



SEPTEMBER 25 -29, 2023

# THE BLAZE

Official Newsletter of HCS Early College High School

"Endless Possibilities"

*from the desk of Ms. Williams...*

Trailblazers,

Our freshman students pledged their commitment to graduating from high school and earning college credits by signing their AVID Commitment Contracts. Students heard a motivational message from Sadie Woodberry, Class of 2024 and the Spring 2023 Jr. Trailblazer Student of the Year. Following the ceremony, students received a special gift from the school and signed their class banner that will be displayed at graduation in 2027. Parents and students enjoyed a light reception and an opportunity for photos before students had to return to class. For any student that missed the ceremony, we will have a make-up signing day in the lobby on Friday, September 29 at 9:00 AM. Students are able to invite parents and guests to the make up ceremony.

Quarter 1 Interim Reports were emailed Friday, September 22, 2023. Parents are asked to check their emails for progress reports and weekly updates from the school on events.

The ECHS Homework Assistance program is available to all students Tuesdays and Wednesdays after school (2:30 - 4:30) for math and English. Virtual help will be available on Tuesdays and Wednesdays 4:00 - 7:00 for all subjects.

The Key Club Induction Ceremony on Thursday, September 21 was a huge success. One hundred and thirty-one students were inducted. Students looking for a great way to get to know the Trailblazer Way and give back to community through service learning projects can remain after school on Thursdays to learn about the different clubs offered.

Please read below for additional important updates and reminders.

## Upcoming Events

### Hispanic Heritage Celebration

- September 29
- During Lunch

### Advisory Challenge - The Constitution

- September 29
- 1:15

### National Honor Society Applications Due

- October 06

### Schools Closed (ECHS Only)

- October 9 - 10

### Key Club Leadership Rally

- October 13 - 15

### CCU Theater - Cinderella

- October 20 @ 10:00
- 9th Grade

### Homecoming Dance

- October 20
- 7:00 - 10:00
- Tickets- \$10.00

# 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 29, 2023, will be an PM Advisory and a Tuesday/Thursday day.

**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.

**Hispanic Heritage Celebration:** The annual Hispanic Heritage Celebration will be Friday, September 29 during lunch. Students will have an opportunity to sample authentic cuisine from various countries. There will be a cultural display in the lobby.

**National Honor Society:** Applications for admission are due Friday, October 06 by the end of the school day. The requirements for Juniors and Seniors to apply are: 4.0 GPA, 30 hours of community service, teacher recommendation, and no major discipline and attendance issues.

**Student Holiday:** There will be no school for ECHS students Monday and Tuesday October 9 - 10. HGTC will be in session both days and students must attend for their classes. Bus transportation will be provided from the attendance area high school to ECHS. Students are asked to fill out the transportation form to indicate if they need a ride.

**Homecoming Dance:** The second annual homecoming dance is Friday, October 20 from 7:00 to 10:00 PM in the Trailblazer Cafe. Tickets are \$10.00. The theme is a "Night Under the Stars".

**CCU Theater Production:** All Freshman students will be attending the CCU Theater Department production of Cinderella on Friday, October 20, 2023, at 10:00 AM. Admission is \$3.00 and permission slips will be given out during AVID.

**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.

"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 9/25/23***

***Chicken Bacon Ranch Mac & Cheese Bowl***  
***PB&J***



***Tuesday 9/26/23***

***Cheesy Bites/Marinara***  
***Turkey & Cheese Sub***



***Wednesday 9/27/23***

***Chicken Nuggets***  
***Grilled Chicken Salad***



***Thursday 9/28/23***

***Breakfast for lunch***  
***PB&J***



***Friday 9/29/23***

***Beef Taco's***  
***PB&J***

# STOCK MARKET GAME



TEAM STANDINGS (9/25)

1. EARLY COLLEGE HIGH SCHOOL
  2. SWANSEA FRESHMAN ACADEMY
  3. HILTON HEAD ISLAND HIGH SCHOOL
  4. CAROLINA FOREST HIGH SCHOOL
  5. GEORGETOWN HIGH SCHOOL
-

# Thank You

ON BEHALF OF KEY CLUB, WE WANT TO  
THANK EVERYONE WHO PARTICIPATED IN  
OUR INDUCTION CEREMONY! IT WAS A  
GREAT NIGHT AS WE GREW OUR  
MEMBERSHIP TO 132 FAMILY MEMBERS!  
WE COULDN'T HAVE DONE IT WITHOUT  
THE HELP OF SO MANY. A SPECIAL  
THANK YOU TO MS. WILLIAMS, MS.  
KATIE, MRS. PAULA, MRS. FARMER, MS.  
RAUTSAW, MRS. DECERBO, AND MS.  
ROBINETTE FOR JOINING US FOR THE  
CEREMONY.

