

AAS T NEWSLETTER

AAS.T.HORRYCOUNTYSCHOOLS.NET

SC State Fair Winners



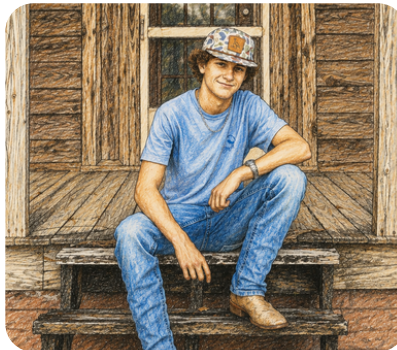
October 12 - October 16, 2026



We are proud to recognize the following Academy for the Arts, Science, and Technology students work for earning awards in the 2026 South Carolina State Fair Student Art Competition!

With approximately 3,500 submissions, this is one of the largest student art competitions in South Carolina. Receiving recognition at this level is an outstanding achievement and a testament to students' artistic talent, creativity, dedication, and hard work.

We are incredibly proud of these young artists and honored to represent AAS and Horry County Schools on a statewide stage! The Fine Arts, ET, and Digital Arts and Design majors traveled to the fair to see their work on display!



Upcoming Events



Honor Society Inductions,
6:00 pm, October 20

Unity Day
October 21

Pink Out
October 23

1st Quarter Ends
October 23

Spirit Week
October 26-30

SIC
October 29, 4:00pm

Fall Festival
October 29, 5:00 pm

PSAT
October 29

Schools Closed
November 3

Educators in Industry: Learning Beyond the Classroom

Who says field trips are just for students? This week, AAST educators explored new learning opportunities, connected with industry professionals, and discovered resources they can bring back to their students. Through visits to museums, a TV news station, and a pharmaceutical manufacturing facility, our teachers gained firsthand insight into SC's educational, cultural, and career opportunities. We want to thank our community and business partners and the South Carolina Department of Employment and Workforce for making this experience possible for our educators.

Exploring History and Innovation at the South Carolina State Museum



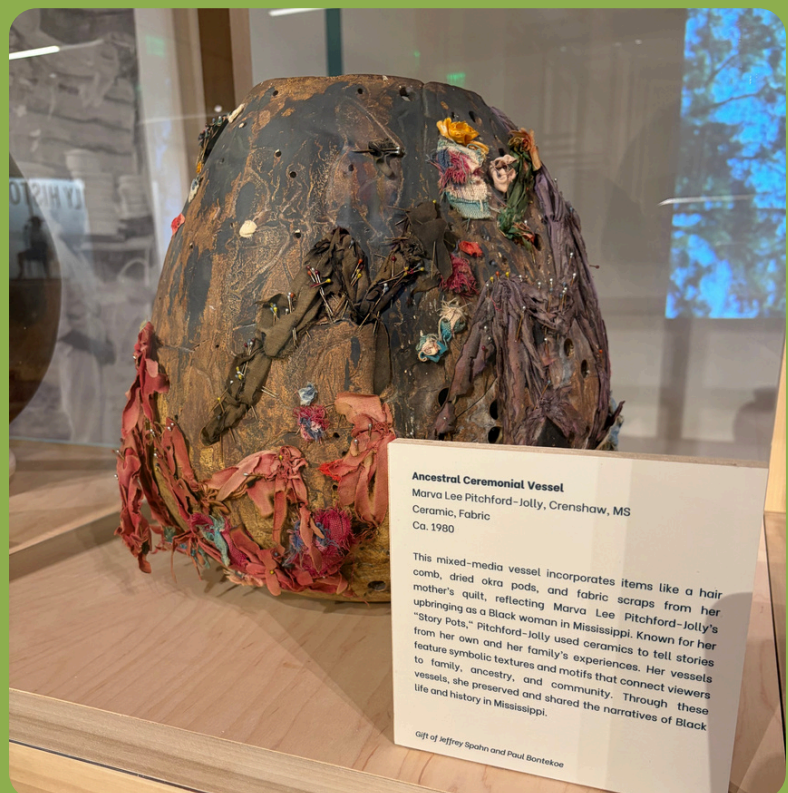
Six AAST teachers visited the South Carolina State Museum for a Teachers in Industry program. They explored the museum's archives, pottery collections, Bone Room, and planetarium, examining 200-year-old pottery and learning about a Columbian mammoth tooth found by enslaved people in 1725. The group provided feedback on the Revolutionary War exhibit and discovered educational outreach resources to support classroom learning. They also learned about the museum's future plans and discussed how past visits inspired creative teaching and student engagement, highlighting the importance of collaboration between schools and community organizations.



