

AAST NEWSLETTER

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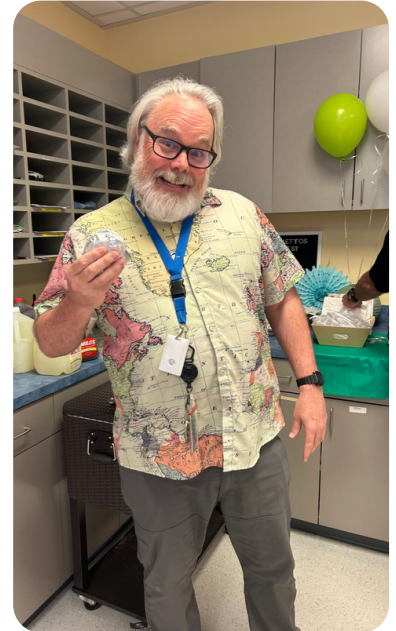
Teacher Appreciation Week



May 4 - May 8, 2026



Thank
you



Thank you to everyone who helped AAST celebrate Teacher Appreciation Week. From thoughtful notes and treats to acts of kindness and support, our staff truly felt appreciated throughout the week. Teachers play such an important role in the lives of students each day, providing encouragement, guidance, knowledge, and support both inside and outside the classroom. Their dedication helps shape not only academic success, but also confidence, character, and future goals for so many students.

This week, we also celebrated our amazing principal, Ms. Wilson, for her outstanding leadership and commitment to the AAST community. Her support for students and staff helps make AAST a positive and inspiring place to learn and grow. We are grateful for all she does for our school each and every day.

Upcoming Events



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



National Substitute Teacher of the Year



Thank you to Kelly Services for recognizing Mrs. Esther Yardumian-Smyth as the National Substitute Teacher of the Year. This incredible honor reflects the dedication, passion, and care she brings to AAST each day. Ms. Yardumian-Smyth has made a lasting impact on our students and staff through her support, encouragement, and commitment to education, and we are proud to celebrate this well-deserved recognition with her.

Kelly[®]

Pre-Medicine Pinning Ceremony



On May 7, we honored the incredible hard work and dedication of our AAST Pre-Medicine students who earned national certifications this year! Congratulations to our graduates who are now certified as Patient Care Technicians, EKG Technicians, Clinical Certified Medical Assistants, Emergency Medical Technicians, First Responders, and Pharmacy Technicians. These students are workforce ready and prepared to make an impact in healthcare. We're so proud of you!

AAST Students of the Month

Senior Student of the Month: Vivian Xiao

Congratulations to our AAST Senior Student of the Month, Vivian Xiao!

Vivian is a shining example of leadership within the Biomedical Science major and an inspiring member of the AAST community. She has excelled in numerous extracurricular activities, including Battle of the Books and Science Olympiad, and was recently recognized as a National Merit Finalist. Known for her positivity and encouragement of others, Vivian consistently supports her peers in all of their pursuits and makes a lasting impact on those around her.



Junior Student of the Month: Skylar Platt

Congratulations to our AAST Junior Student of the Month, Skylar Platt! Skylar is a junior who truly embodies what it means to be a Koi. She is resilient, positive, and always striving to be the best version of herself. In the classroom, Skylar brings a genuine smile each day and contributes thoughtful ideas during discussions, while her strong work ethic is evident in everything she does.

Outside of school, Skylar successfully balances academics with competing on the Conway High School track team and working at Publix. Her energy, positivity, and sense of humor make her a valued part of the AP Literature classroom and the AAST community.



AAST Named PLTW Distinguished School

Congratulations to AAST on being named a Project Lead The Way (PLTW) Distinguished School. This recognition honors our school's commitment to providing students with high-quality, hands-on learning experiences in STEM education through PLTW programs. We are proud of our students, teachers, and staff whose hard work and dedication helped earn this achievement.



McLeod Health Student Celebration

On May 6th, our AAST students joined the McLeod Health Seacoast Student Celebration to honor the incredible staff members who mentor our high school seniors in healthcare.

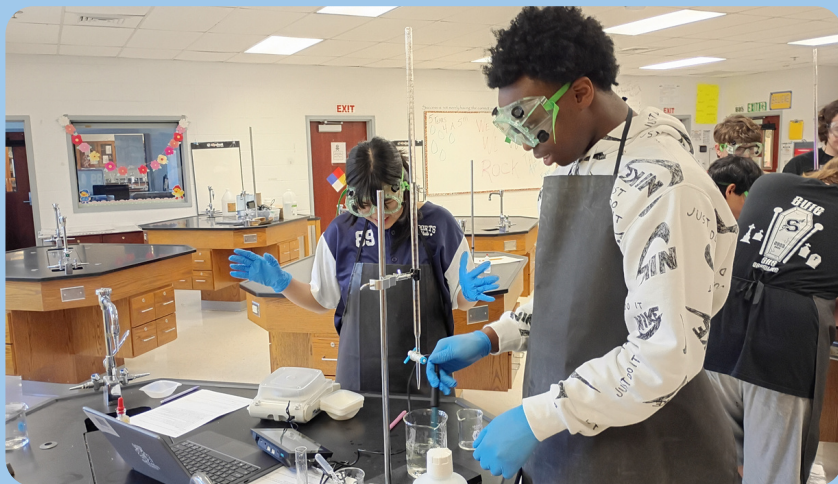
One of the highlights was being able to celebrate and honor a Koi Alumni who attended AAST and is now a Pharm-D! Seeing that journey come full circle was truly inspiring.