*Fershy and Mr. Chappell*

**Caring...it's what we do.**

# Class of 2025

## Ring Ceremony.



Click the link above to view the video from the program.

# ECHS Students & Parents

## Events Calendar

All dates are tentative and could change based on need

[Link to Calendar](#)

| OCTOBER 2023               |  |
|----------------------------|--|
| Week of October 1-7, 2023  |  |
| Monday, October 2          |  |
| Tuesday, October 3         | Rho Kappa Meeting  |
| Wednesday, October 4       |  |
| Thursday, October 5        | Deadline to register for November SAT<br>Key Club<br>Recycling<br>InvenTeam<br>Battle of the Books |
| Friday, October 6          | AM Advisory - M/W<br>Juniors Tour CCU Campus<br>Hispanic Heritage Month - <u>Gimkit</u> (Lunch)    |
| Saturday, October 7        | SAT National Testing--Seniors  |
| Week of October 9-14, 2023 |  |
| Monday, October 9          | No School  |
| Tuesday, October 10        | Teacher Workday ~ ML Year 3  |
| Wednesday, October 11      |  |
| Thursday, October 12       | Student Council<br>Recycling<br>InvenTeam<br>Dungeons and Dragons                                  |
| Friday, October 13         | PM Advisory - T/Th<br>PSAT Testing--All 10th Grade Students  |

# College of the Week



## COASTAL CAROLINA UNIVERSITY

Conway, South Carolina  
College of the Week

Coastal Carolina offers over 100 undergraduate level programs and over 30 graduate level programs!

The Bridge Program between HGTC/CCU provides an opportunity for students to improve their academic skills and meet the admissions requirements.

# **CHANTS UP!**

**NO School for ECHS students  
October 9 - 10, 2023**



**HGTC college classes in session  
October 9 - 10**



# 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.**

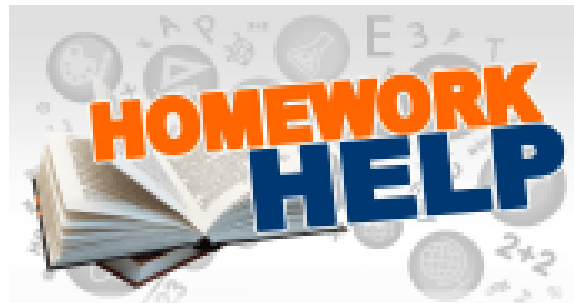


# Homework Assistance

**Tuesdays & Wednesdays**  
**4:00- 6:00 (after school)**  
**4:00 - 7:00 (Online)**



**HCS EARLY COLLEGE  
TRAILBLAZERS**



## **Homework Help Guidelines:**

- **In Person Help** is available after school on Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 2:30 - 4:30.
- Students will meet the teacher at the designated location and remain there until they are picked up.
- Students must be picked up by 4:30
- **Virtual Help** is available on Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 4:00 - 7:00.
- Students will use the links below to join the virtual group.

| After School Assistance |               |                       |             |
|-------------------------|---------------|-----------------------|-------------|
| <b>English</b>          |               |                       |             |
| Room 230                | Ms. Robinette | Tuesdays & Wednesdays | 2:30 - 4:00 |
| <b>Math</b>             |               |                       |             |
| Room 207                | Mrs. Bishop   | Wednesdays            | 2:30 - 4:00 |
| Room 223                | Ms. Woodard   | Tuesdays & Wednesday  | 2:30 - 4:30 |

| Online Assistance          |   |             |
|----------------------------|---|-------------|
| All Subjects (except math) |   |             |
| Ms. Benton                 | Tuesdays  | 4:00 - 6:00 |
| Link                       | <a href="https://meet.google.com/lookup/bentontutor">https://meet.google.com/lookup/bentontutor</a> |             |
| Math                       |   |             |
| Mrs. Kelly                 | Tuesdays & Wednesdays   | 5:00 - 7:00 |
| Link                       | <a href="https://meet.google.com/lookup/kellytutor">https://meet.google.com/lookup/kellytutor</a>   |             |

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**



## 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<br>Site Team   | Title I<br>Planning Team                                 | School<br>Improvement<br>Council                     |
|---|--|--|
| Meets <b>three</b> times<br>per year;<br>Mondays at 2:30              | Meets <b>three</b> times<br>per year;<br>Weekday at 3:00 | Meets <b>once per<br/>month</b> ;<br>Weekday at 3:00 |
| Learn about<br>instructional best<br>practices                        | Review the Title I and<br>Parenting Budget               | Review long term<br>plans                            |
| Ensure that progress<br>is being made toward<br>our AVID yearly goals |  | Look for ways to<br>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](mailto: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/superscoring)  
[act.org/superscoring](https://act.org/superscoring)



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



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

# 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

