



OCTOBER 16 - 20, 2023

THE BLAZE

Official Newsletter of HCS Early College High School

"Endless Possibilities"

from the desk of Mrs. Williams...

Trailblazers,

The South Carolina Department of Education released school report cards on October 10, 2023. I am excited, proud, and honored to share that we earned a rating of EXCELLENT with an overall score of 84! This score improved 2 points from last year's score of 82 which was also EXCELLENT! I am so very proud of the hard work of all our students and teachers and the continuous support of parents and community members. Our rating is truly a TEAM effort!.

I hope everyone had an amazing weekend and are ready for Homecoming 2023! Please follow us on social media to keep up with the activities for each day. Monday, October 16 kicks off Decades Day! Our seniors are asked to dress in the fashions of the 1980's and our freshmen in the 2010's. See the poster for the dress for our sophomores and juniors. Points will be awarded to each grade-level with the most participation each day. Who will take the crown - Class of 2024, 2025, 2026 or 2027?

This week will be jammed pack with great things happening. Our freshman class will be attending Coastal Carolina University's Theater Department's production of Rogers and Hammerstein's Cinderella. Students will be walking to the Wheelwright Auditorium on Friday, October 20, 2023. All students are asked to wear comfortable walking shoes.

To show our support for Breast Cancer Awareness, we are asking our students to PINK OUT Friday, October 20, 2023. Students will have a chance to wear hats and sunglasses for \$1.00 each. All proceeds will go to our cancer awareness campaign.

I want to remind all Trailblazers of something Winston Churchill once said, "Success is not final, Failure is not fatal. It is the courage to continue that counts." Have a great week!

Please read below for additional important updates and reminders.

Upcoming Events

CCU Theater - Cinderella

- October 20 @ 10:00
- 9th Grade

Homecoming Spirit Week

- October 16 - 20

Homecoming Dance

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

Pink Out Day (wear all pink)

- October 20

Hats & Sunglasses Fundraiser

- October 20
- \$1.00 for each

Out of the Darkness Suicide Prevention Walk

- October 21
- Sign up by Mrs. Farmer's Door

Advisory Trunk or Treat

- October 27
- 1:30 - 2:20

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, October 20, 2023, will be a PM Advisory and a Monday/Wednesday day.

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”. Permission slips are required before tickets can be purchased. The last day to buy tickets is Wednesday, October 18, 2023.

Homecoming Court Voting: Students can vote for any male and/or female for the Homecoming Court October 16-18. Winners must be at the dance!

Nominate Your Teacher and Support Staff of the Year: We are excited to announce that the process to select the 2023 Teacher of the Year and Support Staff of the Year has begun! Any ECHS Trailblazer or member of the community may nominate a candidate to apply to be ECHS’s Teacher of the Year and Support Staff of the Year. The nomination form is linked below. **Nominations for both Teacher of the Year and Support Staff of the Year are due by Friday, October 20, 2023, at 2:30 PM.**

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. Students are to wear comfortable walking shoes for the trip. Permission slips are required to attend and must be returned by Tuesday, October 17.

Hats & Sunglasses Fundraiser: Students will have a chance to wear their favorite hat and/or sunglasses for a \$1.00 each on Friday, October 20. All proceeds will go to charity. Students will pay in Advisory and must wear sticker.

Pink Out: All students are asked to wear pink on Friday, October 20 to show support for breast cancer awareness.

"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.

Congratulations, Trailblazers!



SC SCHOOL REPORT CARDS

Horry County | 2022-2023

Hcs Early College High School

2022-2023 Overall Rating

Excellent
84

School performance substantially
exceeds the criteria to ensure all
students meet the Profile of the SC
Graduate

Horry County Schools | 2021-2022

Hcs Early College High School

2021-2022 Overall Rating

Excellent
82

School performance substantially
exceeds the criteria to ensure all
students meet the Profile of the SC
Graduate

