



AUG 16 - 21, 2023

THE BLAZE

Official Newsletter of HCS Early College High School

"Endless Possibilities"

from the desk of Mrs. Williams...

Trailblazers,

I hope everyone had an amazing summer and are getting excited about the first day of school Monday, August 21. This is the first year that ECHS and the college will begin classes on the same day (August 21). To prepare for college classes, students in grades 10, 11, and 12 will pick up their textbooks, school supplies, and computers on Wednesday, August 16 (8:00 - 3:00) and Thursday, August 17 (9:00 - 3:00). Computers will be issued to students who have paid the \$25.00 technology fee and have no outstanding technology fees.

School supplies and technology devices will be distributed to freshman students during school on Monday, August 21. In order to receive a computer, students must pay the \$25.00 technology fee and not have any outstanding tech fees owed. Class schedules for all students will be available for viewing in PowerSchool tomorrow (August 16). Students will use their computer login to access PowerSchool.

Open House will be Thursday, August 17 (2:00 - 3:30). This will be an opportunity for students to learn about our clubs and ways to get involved. Upperclassmen and freshmen who attended Bridge Week and the Family Information meeting in July, will not need to attend Open House as the same information will be shared.

Our theme last year was to Exceeding Expectations, and I am very proud of the individual and collective efforts of all Trailblazers to do just that. As we prepare for the 2023-2024 year, we will not only continue to Exceed Expectations but know that there are "Endless Possibilities" to what we can achieve when we work hard for it. My wish is that each of you have an amazing school year!!

Please read below for additional important updates and reminders.

Upcoming Events

Class Meetings

- August 28 - Block 1
- ECHS Cafe

Jr. Class Ring Ceremony

- August 31 - 6:00
- ECHS Cafe

Graduation Supply Orders

- August 31
- 11:00 - 3:00 ~ ECHS Lobby

Graduation Information Meeting

- August 23 - 24 ~ Senior AVID

Fall Pictures

- September 15

Important Trailblazer Links

Lunch Menu

Student Handbook

Homework Assistance

Scholarship Website

ECHS Website

Safety Protocols (English / Spanish)

Transcript Request (ECHS / HGTC)

Facebook, Twitter, Instagram

School Supplies: Students in grades 10, 12, and 12 will be able to pick up their school supplies, college login information, and computers (\$25.00 fee required) on Wednesday, August 16 (8-3) and Thursday, August 17 (9-3).

Technology Distribution: Students must pay the \$25.00 technology fee and have no outstanding technology fees in order to receive a computer for the 2023-2024 school year. Devices will not be issued until the fees are paid or payment arrangements have been approved by the principal.

Registration for 2023-2024: Students who attended an Horry County School during the 2022-2023 school year must complete the registration process for the upcoming (2023-2024) school year via the Parent Portal. Students will not be able to access their schedules or receive computers, if they do not register.

Graduation Information and Supply Orders: Herff-Jones representatives will share information on graduation supplies and packages during AVID August 23 - 24, 2023. Students will have an opportunity to order supplies on Thursday, August 31 from 11:00 - 3:00 in the lobby.

Class Meetings: There will be a meeting for each grade-level in the cafe Friday, August 28 during first block. The purpose of this meeting is to go over procedures and expectations for the year.

Jr. Class Ring Ceremony: The Herff-Jones sponsored Ring Ceremony for juniors will be August 31 at 6:00 in the ECHS cafe. Students must have a zero ring balance to participate.

"To provide a small, personalized learning community that accelerates our diverse student population to become responsible citizens who are strong critical thinkers, collaborators, and communicators who can successfully meet and face the challenges of competing in an ever-changing global society."

THE MISSION OF ECHS



Title I

HCS-Early College High School receives federal funding through Title I. A copy of the Title I school wide plan can be reviewed in our main office. Parents are encouraged to provide feedback with regards to our school wide Title I initiatives.

2023-2024 School Supplies

For the 2023-2024 school year, Early College will provide students with school supplies excluding book bags. While materials are being purchased, some supplies will not be known and may have to be purchased by the student. **Freshman school supplies will be given out during school Monday, August 21, 2023.**



Meet our newest Trailblazers!