Connecting with History at the International African American Museum



AAST teachers also visited the International African American Museum in Charleston to enhance their understanding of African American history. They explored impactful stories and exhibits showcasing the experiences and achievements of African Americans. The visit allowed for reflection and professional learning, emphasizing the role of South Carolina's museums as valuable educational resources that connect students with history, literature, art, and the world.



Ancestral Ceremonial Vessel
Marva Lee Pitchford-Jolly, Crenshaw, MS
Ceramic, Fabric
Ca. 1980

This mixed-media vessel incorporates items like a hair comb, dried okra pods, and fabric scraps from her mother's quilt, reflecting Marva Lee Pitchford-Jolly's upbringing as a Black woman in Mississippi. Known for her "Story Pots," Pitchford-Jolly used ceramics to tell stories from her own and her family's experiences. Her vessels feature symbolic textures and motifs that connect viewers to family, ancestry, and community. Through these vessels, she preserved and shared the narratives of Black life and history in Mississippi.

Gift of Jeffrey Spohn and Paul Bontekoe

Educators in Industry: Learning Beyond the Classroom, cont'd

Discovering Career Opportunities at Nephron Pharmaceuticals



AAST educators visited Nephron Pharmaceuticals to explore careers in the pharmaceutical industry. Led by Melissa Rainsford, they toured manufacturing and research facilities. As a Career and Technology Center, AAST focuses on preparing students for job opportunities in Horry County and South Carolina. Nephron, a leader in generic respiratory medications, showcased its partnership with the University of South Carolina's Kennedy Pharmacy Innovation Center, emphasizing the development of local talent. The visit highlighted the connection between classroom learning and real-world careers, as well as the benefits of education-industry partnerships.

Educators Explore the Television News Industry



AAST educators had the opportunity to learn more about the television news industry during a visit hosted by Ed Piotrowski of WPDE News. Teachers gained insight into the work behind broadcast journalism and the many roles involved in bringing news stories to viewers. The experience offered a valuable look at career opportunities in media and communications while helping educators make connections between classroom learning and real-world industries.

These experiences are about more than a day away from school. They give educators opportunities to build professional connections, explore new resources, and see firsthand how knowledge and skills are applied beyond the classroom. Whether discovering historical artifacts, examining cultural exhibits, or touring research laboratories, AAST teachers returned with fresh perspectives and ideas to share with students.

A special thank-you to Ed Piotrowski of WPDE, Eileen Patonay of the South Carolina Department of Employment and Workforce (SCDEW), the South Carolina State Museum, the International African American Museum, and the Nephron Pharmaceuticals team for helping make these learning experiences possible.

Investing in educators means investing in the students they serve. These visits are a reminder that learning never stops—and that some of the best classroom lessons begin with experiences beyond the school walls.

AAST Students of the Month

Senior Student of the Month: Madelyn Harrell

Congratulations to Madelyn “Maddy” Harrell, an Engineering major, on being named AAST’s Senior Student of the Month!

Maddy has played a key role in establishing AAST’s Koi-communicators, our American Sign Language (ASL) club. Along with Sabrina, she leads meetings, presents lessons, and helps students build their ASL skills. Through their leadership and enthusiasm, the two students have sparked growing interest in ASL and helped create a strong, welcoming group.

