

AAST NEWSLETTER

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Our Koi Beyond AAST Waters



September 28 - October 2, 2026



One of the many benefits of attending AAST is that students can pursue a specialized major while continuing to participate in activities and extracurriculars at their base schools. Students don't have to choose between the school they love and the activities they love—they can do both!

This fall, AAST students are representing their base schools in a variety of activities, including cross country, football, tennis, volleyball, swimming, golf, marching band, and more. We love seeing our students stay involved in the activities they enjoy while also pursuing their passions through their AAST majors.

We're excited to celebrate the dedication, commitment, and school spirit our students bring to both AAST and their base schools!



Upcoming Events



Ed Op Day
October 7

Schools Closed
October 12-13

Honor Society Inductions,
6:00 pm, October 20

Unity Day
October 21

1st Quarter Ends
October 23

Spirit Week
October 26-30

Fall Festival
October 29

PSAT
October 29

Schools Closed
November 3

Our Founding Documents



We're excited to share that, with the help of our HCS Facilities staff, every school in the district has received a framed copy of the United States Constitution and the Declaration of Independence. These important documents will now be displayed in each of our school communities as a reminder of the principles, freedoms, and responsibilities that help shape our country.

We're especially grateful to the HCS Facilities team for helping make this project possible and to the student leaders pictured for representing AAST as we celebrate this meaningful addition to our school.

Pictured with Ms. Wilson are (from left):
Madelyn Harrell, Rho Kappa President
Leonardo Mendez, Student Body President
Mauriana Cotton, Senior Student of the Month
Diyora Azimova, Junior Student of the Month

Marigold Award

The Marigold Award recognizes colleagues who help others grow through positivity, encouragement, and support. This month, we're excited to celebrate Mr. Cruse, Ms. Condrey, Ms. Ceron, and Ms. Franklin as our Marigold Award recipients!

These four educators were recognized for the positive energy they bring to AAST, the encouragement they offer to those around them, and the ways they help make our school community a better place. Their willingness to support and lift up their colleagues is a wonderful example of the spirit behind the Marigold Award.



**1ST QUARTER
BEANSTACK
Reading Challenge!**

READ. LOG. SPIN. WIN!

TRACK YOUR READING IN BEANSTACK AND HIT MILESTONE GOALS TO EARN A SPIN ON THE LIBRARY GACHAPON MACHINE! EACH SPIN = A SURPRISE PRIZE... WHAT WILL YOU GET?

LOG YOUR READING!

PRIZES INCLUDE:
BLIND BAGS!
FREE BOOKS!
LEGO SETS!
GIFT CARDS!
SNACKS!

**AAST
Apparel Sale**

Show Your **KOI** Pride

AAST
a stem school - realize the possibilities

**Sale Ends
Oct. 6**

T-Shirts Hoodies Crewnecks

available for order on MyPaymentsPlus

Children's Book Drive

A big thank-you to every Advisory who participated in our children's book donation drive! Your generosity helped us collect books that will be shared with local children at our Fall Festival Trunk-or-Treat.

Congratulations to our top two Advisories! Mr. Simon's Advisory took first place with an impressive 62 books, while Ms. Sellers' Advisory earned second place with 56 books!

We hope you enjoyed your well-deserved ice cream treats, and thank you to everyone who helped make the book drive a success!

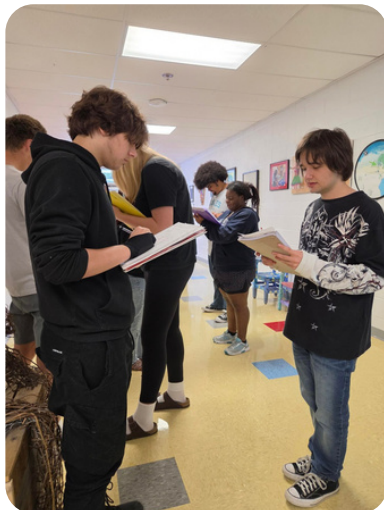
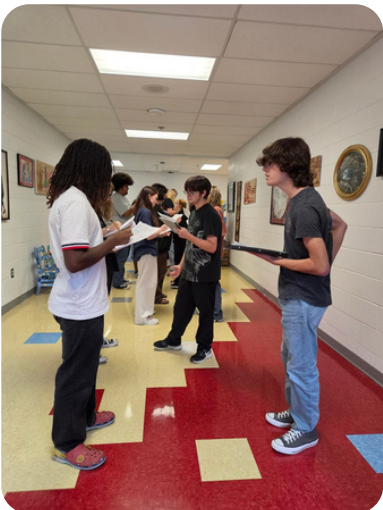


Apple Nacho Bar

A sweet treat for the people who do so much for AAST! This month, we celebrated our staff with an apple nacho bar full of delicious toppings. We love finding a little way each month to thank them for the care, creativity, and hard work they bring to our school every day.



Spanish Practice



Students in Ceron's Spanish class have been putting their Spanish into action! They practiced asking one another about physical and personality characteristics, along with their likes, dislikes, and things they love. Students practice speaking every day, giving them opportunities to use new vocabulary in meaningful ways. These conversations help move language off the paper and into real-life communication.

Nurses Are Extraordinary



Two of our Pre-Med juniors had the opportunity to represent AAST at the "Nurses Are Extraordinary" event hosted at Waccamaw Tideland Hospital. The program highlighted the important role nurses play in patient care and the healthcare system.