**We are proud of our students and
teachers for all their hard work!**

TRAILBLAZER

DAILY LUNCH SPECIALS



Monday 10/16/23

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



Tuesday 10/17/23

Walking Tacos

Pizza Lunchable



Wednesday 10/18/23

Chicken Tenders

Grilled Chicken Salad



Thursday 10/19/23

Chicken Parmesan

Turkey & Cheese Lunchable



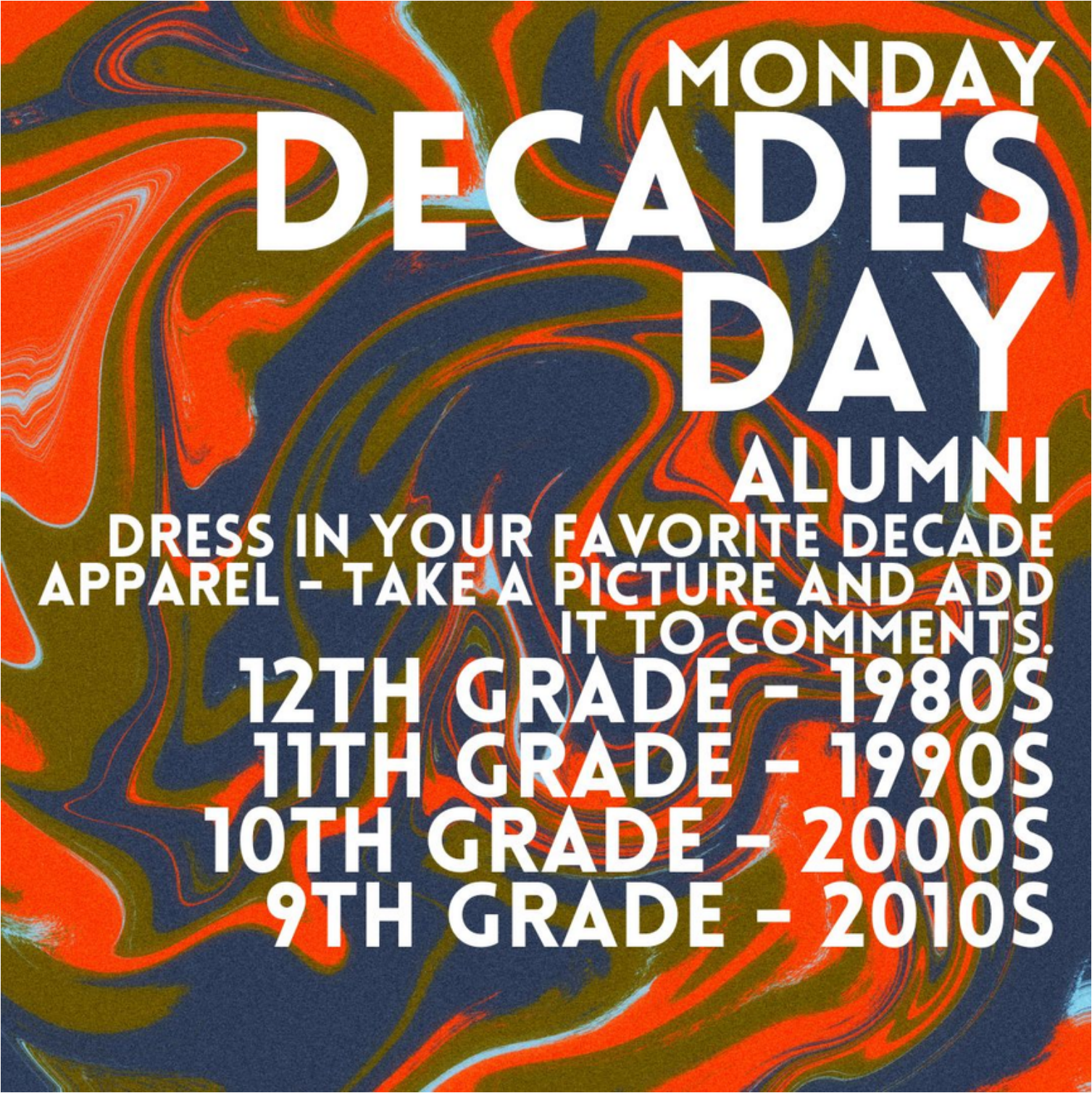
Friday 10/20/23

Cheesy Bites

PB&J Meal

Homecoming Spirit Week

Monday, October 16



MONDAY DECADES DAY

ALUMNI

DRESS IN YOUR FAVORITE DECADE
APPAREL - TAKE A PICTURE AND ADD
IT TO COMMENTS.

12TH GRADE - 1980S

11TH GRADE - 1990S

10TH GRADE - 2000S

9TH GRADE - 2010S



**Vote for the King and Queen and
the Homecoming Court.**

Vote only once October 16-18.

Winners must be at the dance!

