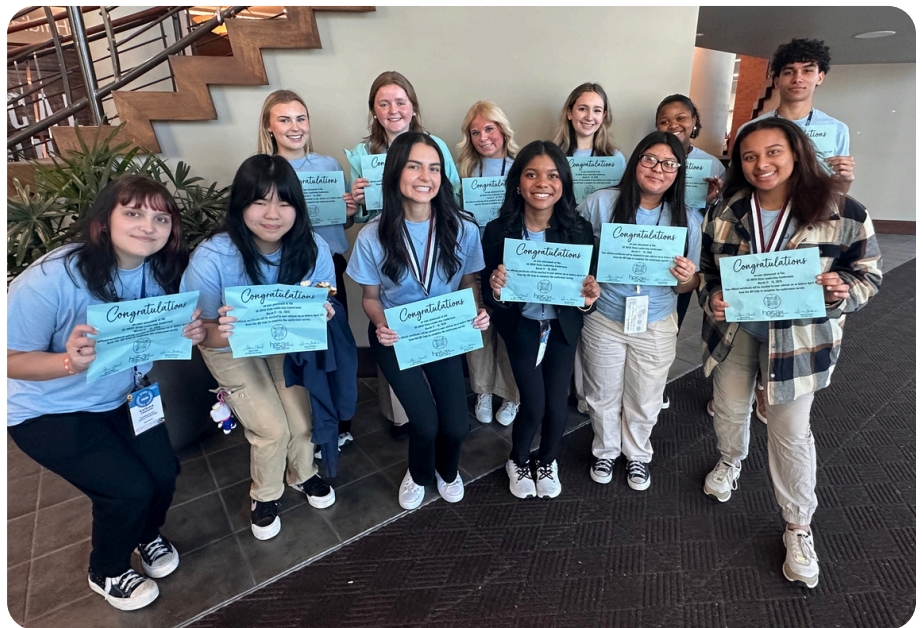
Career Health Display: Celine Burger & Emma Ferry, Top 5

Phlebotomy: Hamza Razzak, Top 5

Pharmacology: Anna Negrón, 2nd Place

World Health & Disparities: Tashawna Campbell, 1st Place

Outstanding HOSA Member: Arianna Negrón



Upcoming Events



BLOOD DRIVE
MARCH 20

TSA STATE CONFERENCE
MARCH 20-21

3RD QUARTER END
MARCH 24

ROBOTICS
@HARTSVILLE
MARCH 26 - 28

AAST TALENT SHOW
MARCH 31, 6:00

TEDDY BEAR CLINIC AND SIDEWALK CHALK
APRIL 2

SPRING BREAK
APRIL 3 - APRIL 10

NATIONAL LIBRARY WEEK
APRIL 19 - APRIL 25

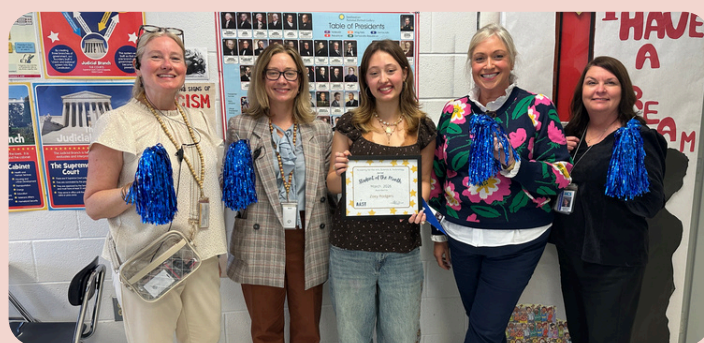
AAST Spring Art Show
AAST Community Room
March 19th from 3-6pm.

AAST Students of the Month



Congratulations to Ruby Nadler for being named Senior Student of the Month! Ruby excels academically and artistically, demonstrating leadership and a commitment to service. As a student in Advanced Art and AP Art and Design, her artwork has been recognized in various competitive exhibitions. She serves as a Student Ambassador, participates in community service, and is a dedicated musician with eight years of cello study, contributing to the CC1st Symphony Orchestra Project. Ruby maintains a high GPA, is an AP Scholar with Distinction, and is part of both the National Honor Society and National Art Honor Society. Her creativity and support for peers embody AAST's "Koi Pride" and enhance the school culture.