Michele Macasek Assistant Principal

Hi! My name is Michele Macasek and I grew up in the Poconos in Pennsylvania. I have 6 nieces & nephews (2-9 years old) who are my entire world and when I'm not working, I can be found travelling to spend time with them, reading, or relaxing on the beach. I graduated from Coastal Carolina University, earning a Bachelor of Arts in Middle Level Education and a Master's of Education in Educational Leadership. I am a huge fan & supporter of Chanticleers athletics! I began my teaching career at Georgetown Middle School, where I taught 7th & 8th grade science for 2 years before moving to Forestbrook Middle School in Horry County. I spent 5 years at FMS teaching 8th grade science. When talks began about the school splitting and a new middle school being created, I jumped at the chance to work there.

I have spent the past 6 years as the instructional coach at Socastee Middle School - getting to build a school from the ground up was the opportunity of a lifetime & has taught me so much more than I could have ever imagined.

I am excited to take on this role where I'll be able to grow with you, learn with you, and support you as we help students set goals and then crush them! As a professional, my mindset is - "What motivates me? The fear of being average." - I look forward to being GREAT with all of you!



Dr. Kimberly Carroll English Department

I'm a graduate of the University of Mississippi. I earned my bachelors, masters, and doctorate in education from Ole Miss. In addition, I have many more graduate hours in English and Social Work. I specifically studied American Literature and Advanced Grammar.

This is my eighteenth year in education. I love designing learning experiences and watching them come to life in the classroom via the students!

My hobbies are cooking, reading, going to the beach, and hanging out with my dogs.



Meet our newest Trailblazers!

Chrystal Kelly Math Department

Hello, my name is Chrystal Kelly and I have been an educator for 32 years. Teaching is really my passion. I have taught both middle and high school mathematics, middle school Gifted and Talented students, and Honors high school students. Also, I've had the opportunity to serve as a Peer Coach, Mentor Teacher, and an Afterschool Program Director.

My educational degrees include a Bachelor's Degree in Mathematics from Francis Marion University, a Master's of Technology in Education from Lesley University, and an Education Specialist Degree in Education Leadership and Administration from Cambridge College.

One of my favorite aspects of being an educator is collaborating with teachers and administrators to foster a love of learning in all students. I believe that a great education is foundational to a successful life.



Makenzie Ling Math Department

Hello, my name is Makenzie Ling! I'm local to the area and grew up in Myrtle Beach. I graduated from Carolina Forest High School, and then attended Winthrop University where I earned a BA in Mathematics. After a brief year teaching in Summerville, I moved back to the area and began teaching at Conway High School. At which time I enrolled at CCU and earned an M.Ed. in Instructional Technology.

I currently live in Forestbrook with my husband Rashord, and our two dogs, Chloe and Scooby. In my free time I enjoy practicing yoga, playing video games, and kayaking!



Meet our newest Trailblazers!

Paula Huggins **School Secretary**

I am so excited to be a part of the Early College team! I have two children, five grands (with one more on the way), and two fur babies.

I enjoy boating, fishing, relaxing on the beach, painting, and spending time with my family and friends.



Jonathan Edge **Assistant Cafeteria Manager**

My name is Jonathan Edge. I was born and raised in North Myrtle Beach. I initially received a Bachelor's Degree in Music at Coastal Carolina University and extended my schooling when I realized my passion for the culinary field.

I got my Culinary Degree from HGTC and have been in the culinary field since. Other than enjoying cooking for friends and family, I like to play tennis, golf, and fish in my free time.

I am happily married and have two children. Other than being a role model to my children and younger family members, I also enjoy helping with the guidance of any younger generations around me. I aim to help give advice or opportunities that I might not have had when I was their age.





