

AAST NEWSLETTER

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Ed Op Day at AAST



October 5 - October 9, 2026



AAST was pleased to welcome representatives from many different colleges and universities who came to share information about the educational opportunities available at their institutions during Ed-Op Day. The event provided a valuable platform for juniors and seniors to learn about the offerings and programs of different schools. AAST extends its gratitude to all those who took the time to engage with the students and provide insights into the educational prospects awaiting them.

Upcoming Events



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

Principal for a Day

AAST welcomed Jadaí Bergolla, Director of Marketing & Communications for the S.C. Department of Employment and Workforce, as our Principal for a Day!

During her visit, Ms. Bergolla had the opportunity to experience a day at AAST, connect with students and staff, and see firsthand the innovative programs and learning experiences happening throughout our school. We appreciate her taking the time to spend the day with our Koi Family and share her perspective and expertise with our school community.

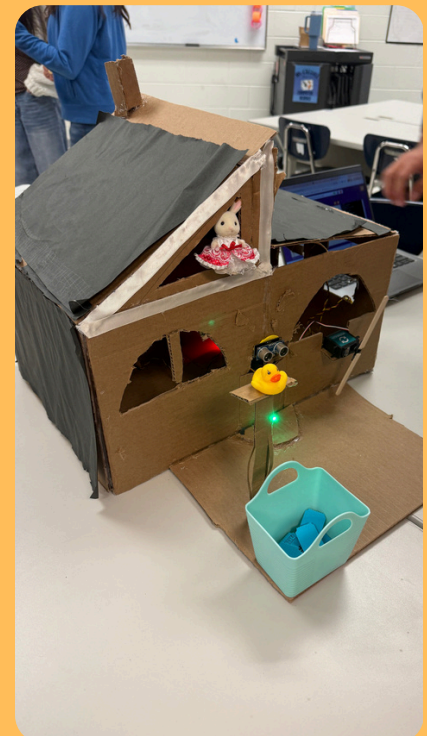
Thank you for joining us, Ms. Bergolla! We enjoyed having you at AAST!



Operation Nightwatch: Smart Home Programming

Junior Computer Science students recently put their programming and engineering skills to work by designing model homes equipped with sensor-driven security systems. Students programmed their systems to detect potential intruders based on distance and used light sensors to determine whether it was daytime or nighttime.

The project challenged students to combine coding, sensors, and problem-solving to create a functional security system while applying their computer science skills to a real-world application.



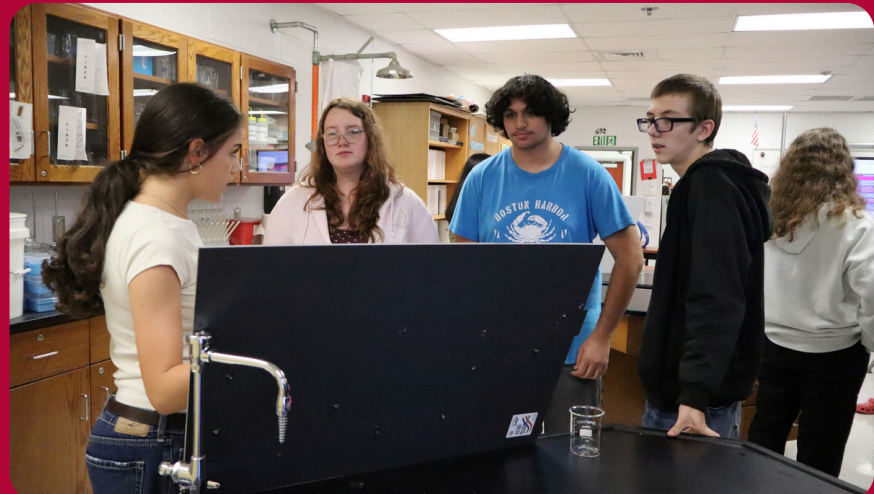
CTE Showcase

On Thursday, business leaders from across the Grand Strand visited AAST for our CTE Showcase to learn more about the programs offered to our students. Student ambassadors led tours and shared their experiences, highlighting what they've learned and how AAST has prepared them for future careers. This event provided a valuable opportunity for students to practice professional communication skills and network with industry leaders.



