

AAST NEWSLETTER

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Welcome Back, Koi Family!



August 17 - August 21, 2026



What a fantastic first week at AAST! Our hallways were full of smiles, new friendships, familiar faces, and plenty of excitement for the year ahead. And, of course, we couldn't let the first day come and go without one of our favorite AAST traditions—ice cream for every student! Because what better way to kick off a new school year than with a sweet treat? We're already looking forward to all the great things this year will bring!

Welcome back, AAST! Here's to an amazing year!

Upcoming Events



Class Meetings
August 26

Junior Pictures
August 27

Club Rush
August 28

White Coat Ceremony
September 3rd, 5:00PM

Blood Drive
September 4

Schools Closed,
Labor Day, September 7

NHS Induction, 6:00PM
September 22

College App Day
September 28



AAST College Application Day

September 25



NEW FACES @ AAST

a stem school - realize the possibilities



**MS. EMMA KEINER,
LEARNING LOSS
INTERVENTIONIST**



**MR. MIKE JARCZYŃSKI,
SPED TEACHER**

NEW FACES @ AAST

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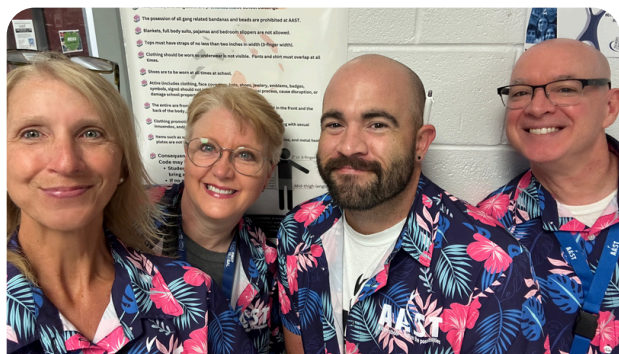


**MS. CIARA HOWELL,
PRE-MEDICINE**



**MR. MATTHEW DANIEL,
ENTERTAINMENT
TECHNOLOGY**

One of AAST's favorite traditions is Floral Friday! Every Friday, students and staff are encouraged to show off their favorite floral patterns and bring a little extra color and personality to the Koi Pond. It's a simple, fun tradition that helps end each week with some AAST spirit! 🌸





AAST Earns 7 SC Green Step School Awards

The Academy for the Arts, Science, & Technology has earned seven South Carolina Green Step School Awards this year, recognizing our students' work in environmental conservation, protection, and restoration.

Our award-winning projects included commercial composting, on-site recycling, growing and selling plants, conducting an energy audit, litter cleanups, planting a native plant garden, and growing and planting Spartina to help restore our local salt marsh. Through each project, students applied what they learned, gained hands-on experience, and shared the importance of environmental stewardship with others.

With awards spanning all three Green Step categories, AAST is now working toward South Carolina Certified Green Step School status—a distinction recognizing schools committed to long-term environmental leadership. We look forward to continuing to grow a greener campus and community!

AAST Theatre Teacher Receives Statewide Mentorship Award

Congratulations to Mindi Penn, AAST Theatre teacher, who was selected as the 2026 Deborah Smith Hoffman Outstanding Mentor Teacher Award recipient by the South Carolina Theatre Association.

Penn was nominated Coastal Carolina University professor and longtime colleague, Kris McIntyre. The award recognizes theatre educators who demonstrate excellence in mentorship, leadership, and service to other educators and the theatre community.

The award was presented on June 27 at PURE Theatre in Charleston, South Carolina. Penn's work extends beyond her own classroom through collaboration, resource-sharing, and mentorship of theatre educators across Horry County and the state.



AAST Competes on the National Stage



This summer, AAST students represented our school at the HOSA International Leadership Conference and TSA National Conference, competing alongside students from across the country in their respective fields. From healthcare and biomedical sciences to technology, engineering, and design, our students put their knowledge and skills to the test at the national level. We're excited to celebrate their hard work, dedication, and commitment to excellence!