Congratulations to Zoey Rodgers, our Junior Student of the Month! A junior in Environmental Engineering, Zoey exemplifies positivity, dedication, and enthusiasm. She actively engages at school events, inspires her peers, and shows a strong commitment to environmental protection. We are proud of her leadership and kindness. Congratulations, Zoey!



HCS REALTORS Certification Program Visit



AAST welcomed the Horry County Schools REALTORS® Certification Program to campus today! Visitors enjoyed student-led tours and a panel discussion featuring representatives from each major, who shared their experiences and answered questions about our programs.





SCEA Art Contest

Congratulations to Vincent Del Gardo, who won 1st Place in the Read Across South Carolina Art Contest for the 2025-2026 school year in the Digital Art and Design with Animation major. The contest celebrates literacy and creativity among K-12 students, inviting them to create art based on the theme "From the Mountain to the Sea, Read with Me." Vincent's winning poster creatively illustrated the theme and the importance of literacy in South Carolina. Organized by the South Carolina Education Association, the contest recognizes student artists and promotes art and reading in schools. Join us in congratulating Vincent on his achievement!

Diabetic Care Practice



Mrs. Zanelli's Clinical Studies students engaged in hands-on training for diabetic care, focusing on finger stick blood glucose monitoring and IV therapy placement. They developed critical skills such as safe blood sampling, glucometer use, sterile IV technique, and catheter placement. These experiences are vital for building precision, confidence, and professional judgment, preparing students for careers in nursing, phlebotomy, and healthcare. Supervised practice ensures graduates are ready to deliver safe, quality care.

McLeod Guest Speakers

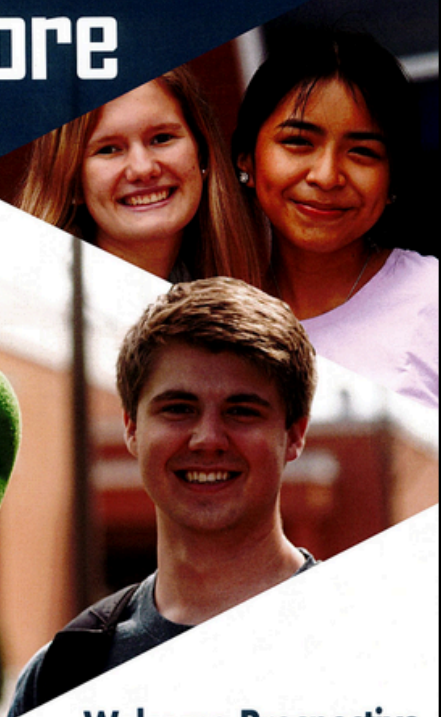


Representatives from McLeod Health — Patricia Heady, Anna D'Addario, and Abigail Hopper — recently visited to speak with our pre-med students about careers in healthcare. They shared valuable insight into a variety of medical career paths as well as the opportunities and programs available through McLeod.

Students learned about different roles within the healthcare field and gained a better understanding of the skills, education, and experiences needed to pursue careers in medicine. We appreciate our guests for taking the time to inspire and inform the next generation of healthcare professionals.

There's More

For High School Students At HGTC!



Welcome Prospective Dual Enrollment Students & Parents!

Eligible rising Juniors and Seniors earn both High School and College credits. Contact your counselor to discuss requirements and course selections. Please join us for the next PACE Dual Enrollment Informational Meeting.

LOCATION:

AAST

DATE:

March 19, 2026

TIME:

6 pm

**More Credits.
More Success.
More Savings.
More Flexibility.**

Get a Head Start on College! Dual enrollment is a smart investment, saving time AND money! Earn transfer credits to reduce the course load during college, and to reduce overall college costs. **Parents are welcome and are strongly encouraged to attend.** Learn more about PACE Dual Enrollment at hgtc.edu/PACE and view the Dual Enrollment Handbook for more details.



hgtc.edu



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

Don't forget to log the pages you've read in Beanstack! Recording your reading helps our school track progress toward our reading goals and supports our district's literacy initiatives.