Maddy’s dedication also extends to the yearbook. After taking the class last year, she found that her major coursework conflicted with the yearbook schedule. Rather than give up something she enjoys, she chose to continue participating through her research lab period, even without receiving class credit. Her commitment to both the ASL club and yearbook reflects her initiative, leadership, and willingness to go the extra mile for the activities that matter to her.

Congratulations, Maddy, on this well-deserved recognition!



Junior Student of the Month: Maxim Gunn

Congratulations to Maxim Gunn, an Aerospace Engineering major, on being named AAST’s Junior Student of the Month! Maxim demonstrates leadership both inside and outside the classroom. He works well with his peers during group projects, contributes to collaborative problem-solving, and represents the Aerospace Engineering major on Student Council. He is also an active member of the Aviation Club, where he can further explore his interest in aerospace.

Beyond the classroom, Maxim makes the most of opportunities to get involved in the AAST community. He participates in honor societies, attends PSAT workshops, and takes part in other extracurricular activities that support his academic growth. His involvement, teamwork, and commitment to learning make him a great example of Koi Pride.

Congratulations, Maxim, on this well-deserved recognition!



NASA's Build the Moon Challenge

Our Aerospace Engineering seniors are reaching for the Moon—literally! As participants in NASA's Build the Moon Challenge, students are exploring how lunar regolith could be used to create a concrete-like material capable of supporting future lunar habitats.

As part of the challenge, students will develop and test concrete mixtures using simulated lunar regolith, evaluating the strength and performance of different formulations. They will then apply what they learn to design a lunar habitat using 3D modeling.

To help students better understand the science behind their challenge, Tommy Owens and Chad Dyson of Thomas Concrete recently spoke with the seniors about the properties of concrete and the ways various additives can affect its strength and performance. Their real-world expertise gave students valuable insight into the engineering decisions they will face as they develop their own lunar construction materials.

We are excited to see how our students combine materials science, engineering, 3D design, and creativity to tackle the challenges of building on the Moon!



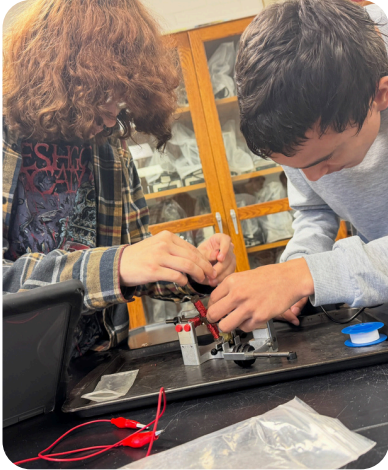
Medical Terminology Honors Students Explore Healthcare Careers



Students in Medical Terminology Honors recently toured McLeod SeaCoast Hospital to learn more about the facility and explore potential career opportunities in healthcare. Led by Dr. Anna D'Addario, the tour gave students a closer look at the hospital environment and helped them better understand the opportunities available for future employment, internships, and clinical rotations.

Experiences like this allow students to connect their classroom learning to real-world healthcare settings as they begin considering the next steps in their education and careers. A special thank-you to Dr. D'Addario for leading the tour and helping our students explore future possibilities in the medical field!

Clean Energy Students Build DC Motors



The best part? Every student's motor worked on the first try! This hands-on activity gave students the opportunity to apply scientific principles, troubleshoot their designs, and see the connection between energy and motion in action. Way to go, engineers!



Juniors in AAST's Clean Energy with Environmental Engineering major put their knowledge of electricity and magnetism to the test by building their own direct current (DC) motors. Using magnets and electromagnets, students explored how electrical energy can be converted into mechanical energy to create motion.

StuCo Bulletin Board Takeover



AAST Student Council has officially taken over the cafeteria bulletin board. We love seeing our Student Council bring their creativity, energy, and school spirit to AAST! We appreciate these student leaders and the pride they take in making our school a great place to be! #koipride #StudentLeadership

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!