[Ballot](#)

ECHS 2023-2024 Teacher of the Year & Support Staff of the Year



NOMINATE

ECHS Teacher and Support Staff of the Year

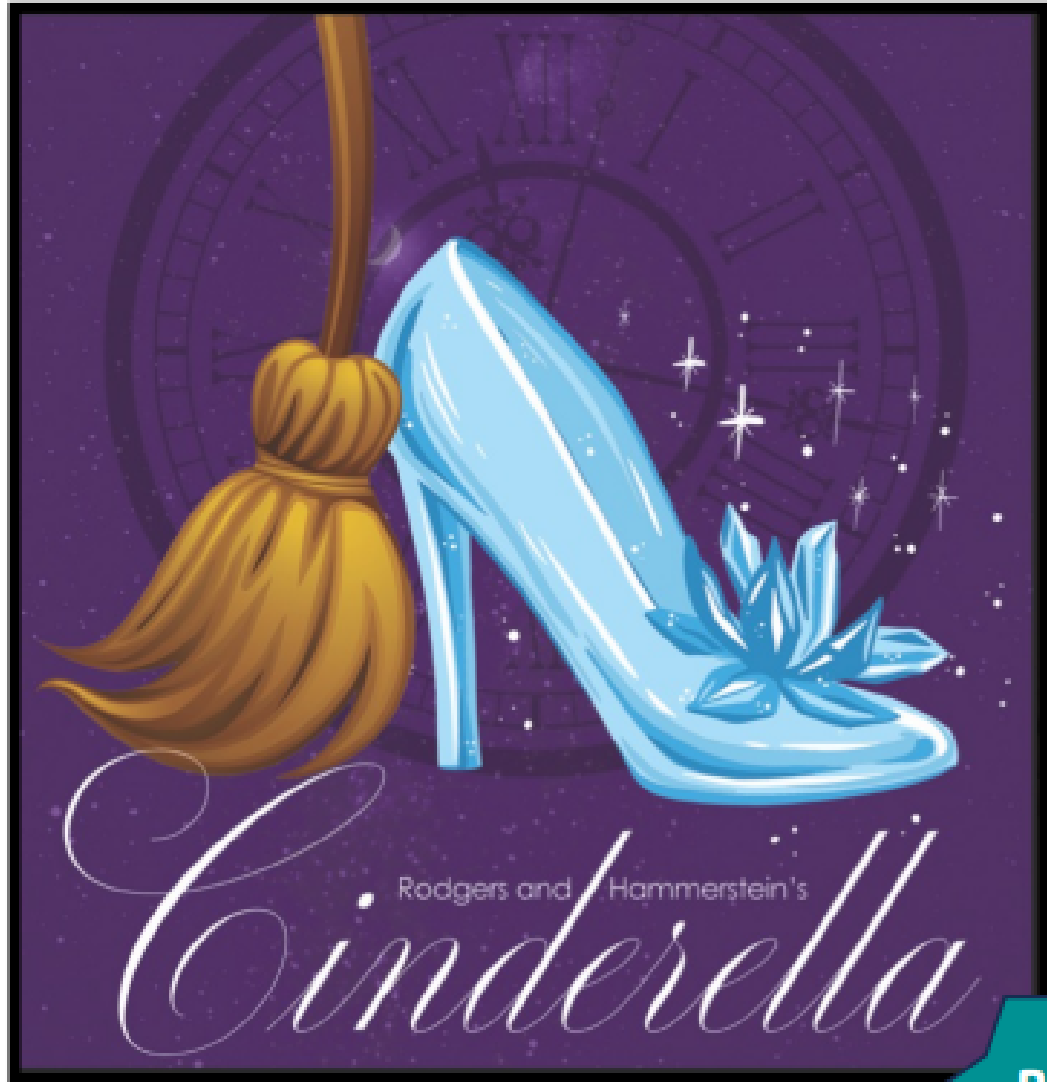
Please nominate one teacher for Teacher of the Year, and one staff member for Support Staff of the Year. All nominations are due by 2:30 PM October 20, 2023.

**Last Day to Nominate one Teacher
and one Staff Member is
Friday, October 20, 2023
at 2:30PM.**

[Nominate](#)



THE CCU THEATRE DEPARTMENT *presents the...*
Student Matinee Series!



Redu

Friday, October 20, 2023

10:00 CCU's Wheelwright Auditorium

9th Graders

Wear comfortable walking shoes



Window World October Teacher of the Month

Click her to [Vote](#) Everyday

Vote for Mrs. Farmer

<https://myhorrynews.secondstreetapp.com/October23-Teacher-of-the-Month/gallery/>

SPONSORED BY
Window World

TEACHER OF THE MONTH

VOTE EVERYDAY!

