

AAST NEWSLETTER

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SC State Superintendent Ellen Weaver Visits AAST



April 13 - April 17, 2026



South Carolina State Superintendent of Education Ellen Weaver recently visited AAST as part of a tour of Horry County Schools, where she met with students and observed the school's specialized, career-focused programs. During her visit, students showcased hands-on learning experiences in areas such as environmental science and healthcare.

Superintendent Weaver praised AAST students for being articulate and well prepared for their futures, highlighting the importance of providing innovative educational opportunities that prepare students for success. We were proud to welcome her to campus and share the outstanding work happening at AAST every day.

Upcoming Events



**NATIONAL LIBRARY
WEEK**
APRIL 19 - APRIL 25

SPRING GALA
APRIL 24, 8:00PM
HOUSE OF BLUES

PCT EXAM
APRIL 28

SENIOR EXAMS
MAY 18-19

**SENIOR DAY AND
SENIOR AWARDS**
MAY 21, 6:00 PM

JUNIOR AWARDS
MAY 22

GAME OF LIFE
MAY 22

MEMORIAL DAY
MAY 25
SCHOOLS CLOSED

SENIOR CEREMONY
MAY 28, 7:00PM
MYRTLE BEACH HIGH
SCHOOL



Support Staff of the Year Banquet



Ms. Perry and Ms. Wilson recently attended the Support Staff of the Year 2027 Banquet, where Ms. Perry was recognized for her outstanding contributions to our school community.

Ms. Perry is truly amazing and an

invaluable asset to AAST. Her kindness, dedication, and daily support make a lasting impact on both students and staff. We are proud to celebrate her and grateful for all she does to make our school a better place every day.

AAST @ ArtFields



CyberPatriot Team Places Third



Congratulations to our CyberPatriot team for earning 3rd place at the statewide Palmetto Cyber Defense Competition (PCDC), held April 11-12! Competing against teams from across South Carolina, students showcased impressive cybersecurity skills in system hardening, threat detection, and incident response.

Team members Mason Keating, Benjamin Wynn, Alex Tsilionis, Heath Richardson, Layla Jean Louis, and Chris Reyes Cortez represented AAST with excellence under the leadership of Mr. Kevin Rose. Their teamwork, professionalism, and problem-solving skills made us proud. Congratulations to Mr. Rose and the entire team on this outstanding accomplishment!

Advanced Art students recently visited the ArtFields exhibition in Lake City, SC to view their artwork on display and experience the many professional works featured throughout the city.

This inspiring trip gave students the opportunity to see their creativity showcased in a prestigious setting while exploring a wide variety of artistic styles and mediums. We are proud of our students for representing AAST through their talent and hard work!

Aluminum Assault Headed to Worlds!



Our Aluminum Assault team has qualified for the FIRST Robotics Competition (FRC) World Championship—what an incredible season! The team will travel to Houston, TX at the end of the month to compete on the world stage, and we couldn't be more proud of their achievement. Please join us in congratulating the team when you see them. A special shout-out to Coach Matt Vanasse—be sure to give him a big high five for his leadership and dedication!

We also extend our sincere thanks to sponsors Mindi Penn and Zac Cruse for their continued support and the many hours of planning, supervision, and behind-the-scenes work that help make this team's success possible.

Battle of the Books at the Movies

Our second place Battle of the Books team celebrated a successful season with a special outing over spring break to see the film adaptation of Project Hail Mary, one of this year's competition selections. Students were joined by teachers Mr. Easler, Mr. Gibson, Ms. Weaver, and Ms. Perry for this well-earned experience.

It was the perfect way to wrap up a stellar season, allowing students to see the story come to life on screen after engaging with it through reading and competition.



Environmental Engineering Pollinator Garden



A huge thank you to Maeve Snyder of SnailSeed Native Plants and Dr. Jim Luken for their support and expertise in helping our Environmental Engineering students design and expand our pollinator garden with additional native plants. Their guidance is helping us create a healthier, more sustainable habitat for local pollinators and a more vibrant outdoor space for our community.

AAST Student of the Month

Senior Student of the Month: Kati Chalecki



Congratulations to Kati Chalecki for being named AAST's Senior Student of the Month! Kati is an outstanding student who consistently demonstrates leadership, responsibility, and a strong commitment to our school community.

As a student in the Biomedical Science program, Kati is known for her focus, initiative, and exceptional work ethic.

She approaches every task with maturity and determination, consistently producing high-quality work and serving as someone teachers can always depend on.

Beyond the classroom, Kati is actively involved in numerous extracurricular activities. She helps lead the TeenMaptivist

humanitarian mapping club, competes in HOSA, represents AAST in Battle of the Books, and participates in competitive dance. She is also a trusted ambassador for our school, often guiding visitors through the building with confidence and professionalism.

Kati's dedication, leadership, and positive attitude make her truly deserving of this recognition. We are proud to celebrate her as our Senior Student of the Month!