Our students heard directly from healthcare professionals and gained valuable insight into the knowledge, dedication, compassion, and skills required in the nursing profession.

Experiences like this give our Pre-Med students an opportunity to explore healthcare careers firsthand and learn more about the many paths available in the medical field.

Exploring STEM at CCU



AAST STEM Major students had a great time at Coastal Carolina University's STEM Day! Students explored the many opportunities available through CCU's Gupta College of Science and Engineering and participated in hands-on sessions covering a variety of STEM disciplines.

It was a great opportunity for our students to learn, explore potential career paths, and see how their interests and skills can translate into exciting opportunities beyond high school. Thank you to everyone at CCU who helped make STEM Day such a great experience for our students!



AAS Tree Huggers

The Tree Huggers are students who take action to save our planet. On Thursdays, they meet to collect and sort all of the recycle bins in the school. Each classroom has two recycle bins.

The tall bin is for aluminum cans, glass bottles, and plastic bottles. The short bin is for paper and cardboard. Tree Huggers separate the materials to get them ready to be picked up by the Solid Waste Authority. These students LOVE helping the environment but find it frustrating when they see trash in the recycle bins. They ask that we all be more conscious of what goes in the bins and where the trash goes. Let's make sure the Koi Pond stays environmentally productive.



Teacher Cadets at CCU

EDU 101 students (Teacher Cadets) spent Wednesday at Coastal Carolina University learning about teaching, leadership, and "going above and beyond" with their futures. CCU Teaching Fellows hosted and planned the event so that students (from Horry and Georgetown counties) could get an inside look at majoring in education. Speakers shared tips on choosing the right college and making the most out of every experience. Teacher Cadets even participated in service projects helping CCU's Relay for Life team and the Green Bandana Project. The future of S.C. education is bright!



Hallway Picnics



English 3 students held their first "hallway picnics" to study "Hiawatha the Unifier," a Native American myth about the Iroquois nation. They engaged in meaningful discussions and annotations in teams, benefiting from reduced distractions. Teachers Condrey and Cruse facilitated learning, emphasizing the value of "productive struggle" through peer discussions rather than direct answers, enhancing retention of the material.

Custodial Appreciation Day

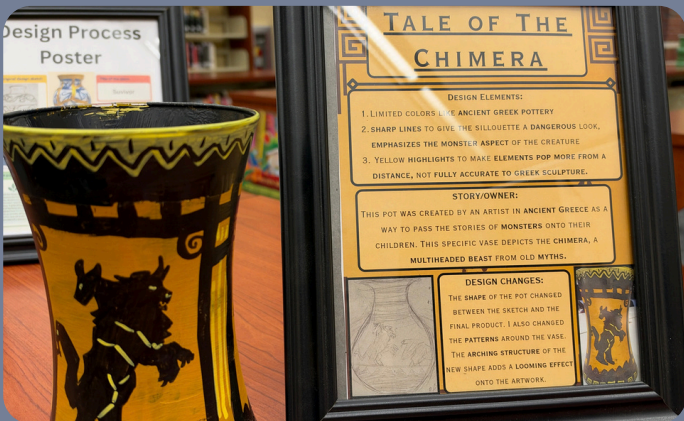
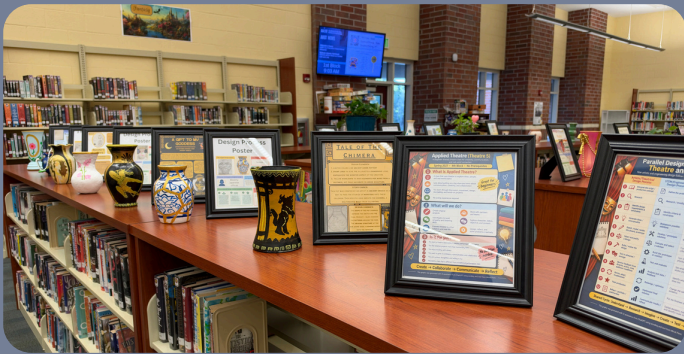
AAST recently celebrated Custodial Appreciation Day by recognizing the four people who work hard behind the scenes to keep our school clean, safe, and welcoming—Carlton, Deloris, Helen, and Isaac!

Our custodial team takes great pride in AAST and is always ready to help whenever they're needed. From the daily tasks that keep our building running smoothly to the many things that often go unnoticed, their work is an essential part of our school community.

We're grateful for everything they do for our Koi Family and enjoyed treating them to lunch as a small way to say thank you!



Vase Design in Theater Tech



Technical Theater students used their creativity to design vases as props for self-developed characters. They envisioned characters' backgrounds and personalities, researched artistic styles, and created vases that fit their imagined worlds. From sketches to finished pieces, students made intentional design choices to narrate each character's story, combining character development, research, storytelling, and visual design in this project.

Healthcare at HGTC

This week, AAST Medical Terminology Honors students toured HGTC's Nursing & Health Sciences Institute to learn more about the many educational and career opportunities available in the healthcare field.

Students explored pathways in nursing, dental hygiene, EMT, phlebotomy, physical and occupational therapy, and surgical technology.

The visit gave students a firsthand look at local college programs and healthcare careers, helping them connect what they are learning in the classroom with opportunities available right here in the Myrtle Beach area.