Make your nominations for the October 2023 Teacher of the Month!
Vote & Nominate EVERYDAY!

The teacher with the most votes will win a plaque, prize from **Window World** and a follow up story in our local papers!

Vote & Nominate: October 1 - October 31
Winner Contacted: November 1

Homecoming Spirit Week 2023



2023

HOMECOMING WEEK

SPIRIT DAYS

Monday (10/16) - Decades Day
12th Grade - 1980s
11th Grade - 1990s
10th Grade - 2000s
9th Grade - 2010s

Tuesday (10/17) - College Colors Day
Wear your favorite college's colors!

Wednesday (10/18) - Country v. Country Club Day
Pick one. Dress the part.

Thursday (10/19) - I Need a Vacation Day
Dress like you are going to the tropics or
the mountains!

Friday (10/20) - PINK OUT
Homecoming Dance, 7-10 p.m.

**Points will be awarded to the class with
the greatest participation each day.**
Will your class take the crown?

OCTOBER 16-20

More Information :

843-349-3131



ECHS Students & Parents

Events Calendar

All dates are tentative and could change based on need

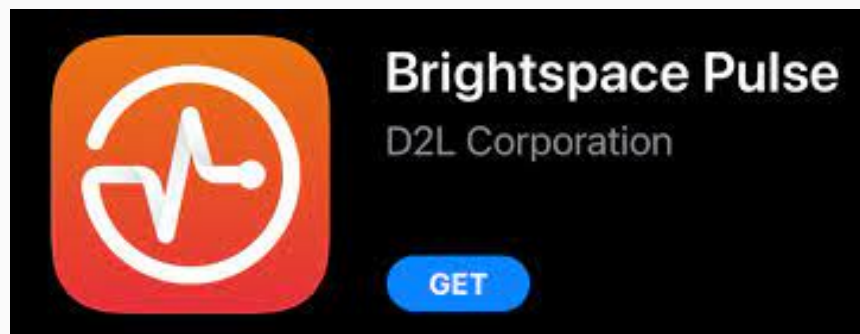
[Link to Calendar](#)

Week of October 16-21, 2023	
Monday, October 16	Salvation Army Canned Food Drive Homecoming Spirit Week: Decades Day
Tuesday, October 17	Student Health Screenings - 9th Grade during AVID Homecoming Spirit Week: College Colors Day Mu Alpha Theta Meeting Salvation Army Canned Food Drive
Wednesday, October 18	Salvation Army Canned Food Drive Homecoming Spirit Week: Country vs. Country Club Day
Thursday, October 19	Club Day (Key Club, Recycling, Debate, Disciples Making Disciples) Homecoming Spirit Week: I Need a Vacation Day Salvation Army Canned Food Drive
Friday, October 20	PM Advisory M/W Homecoming Spirit Week ~ Pink Out - WEAR PINK Hats/Sunglasses fundraiser - \$1.00 for each 9th Grade to CCU - Cinderella (10:00) Salvation Army Canned Food Drive Homecoming Dance - 7:00 - 10:00
Saturday, October 21	BE ² Mini Golf Scholarship Fundraiser Suicide Prevention - Out of the Darkness Walk



Parent Access to College Grades

- Download Brightspace Pulse to your phone.
- Have your students log into their myHGTC account.
- You can view grades & upcoming assignments.



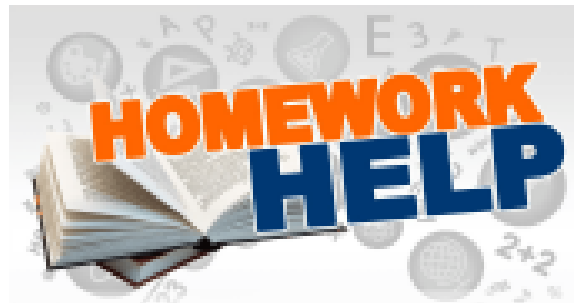
[Brightspace Pulse](#)

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			
English			
Room 230	Ms. Robinette	Tuesdays & Wednesdays	2:30 - 4:00
Math			
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	https://meet.google.com/lookup/bentontutor	
Math		
Mrs. Kelly	Tuesdays & Wednesdays	5:00 - 7:00
Link	https://meet.google.com/lookup/kellytutor	



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.

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**

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.





**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.



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

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