**PARENTS AND GUARDIANS,
DO YOU WANT TO SERVE?**

**DO YOU WANT TO HELP
EARLY COLLEGE BE THE
BEST IT CAN BE?**

AVID Site Team	Title I Planning Team	School Improvement Council
Meets three times per year; Mondays at 2:30	Meets three times per year; Weekday at 3:00	Meets once per month ; Weekday at 3:00
Learn about instructional best practices	Review the Title I and Parenting Budget	Review long term plans
Ensure that progress is being made toward our AVID yearly goals		Look for ways to improve the school



STANDARD RESPONSE PROTOCOL

INFORMATION FOR PARENTS AND GUARDIANS

Our school has adopted The "I Love U Guys" Foundation's Standard Response Protocol (SRP). Students and staff will be training, practicing, and drilling the protocol.

COMMON LANGUAGE

The Standard Response Protocol (SRP) is based on an all-hazards approach as opposed to individual scenarios. Like the Incident Command System (ICS), SRP utilizes clear common language while allowing for flexibility in protocol.

The premise is simple - there are five specific actions that can be performed during an incident. When communicating these, the action is labeled with a "Term of Art" and is then followed by a "Directive." Execution of the action is performed by active participants, including students, staff, teachers and first responders. The SRP is based on the following actions: Hold, Secure, Lockdown, Evacuate, and Shelter.

HOLD

"In Your Classroom or Area"

Students are trained to:

- Clear the hallways and remain in their area or room until the "All Clear" is announced
- Do business as usual

Adults and staff are trained to:

- Close and lock the door
- Account for students and adults
- Do business as usual



SECURE

"Get Inside. Lock outside doors"

Students are trained to:

- Return to inside of building
- Do business as usual

Adults and staff are trained to:

- Bring everyone indoors
- Lock the outside doors
- Increase situational awareness
- Account for students and adults
- Do business as usual



LOCKDOWN

"Locks, Lights, Out of Sight"

Students are trained to:

- Move away from sight
- Maintain silence
- Do not open the door

Adults and staff are trained to:

- Recover students from hallway if possible
- Lock the classroom door
- Turn out the lights
- Move away from sight
- Maintain silence
- Do not open the door
- Prepare to evade or defend



EVACUATE

"To a Location"

Students are trained to:

- Leave stuff behind if required to
- If possible, bring their phone
- Follow instructions

Adults and staff are trained to:

- Bring roll sheet and Go Bag (unless instructed not to bring anything with them, dependent on reason for evacuation.)
- Lead students to Evacuation location
- Account for students and adults
- Report injuries or problems using Red Card/Green Card method.



SHELTER

"State Hazard and Safety Strategy"

Hazards might include:

- Tornado
- Hazmat
- Earthquake
- Tsunami

Safety Strategies might include:

- Evacuate to shelter area
- Seal the room
- Drop, cover and hold
- Get to high ground

Students are trained in:

- Appropriate Hazards and Safety Strategies

Adults and staff are trained in:

- Appropriate Hazards and Safety Strategies
- Accounting for students and adults
- Report injuries or problems using Red Card/Green Card method.





STANDARD RESPONSE PROTOCOL

PARENT GUIDANCE

In the event of a live incident, parents may have questions about their role.

SECURE

"Get Inside. Lock outside doors"



Secure is called when there is something dangerous outside of the building. Students and staff are brought into the building and the outside doors will be locked. The school might display the Building is Secured poster on entry doors or nearby windows. Inside, it will be business as usual.

SHOULD PARENTS COME TO THE SCHOOL DURING A SECURE EVENT?

Probably not. Every effort is made to conduct classes as normal during a secure event. Additionally, parents may be asked to stay outside during a Secure event.

WHAT IF PARENTS NEED TO PICK UP THEIR STUDENT?

Depending on the situation, it may not be safe to release the student. As the situation evolves, Secure might change to a Monitored Entry and/or Controlled Release.

WILL PARENTS BE NOTIFIED WHEN A SCHOOL GOES INTO SECURE?

When a secure event is brief or the hazard is non-violent, like a wild animal on the playground, there may not be a need to notify parents while the Secure is in place.

With longer or more dangerous events, the school should notify parents that the school has increased their security.

