

AAST NEWSLETTER

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Avicom Competition at Triple Tree Aerodrome



April 20 - April 24, 2026



Students from the Aerospace Engineering Major recently competed in the 4th Annual AviCom aviation competition at Triple Tree Aerodrome in Woodruff, South Carolina. Team members Christopher Altamirano-Vasquez, Christo Andriotis, Andrew Kennedy, and Carl Schaefer demonstrated their aviation knowledge and skills through both a written ground test and a challenging flight simulation event. Competitors were evaluated in precision navigation and weather analysis, situational awareness and critical decision-making, and aircraft performance testing.

The team earned an impressive 3rd Place Overall Team finish based on combined written and simulation scores.

Individual honors included Carl Schaefer earning 2nd Place Overall Individual and 3rd Place in the Ground Written Test. Carl Schaefer and Christopher Altamirano-Vasquez also captured 1st Place in the Flight Simulation Test. Congratulations to these outstanding students on their success!

Upcoming Events



PCT EXAM
APRIL 28

BUS DRIVER
APPRECIATION DAY
APRIL 28

NATIONAL SCHOOL
NURSE DAY
MAY 6

SENIOR EXAMS
MAY 18-19

SENIOR AWARDS
MAY 21, 6:00PM

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

US HISTORY EOC
MAY 29

LAST DAY OF
SCHOOL
JUNE 4, 2.5 HOUR
EARLY DISMISSAL

Impression Evidence in Forensic Science



Students in Ms. Rielly's Forensic Science classes are actively investigating impression evidence through a variety of hands-on activities. So far, students have analyzed bite marks and calculated vehicle velocity using skid mark evidence. Today, they are creating casts of shoeprints to preserve and examine evidence just as real forensic investigators would. The unit will conclude next week with an exciting look at ballistics.



Kelly Services National Substitute Teacher of the Year

We are thrilled to announce that Ms. Esther Yardumian-Smyth has been named the Kelly Services National Substitute Teacher of the Year—an extraordinary honor and a well-deserved recognition of the tremendous impact she makes each day at AAST.

Esther brings consistency, expertise, passion, and genuine care to our classrooms and hallways. She builds meaningful connections with students, supports teachers in countless ways, and goes above and beyond to enrich our school community. Whether greeting students by name, helping them strengthen their writing, or bringing humor and joy to the news show, Esther's presence is felt throughout our campus.

Our students trust her, our staff relies on her, and AAST is stronger because of her dedication. Even after retirement, she continues to share her talents with our school, inspiring all of us through her love of education and service.

We could not be prouder to celebrate Esther as the #1 substitute teacher in the nation. Congratulations on this incredible achievement!



SNHS at TOES Earth Day Science Night



Members of the Science National Honor Society recently volunteered at Ten Oaks Elementary School's Earth Day Science Night, helping inspire younger students through engaging, hands-on science activities. Our students enjoyed sharing their passion for science while supporting environmental awareness and community learning. We are proud of their leadership, service, and commitment to making science fun for the next generation.

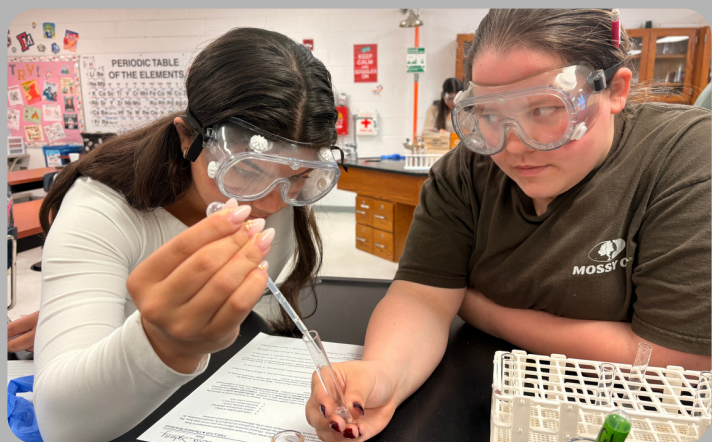


Chemical Reactions in Chemistry

This week in Chemistry, students brought science to life through a hands-on exploration of chemical reactions. During the lab, students observed a variety of reactions, looking for key evidence such as color changes, gas production, temperature shifts, and the formation of precipitates.

As they worked through each experiment, students not only practiced important lab skills but also deepened their understanding of how and why chemical reactions occur. By recording observations and analyzing results, they were able to connect abstract concepts to real-world phenomena.

The energy and curiosity in the room were contagious as students made predictions, tested their ideas, and discussed their findings with peers. Labs like this help build critical thinking skills and reinforce the idea that chemistry is not just something you read about—it's something you can see, feel, and experience firsthand.



Sheep Pluck Investigation



Students were tasked with investigating the tissues found throughout the cardiovascular and respiratory systems. This began with the trachea and eventually progressed to the respiratory zone, where gas exchange occurs in the lungs. Along the way, students completed a variety of activities, including pinning different external structures, identifying the tissues present, inflating the lungs using external air pumps, and more. Throughout the process, students applied their knowledge and background information to answer the investigative questions posed to them.



Pill Counting and Accuracy Lab



In the pharmaceutical setting, patient safety is a top priority, and the first opportunity to uphold it is during the prescription-filling process. In this lab, students will explore how specific pill-counting techniques can improve both efficiency and, more importantly, patient safety. They will test their accuracy and evaluate how well they can count under pressure. Students will time each other in 25-second intervals across 10 trials to assess their consistency and precision. Additionally, they will be tasked with filling multiple prescriptions simultaneously using different colored medications to test their sorting skills and ability to process information under a time constraint.

Chicken Biscuit Fundraiser



On Friday, students had the opportunity to purchase Chick-fil-A biscuits as part of a fundraiser supporting general school funds. These funds help support a variety of school needs and experiences, including student activities, school events, classroom resources, and field trips. Thank you to everyone who participated and helped support our school community.

Administrative Professionals Day



We celebrated our front office staff for Administrative Assistant Day! Thank you to Ms. Gullege, Ms. Bean, Ms. Moore, and Ms. Grant. We appreciate all they do for our AAST family!

Horry-Georgetown County High Schools Juried Art Exhibition

We are pleased to recognize and congratulate several of our Advanced Art Majors for their exceptional achievements in the Horry-Georgetown County High Schools Juried Art Exhibition, hosted by the Franklin G. Burroughs-Simeon B. Chapin Art Museum.

This prestigious annual exhibition highlights outstanding student work from across the region and is juried by art professionals, making recognition a significant accomplishment that reflects both technical skill and conceptual strength.

We are proud to announce the following honors:

- Emily Bell — First Place, 3D Design
- Sopheia Gilbert — First Place, 2D Design
- Ruby Nadler — Beth Eakins Memorial Award (Judge's Choice)
- Janna Escamis — Honorable Mention, 2D Design



These students have demonstrated a high level of artistic excellence, dedication, and creative vision. Their accomplishments are a testament to their hard work and commitment to the visual arts.