Every page counts, so be sure to keep your reading log up to date. Your participation helps celebrate the amazing reading happening across our school and may even earn you recognition and incentives along the way! #RisewithReading

New @ the AAST Library: Strange Pictures by Uketsu

A pregnant woman's sketches on a seemingly innocuous blog conceal a chilling warning.

A child's picture of his home contains a dark secret message.

A sketch made by a murder victim in his final moments leads an amateur sleuth down a rabbit hole that will reveal a horrifying reality.

Structured around these nine childlike drawings, each holding a disturbing clue, Uketsu invites readers to piece together the interconnected mysteries behind each and the over-arching backstory that connects them all. *Strange Pictures* is the internationally bestselling debut from mystery horror YouTube sensation Uketsu—an enigmatic masked figure who has become one of Japan's most talked about contemporary authors.

STRANGE PICTURES



THE JAPANESE MYSTERY-HORROR SENSATION

TRANSLATED BY JIM RION

UKETSU

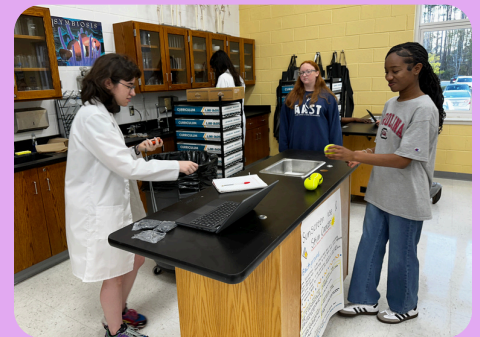


AAST at the Myrtle Beach Marathon

On Saturday, March 7, 2026, 18 AAST students volunteered at the annual Myrtle Beach Marathon. They oversaw the Mile 10 water station. They set up the station and prepared water and Gatorade at 6 am. When the race started, they passed them out to runners of the half and full marathon. They also offered support and hyped up everyone who came by. Race officials and law enforcement commented on how hard they were working and how much fun they were having. They were definitely impressed. What an example of #koipride!



Biomedical Research Design



Biomedical students are currently designing, conducting, and analyzing their own experimental studies. Using data acquisition software along with sensors, monitors, and probes, students are investigating questions related to one or more human body systems that interest them.

To support their research, Mrs. Rielly's Anatomy students and Mr. Sellers' GIS classes are serving as test subjects. This hands-on project allows students to experience the full scientific process while exploring real-world applications in biomedical science.

Upcoming TSA Competition

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



Pi Day

Happy Pi Day! Students were able to enjoy moon pies at lunch to celebrate pi!



Aluminum Assault in Lower Richland



AAST's Robotics Team 1287, Aluminum Assault, is competing this weekend at the FIRST Robotics Competition event hosted in Lower Richland, South Carolina. The team has been working hard throughout the season designing, building, and programming their robot in preparation for this competition. Check back in next week's newsletter for updates and results from the event.

Beta Club is sponsoring a voter registration drive at AAST during both lunches on Wednesday, March 18. The League of Women Voters will be in the rotunda to register eligible students. Students must be 18 by the next general election, November 3 and know the last 4 digits of their social security number.

The annual Beta Club Talent Show to benefit Make-A-Wish is Tuesday, March 31 at 6:00 PM. Tickets will be available for purchase through MyPaymentsPlus beginning Monday, March 16 through Tuesday, March 31. Guests may also purchase tickets at door, the night of the show using cash or by purchasing through MyPaymentsPlus. Tickets are \$5.00 each, all proceeds to benefit Make-A-Wish.

Cadence Kenion - DAR Good Citizens Award

Congratulations to Cadence Kenion for being recognized as AAST's DAR Good Citizen by the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution. This honor recognizes students who demonstrate outstanding leadership, integrity, service, and citizenship.

Cadence has been an active leader at AAST, serving in Student Council, participating in numerous school activities, and earning recognition at the HOSA state competition in Respiratory Therapy. After graduation, she plans to attend a four-year university to study Biology and pursue medical school, with the goal of becoming a Pediatric Pulmonologist. We are proud of Cadence and this well-deserved recognition of her achievements and character.