Junior Student of the Month: James Fuller

Congratulations to James Fuller for being named AAST's Junior Student of the Month! James, a student in the Computer Science program, is recognized for his kindness, strong character, and positive attitude.

While he may not always seek the spotlight, James consistently makes great choices and leads by example. He is respectful, courteous, and brings a positive energy to those around him. In the classroom, he actively participates in discussions and often shares thoughtful perspectives that add value to the learning environment.

James is also known for his willingness to help others and jump in wherever needed. Whether assisting with Tree Huggers activities or working with classmates, he takes initiative, works hard, and approaches every task with a great attitude.

Academically motivated and dedicated to doing his best, James is a wonderful representative of AAST. We are proud to recognize him as our Junior Student of the Month!





Congratulations to our very own Mindi Penn! She is the recipient of this year's Deborah Smith Hoffman Outstanding Mentor Teacher Award, which is awarded to the K-12 theatre educator judged to have contributed the most to rising, new and even experienced theatre educators in South Carolina.

Public Health at CCU



Public Health students recently visited Coastal Carolina University, where they had the opportunity to connect with collegiate public health students while participating in an interactive poverty simulation led by SC Thrive. Students were assigned to different family roles and challenged to navigate real-world scenarios that individuals and families facing poverty encounter every day. This activity deepened their understanding of the social determinants of health and highlighted the complex challenges that impact communities.

Public Health Internships with McLeod Seacoast Hospital



Public Health students have begun their internship experience with McLeod Seacoast Hospital, where they are gaining real-world exposure to the healthcare field. Throughout the internship, students rotate through various departments, allowing them to explore a wide range of healthcare careers and observe professionals in action.

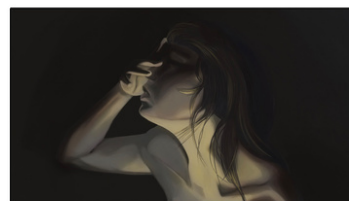
VFW Auxiliary Young American Creative Patriotic Art Contest



We proudly recognize this year's participants in the VFW Auxiliary Young American Creative Patriotic Art Contest: Quinn White, Keith Barrieault, and Ava Dillon. Mr. Kelly from the VFW celebrated their artistic achievements. This annual competition invites students in grades 9-12 to express patriotism through original artwork, which is judged on creativity and theme effectiveness. Students can gain recognition at local, state, and national levels, with scholarship awards for top entries. Notably, Ava Dillon received regional recognition and will advance to the state level. Congratulations to all participants for their talent and dedication!

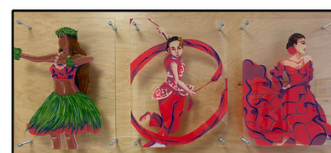
Tech Fair Art Show Winners

Congratulations to the following Advanced Art Majors for receiving awards in the 2026 HCS Tech Fair Art Show!

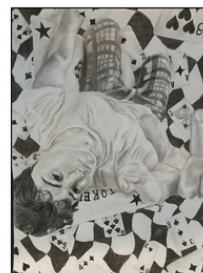


First Place
Dani Genest
12th Grade
AAST

Second Place
Elizabeth Lawson
12th Grade
AAST

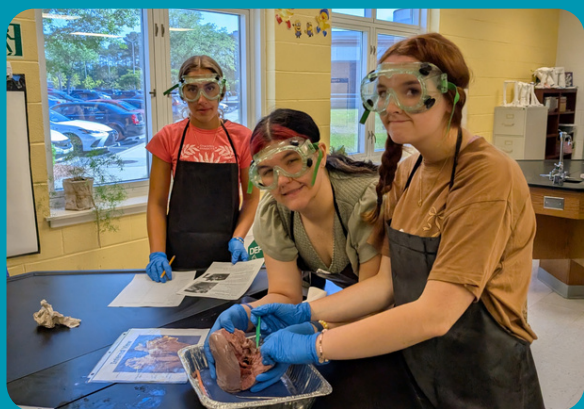


Third Place
Emily Bell
12th Grade
AAST



First Place
Keith Barrieault
11th Grade
AAST

Studying the Cardiovascular System in Anatomy and Physiology



Students in Ms. Ford's Anatomy and Physiology class recently had the opportunity to dissect pig hearts as part of their hands-on study of the cardiovascular system. This engaging lab allowed students to explore the structure and function of the heart up close, deepening their understanding of human anatomy through real-world scientific investigation.

AAST Career Fair



AAST welcomed community partners who visited for the Spring Career Fair. It was a great opportunity for students and staff to connect with firms in our area for internships, summer jobs, career training, apprenticeship opportunities, and educational pathways!

Stories That Soar



AAST theatre students enjoyed a special visit to Ocean Bay Elementary for the Stories That Soar program, bringing creativity and collaboration to life for first, second, and third grade students. Elementary students had the opportunity to submit their original stories to the "Magic Box," where selected entries were transformed into live performances by our talented AAST students. It was a wonderful day of literacy, imagination, and community partnership, and we were proud to help make these young authors' stories shine on stage.