Forensic Cold Case Investigation

Students in Mrs. Rielly's Honors Forensic Science classes explored cold cases, creating visual crime boards to represent the ties between evidence, suspects, and victims. Students researched and then defended their most reasonable explanations of the events.



Marine Science Students Explore Salt Marsh Ecosystems

Marine Science students recently took their learning outside the classroom with a salt marsh field experience at Huntington Beach State Park. Students pulled seine nets and got an up-close look at the diverse wildlife living in the marsh, catching fish, crabs, squid, a butterfly ray, and even a brittle star.

Students also learned about oyster biology and habitat restoration from wildlife biologists with the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources (SCDNR), who traveled from Charleston to work with our students. As part of the experience, students helped create "Creek Candy," bamboo stakes wrapped in coconut fiber twine and coated with oyster shell tabby.

These structures will help stabilize shorelines and provide habitat as part of ongoing living shoreline restoration efforts.

A special thank-you to Ranger Mike and Kevin Swain for helping make this an unforgettable hands-on learning experience for our students!



Newly Certified EKG Technicians



We are excited to congratulate the 39 newest Certified EKG Technicians from Mrs. Zanelli and Ms. Howell's classes! These students have been working hard since the very first day of school to prepare for this moment. Their dedication, perseverance, and commitment have paid off, and we could not be prouder of their accomplishment.

Congratulations, future healthcare professionals! ❤️🩺

Guest Speaker: Anthony Marra, Best Vision Media



Digital Arts and Design with Animation students recently welcomed Mr. Anthony Marra, a community-focused publisher and sustainable art creator with Best Vision Media. Mr. Marra spoke with students about his work and shared insights from his experience working in the creative industry, giving students a firsthand look at how artistic skills can be applied in professional settings.

A special thank-you to Mr. Marra for taking the time to speak with our students, and to Mrs. Eileen Patonay, Regional Workforce Advisor, for making the connection and helping make this opportunity possible!

Spanish Students Explore Language and Culture at Carolina Food Show



AAS'T's AP Spanish 4 and Spanish 3 Honors students attended the Carolina Food Show at the North Shore Oceanfront Hotel, where they engaged with authentic Hispanic cuisine and explored food's connections to language and culture. They practiced Spanish by conversing with Hispanic vendors and interviewed Juan Serrato, President of Carolina Food Service, entirely in Spanish about local vendors serving the Latino community. This experience enhanced their language skills and linked classroom learning to the local community. Special thanks to Eileen Patonay from the South Carolina Department of Employment and Workforce for sponsoring the trip.

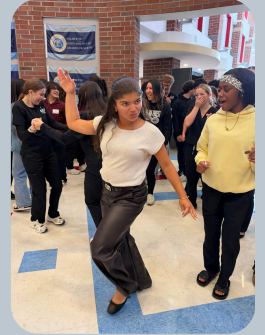
Marigold Award

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

These 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.



AAST Celebrates Hispanic Heritage Month with Dance



AAST wrapped up Hispanic Heritage Month with a lively dance workshop led by Mr. Hernandez in the rotunda. Juniors and seniors joined in as Mr. Hernandez taught students the basics of salsa, merengue, and bachata, giving them a chance to learn and experience these traditional dances firsthand.

The workshop was a fun way to close out a month of activities celebrating Hispanic heritage and gave students an opportunity to come together, learn something new, and enjoy the music and traditions of the Hispanic community.

FALL FESTIVAL

trunk or treat

OCTOBER 29TH 5-7PM

AAST PARKING LOT
895 INTERNATIONAL DR. MYRTLE
BEACH, SC 29579

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!
CASH MONEY!