LOCKDOWN

"Locks, Lights, Out of Sight"



A Lockdown is called when there is something dangerous inside of the building. Students and staff are trained to enter or remain in a room that can be locked, and maintain silence.

A Lockdown is only initiated when there is an active threat inside or very close to the building.

SHOULD PARENTS COME TO THE SCHOOL DURING A LOCKDOWN?

The natural inclination for parents is to go to the school during a Lockdown. Understandable, but perhaps problematic. If there is a threat inside the building, law enforcement will be responding. It is unlikely that parents will be granted access to the building or even the campus. If parents are already in the school, they will be instructed to Lockdown as well.

SHOULD PARENTS TEXT THEIR STUDENTS?

The school recognizes the importance of communication between parents and students during a Lockdown event. Parents should be aware though, during the initial period of a Lockdown, it may not be safe for students to text their parents. As the situation resolves, students may be asked to update their parents on a regular basis.

In some cases, students may be evacuated and transported off-site for a student-parent reunification.

WHAT ABOUT UNANNOUNCED DRILLS?

The school may conduct unscheduled drills, however it is highly discouraged to conduct one without announcing that it as a drill. That's called an unannounced drill and can cause undue concern and stress.

Parents should recognize that the school will always inform students that it is a drill during the initial announcement.

It's important to differentiate between a **drill** and an exercise. A drill is used to create the "Muscle Memory" associated with a practiced action. There is no simulation of an event; this is simply performing the action. An exercise simulates an actual event to test the capacity of personnel and equipment.

CAN PARENTS OBSERVE OR PARTICIPATE IN THE DRILLS?

The school welcomes parents who wish to observe or participate in drills.



Florida Trip - Summer 2024

June 08 - 12, 2024

Florida Keys, Florida Everglades, & Miami
for more information contact

Dr. Kristy Floyd

kfloyd001@horrycountyschools.net



RECYCLING

WE ARE ASKING ALL STUDENTS TO HELP WITH RECYCLING DURING LUNCH.

STUDENTS SHOULD SORT THE ITEMS ON THEIR TRAYS PRIOR TO DUMPING TO ENSURE THEY ARE PLACED IN THE CORRECT BINS.

PLEASE DO NOT PLACE NON COMPOSTABLE ITEMS IN THE COMPOST BIN BECAUSE IT WILL CONTAMINATE THE BIN AND IT CANNOT BE USED FOR COMPOST.

WHAT TO COMPOST

DO COMPOST



- Food scraps
- Fruits & vegetables
- Meat & bones
- Non-liquid dairy (e.g. cheese)
- Grain products (e.g. bread)
- Pizza & pizza boxes
- Coffee grounds & paper filters
- Tea & paper tea bags
- Napkins & paper towels
- Paper to-go boxes (non-coated)
- Items labeled BPI Certified Compostable or ASTM D6400 Certified

DO NOT COMPOST



- Plastic of any kind
- Foam or Styrofoam
- Metal
- Glass
- Liquids
- Foil or plastic-coated products
- Saran wrap & plastic film
- Hazardous & medical waste
- Used facial or toilet tissue
- Plastic bags
- Hand & face wipes
- Dental floss & Q-tips
- Cotton balls & pads



Qualify for the SC LIFE AND PALMETTO FELLOWS SCHOLARSHIP with your ACT® test score!

Changes that will apply beginning
with the class of 2023:



LIFE

3.0

SC UGP

1100

SAT

-or-

22

ACT

TOP 30%

RANKING

Students must meet **2 out of 3**
(to receive LIFE at an eligible four year institution)

PALMETTO FELLOWS

3.5

SC UGP

1200

SAT

-or-

25

ACT

TOP 6%

RANKING IN 10, 11, OR 12 GRADE

ALTERNATIVE CRITERIA

4.0

SC UGP

1400

SAT

-or-

31

ACT



[Superscore Calculator](https://act.org/superscore)
act.org/superscore



[FREE ACT Test Prep](https://www.act.org/freetestprep)
www.act.org/freetestprep



[South Carolina
Student Resources](https://act.org/southcarolina)
act.org/southcarolina