



SEPTEMBER 11 - 15, 2023

THE BLAZE

Official Newsletter of HCS Early College High School

"Endless Possibilities"

from the desk of Ms. Williams...

Trailblazers,

I cannot believe we are in our fourth week of school and Quarter I Interim Reports will be emailed Friday, September 25, 2023. Students are reminded to check PowerSchool and be certain they are submitting assignments via Google Classroom or Schoology.

We will begin offering homework assistance to students the week of September 18 - 22, 2023. Students will be able to get after school (2:30 - 4:30) assistance on Tuesdays and Wednesdays for math and English. Virtual help will be available on Tuesdays and Wednesdays 4:00 - 6:00 for all subjects.

We are excited about our upcoming annual Title I Block Party on Thursday, September 14, 2023. We encourage all of our families to come out and enjoy dinner with us and learn about Title I, ECHS, and how we use the funds to support student success. Dinner will be served at 5:00, the Title I meeting at 5:30, and staff presentations at 6:00.

Students will take Fall Pictures Friday, September 15, 2023, during first block. School Bell Fotos will email and text parents a link to access proofs and purchase pictures online. Photos will be placed in the yearbook.

Our freshman students have been learning about our college readiness program Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) and the importance of making a personal commitment to doing their personal best and graduating from high school in order to pursue their dreams. Students will sign their AVID contracts pledging to graduate from high school and college. We are looking forward to parents and other family members joining on Friday, September 22, 2023, at 8:15 in the B&C Auditorium.

We have settled into the routine for the 2023-2024 school year and welcome the input of parents and community members through joining our School Improvement Council, AVID Site Team, and Title I Planning Committee. Please reach out to Ms. Williams if you are interested in becoming involved.

Please read below for additional important updates and reminders.

Upcoming Events

Title I Annual Meeting

- September 14 ~ ECHS Cafe
- 5:00 dinner
- 5:30 meeting
- 6:00 Presentations

Fall Pictures

- September 15
- ECHS Cafe @ 9:10

AVID Signing Day

- September 22 @ 8:15
- B & C Auditorium

Quarter 1 Interim Reports

- September 22

Jr. Class Ring Ceremony

- September 25 @ 6:00
- ECHS Cafe

Graduation Supply Orders

- September 25
- ECHS Lobby ~ 11:00 - 3:00

Important Trailblazer Links

[Lunch Menu](#)

[Student Handbook](#)

[Homework Assistance](#)

[Scholarship Website](#)

[ECHS Website](#)

[Safety Protocols](#) ([English](#) / [Spanish](#))

[Transcript Request](#) ([ECHS](#) / [HGTC](#))

[Facebook](#),

[Twitter](#),

[Instagram](#)

Advisory: Friday, September 15, 2023, will be an AM Advisory and a Tuesday/Thursday day.

Fall Pictures: Photographers from School Bell Fotos will be on campus Friday, September 15 for Fall Pictures. Parents will be emailed a link to preview proofs and purchase pictures. All students will take pictures for the yearbook.

Title I Block Party: Students and parents are invited to our annual Title I meeting Thursday, September 14. We will be providing dinner for the entire family at 5:00. The Title I meeting will begin at 5:30 and teacher provided informational sessions will begin at 6:00.

Parking Decals: All ECHS student drivers are required to register their vehicles with HGTC Public Safety and submit an information form to the ECHS front office secretary. Students will be given a student placard for ECHS and an HGTC parking sticker by Public Safety. Both items will need to be on display in the car.

AVID Signing Day: Class of 2027 (9th graders) will pledge their commitment to utilizing AVID skills to successfully complete high school and college courses on Friday, September 22 at 8:15 in the B & C Auditorium (Building 1100).

Quarter I Interim Reports: Interim reports for Quarter 1 will be emailed to students and parents Friday, September 22.

Junior Class Ring Ceremony: The Ring Ceremony for the Class of 2025 will be Monday, September 25, 2023, at 6:00 in the Trailblazer Cafe. Students who did not purchase a ring from Herff-Jones can still participate in the ceremony but must give their ring to administration by 5:45 PM.

Graduation Information and Supply Orders: Herff-Jones representatives will be on campus Monday, September 25 from 11:00 - 3:00 in the lobby for seniors to place graduation supply orders. The early bird discount to order supplies will end December 01.

"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.

TRAILBLAZER

DAILY LUNCH SPECIALS



Monday 9/11/23
General Tso's Chicken
PB&J



Tuesday 9/12/23
Soft Tacos/Beef
Crispy Chicken Salad



Wednesday 9/13/23
Chicken Filet Sandwich
Turkey Chef Salad



Thursday 9/14/23
Chicken Bog
PB&J



Friday
Pizza Crunchers
PB&J

Fall 2023 Pictures

Friday, September 15

Beginning @ 9:10 in the Cafe

Pictures will be placed in the yearbook.