From students to professionals—that's the AAST family! Thank you McLeod Health Seacoast for all you do for our students.



Candy Acid Analysis Lab

Students in Ms. Ford's AP Chemistry class jumped right back into hands-on learning the day after completing their AP Chemistry exam. During a candy acid analysis lab, students worked to determine the correct indicator to use, identify the proper titration curve, and calculate the molarity of acids found in several types of candy. The lab challenged students to apply their chemistry knowledge in a fun and engaging way, and their persistence and teamwork led to plenty of learning—and a few laughs along the way.

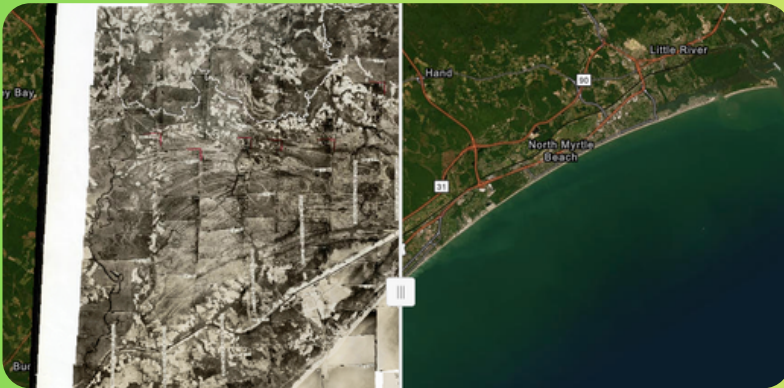


Seal of Biliteracy



We are proud to celebrate our students for their hard work and dedication in working toward earning the Seal of Biliteracy. This achievement recognizes students who have demonstrated proficiency in English and at least one additional language, highlighting their commitment to academic excellence and global communication skills.

Historical Maps in GIS



GIS students recently created an interactive swipe map comparing 1939 aerial images of the Myrtle Beach to Conway corridor along what is now Highway 501 with present-day imagery. Using georeferencing techniques, students aligned historic aerial photographs with modern maps by matching landmarks such as roads and intersections. This process allowed students to digitally “stretch” and adjust the older images so they accurately fit today’s landscape.

The project gave students hands-on experience with GIS technology while highlighting how dramatically the area has changed over time. The completed interactive map provides a unique look at local history through the lens of modern mapping technology.

Explore the map here:

[1939 Myrtle Beach to Conway Swipe Map](#)

Waccamaw Arts and Crafts Guild



Recently, several Senior Advanced Art Majors had the opportunity to present their artwork and Senior Mastery topics to members of the Waccamaw Arts and Crafts Guild at Gallery 320 as part of an annual tradition. Gallery 320 provides a welcoming professional gallery space that celebrates local and regional artists, giving our students a meaningful opportunity to share their creative work and artistic growth with the community.

We are sincerely grateful to the members of the Waccamaw Arts and Crafts Guild for their continued encouragement, generosity, and support of young artists throughout our region. Their dedication to fostering the arts creates invaluable experiences for our students, and we are truly thankful to be part of such a meaningful partnership and tradition.

Junior Marshals

Congratulations to the AAST students selected as Junior Marshals at their respective base schools in recognition of their academic achievement, leadership, character, and dedication to their school communities.

These students will serve during their base school graduation ceremonies. We are proud of them!



Carolina Forest:

**Janna Escamis, William Fernandes,
Mallory Hudacko, William Jiang,
Alin Kim, George Maisuradze, Janki
Patel, Zoey Rodgers, Jordan Stefanski,
Ellie Yates (Not Pictured)**



St. James:

**Morgan Dolbow, Madelyn
Harrell, Lillian Pitluk, Zoe Smith,
Camryn Studwell**



Socastee:

Arwen Laing

Aynor:

**Ryan Mourachian (not
pictured)**



Conway:

**Paola Martinez Machorro, Skylar Platt,
Kylie Quinton, Emma Sharp**



North Myrtle Beach:

**Max Banegas Lagos,
Emma Ferry, Gabriella Gurreri**



Myrtle Beach:

**Dominic Antonio Istazuy,
Ashley Murillo, Sofia
Solano Obaldia**

Cask of Amontillado Venetian Carnival



Students in Ms. Bell's English class recently celebrated their reading of *The Cask of Amontillado* with a Venetian carnival-themed activity complete with cannolis and grape juice. The event helped bring the story's setting and atmosphere to life while giving students a fun and engaging literary experience. A special thank you to Toffino's Italian restaurant in Market Common for generously donating the cannolis for the celebration.



Loris:

Abigail Lejeune Riley

Congratulations