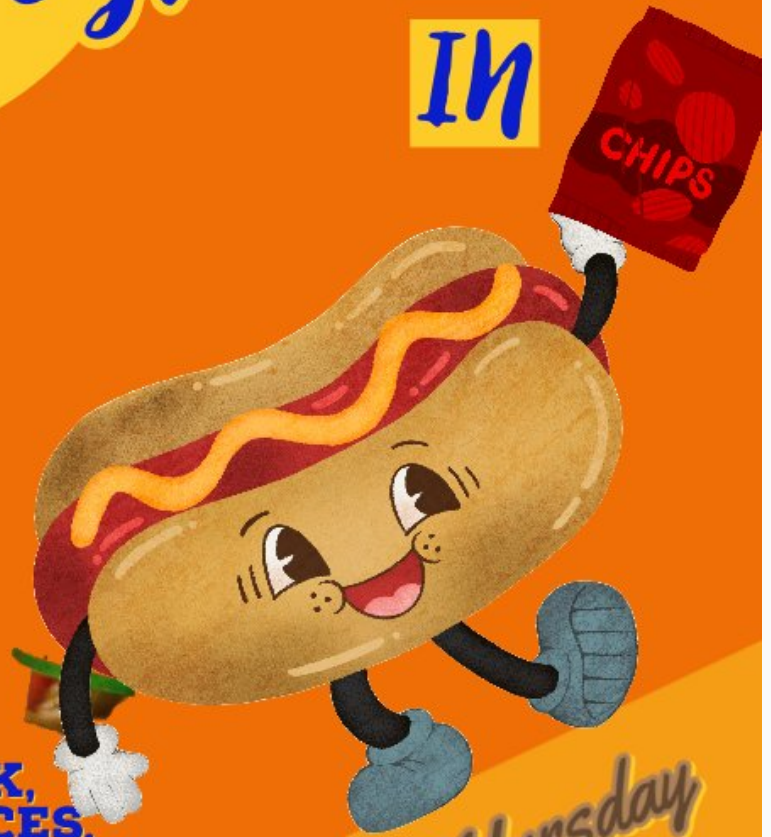


HOT

Diggity Dog!

**DROP
IN**

5:00 P.M.
TO
6:30 P.M.



**TOUR ECHS
SEE STUDENTS WORK,
AVID, FAMILY RESOURCES,
ECHS, TITLE 1 INFO,
PROGRAMS AT HGTC**



*Annual Title 1 Meeting / Block Party Thursday
September 14*

**CHILDCARE for
ages 5-11
Read a book make
a craft.**

Junior
RING CEREMONY

**MONDAY,
SEPTEMBER 25TH
6 P.M.**

*Trailblazer
Cafe*

Parking Decal for Student Drivers



Drivers must register their cars with HGTC Public Safety and complete the information form for ECHS.

Registered drivers will receive an ECHS placard to place in the window on the dash near their HGTC parking decal.



WFXB FOX TV PRESENTS



BEST Teacher_ EVER

UNITING STUDENTS AND
PARENTS IN CELEBRATING EXCEPTIONAL EDUCATORS

THIS INITIATIVE AIMS TO HONOR THE HARD WORK, DEDICATION, AND POSITIVE IMPACT THAT TEACHERS HAVE ON THE LIVES OF THEIR STUDENTS. THROUGH A COLLABORATIVE EFFORT BETWEEN THE LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT, STUDENTS, AND PARENTS, THE PROMOTION SEEKS TO CELEBRATE AND ACKNOWLEDGE THE REMARKABLE TEACHERS WHO GO ABOVE AND BEYOND.

EACH MONTH PARENTS AND STUDENTS WILL VOTE ON A BEST TEACHER EVER IN HORRY COUNTY. ONE WINNER WILL BE SELECTED. EACH MONTHLY WINNER WILL BE PUT INTO A DRAWING FOR AN END OF THE YEAR GRAND PRIZE!

HEAD OVER TO **WFXB.COM** TO NOMINATE YOUR
"BEST TEACHER EVER" OR SCAN THE QR CODE!



WFXB **FOX TV**

Bus Transportation

Students planning to ride the bus can contact the bus office for their attendance area to get information on route numbers and pick up times.



Bus Transportation Office

Aynor	843.488.7125
Carolina Forest	843.236.0705
Conway	843.488.6094
Green Sea Floyds	843.392.3134
Loris	843.390.6822
Myrtle Beach	843.445.2041
North Myrtle Beach	843.399.8575
Socastee	843.293.6941
St. James	843.650.1937

District Transportation Office
843.488.6957





Principal Approved Absences

Successful completion of high school courses results in the issuance of Carnegie units needed for a high school diploma.

Since our high schools and program schools operate on a 4 x 4 block schedule, it is crucial that students miss as few days as possible.

Based on this information, it is not feasible for our secondary schools and program schools to grant principal-approved days effective this year. Religious-based camps, retreats, trips, and conferences are not excused.

Absences due to major religious holidays are excused. Please send notes to the attendance office regarding absences for religious holidays.



**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