



OCTOBER 23- 27, 2023

THE BLAZE

Official Newsletter of HCS Early College High School

"Endless Possibilities"

from the desk of Ms. Williams...

Trailblazers,

Homecoming 2023 was a huge success! Students had a great time. Congratulations to Lorenzo Burgess and Sadie Woodberry, our 2023 Homecoming King and Queen. Check our social media sites for some great pics of all the fun students had for the week.

This week will be another week of jammed pack great things happening! Monday, October 23 will kick off Red Ribbon Week. We are asking all students to wear **RED** to show to signify positive choices and a stance against drugs. Students can find the attire for the week in this newsletter and the Google classroom for Announcements.

We will continue our fundraising for the American Cancer Society with our Penny War during lunch. Students can donate pennies and silver in the jars of teachers and staff members they would like to see win or lose! It's all in fun since the money will go to charity.

October 25 is the last day of the first grading quarter. Students must all have all assignments submitted. Report cards will be emailed to parents on November 02, 2023. Students are encouraged to take advantage of after school and online assistance with homework provided by ECHS staff.

We have our final PM Advisory for the month on Friday, October 27, 2023. During this time, we will have our annual Advisory Trunk or Treat festival in the parking lot in front of buildings 300 and 400. The festivities will begin at 1:15 and end at 2:00 PM. There will be games, treats, and a best decorated trunk. Students will be allowed to dress up with appropriate attire and hats can be worn so long as they are a part of the costumes. Students cannot wear full face masks or make-up.

Please read below for additional important updates and reminders.

Upcoming Events

Red Ribbon Week

- October 23 - 27

End of Quarter 1

- October 25

Advisory Trunk or Treat

- October 27
- 1:30 - 2:20

Unity Day - Wear Orange

- October 31

Quarter 1 Report Cards

- November 02

Honor Society Induction Ceremony

- November 02 @ 5:30
- B & C Auditorium

Fall Make-up Pictures

- November 03 @ 8:30

Student Led Conferences

- November 7 - 9, 2023
- 2:30 - 7:00

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, October 27, 2023, will be a PM Advisory and a Tuesday/Thursday day.

Homecoming Queen & King: Congratulations to Sadie Woodberry, Homecoming Queen, and Lorenzo Burgess, Homecoming King.

Last Day of Quarter 1: The last day for grades for the first grading quarter is **Wednesday, October 25**. Report cards will be emailed to students and parents on Thursday, November 02, 2023. Students are reminded to submit all assignments on time and communicate with teachers about make-up work for all absences.

Red Ribbon Week - This week is our annual activities to promote safe choices and encourage everyone to Say No to Drugs. Students should see the flyer for each day's attire.

Art Club: The Art Club will be hosting its annual pumpkin painting in Mrs. Farmer's room on **Thursday, October 26th from 2:30 to 3:30**. There are only 25 seats available. Please sign up on the sheet posted outside of room 202.

Unity Day: All ECHS students are asked to wear orange on **October 31, 2023**, to stand up against bullying. Students will sign the online pledge against bullying.

Student Led Conferences: Students in grades 9 and 10 will participate in mandatory conferences on November 7, 8, and 9, 2023. Students must sign up for a time and day to do their conference with their parents and advisor. Conferences will begin at 2:30. Students are responsible for reminding parents of the time, date, and location of their conference.

Honor Society Induction Ceremony: There will be a fall induction ceremony for Rho Kappa Social Studies Honor Society, Mu Alpha Theta Math Honor Society, and National Honor Society Thursday, **November 02, 2023, beginning at 5:30 in the B & C Auditorium**. Inductees must pay their membership dues in order to participate in the ceremony and check email for instructions from sponsors. Inductees are asked to be at the B & C Auditorium by 5:15 on the day of the ceremony.

Salvation Army Food Drive: Students are asked to bring in canned good items and other non-perishable items for the Salvation Army Food Drive. The last day to bring in items is November 13. The Advisory with the most donated items will win donuts.

"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 10/23/23
Mandarin Orange Chicken
Turkey & Cheese Sub



Tuesday 10/24/23
Cheese Pizza
Pizza Lunchable



Wednesday 10/25/23
Chicken Tenders
Grilled Chicken Salad



Thursday 10/26/23
Penne Chicken Alfredo
Turkey & Cheese Lunchable



Friday 10/27/23
Pizza Crunchers
PB&J



Red Ribbon Week

October 23 - 27, 2023

Monday

Rally in
Red -
Stand up
to drugs-
Wear red



Tuesday

My future's
too bright
for drugs

Dress for
your future
occupation



Wednesday

Follow Your
Dreams,
Don't do
Drugs-
Wear your
Comfy clothes
(no PJs)



RED RIBBON WEEK

OCTOBER 23-27

Thursday

Team Up
Against
Drugs-
Wear your
favorite
sports team
jersey



Friday

Drugs are
scary- Wear
your school
appropriate
Halloween
costumes
(no masks
that cover
the whole
face).



ECHS Students & Parents

Events Calendar

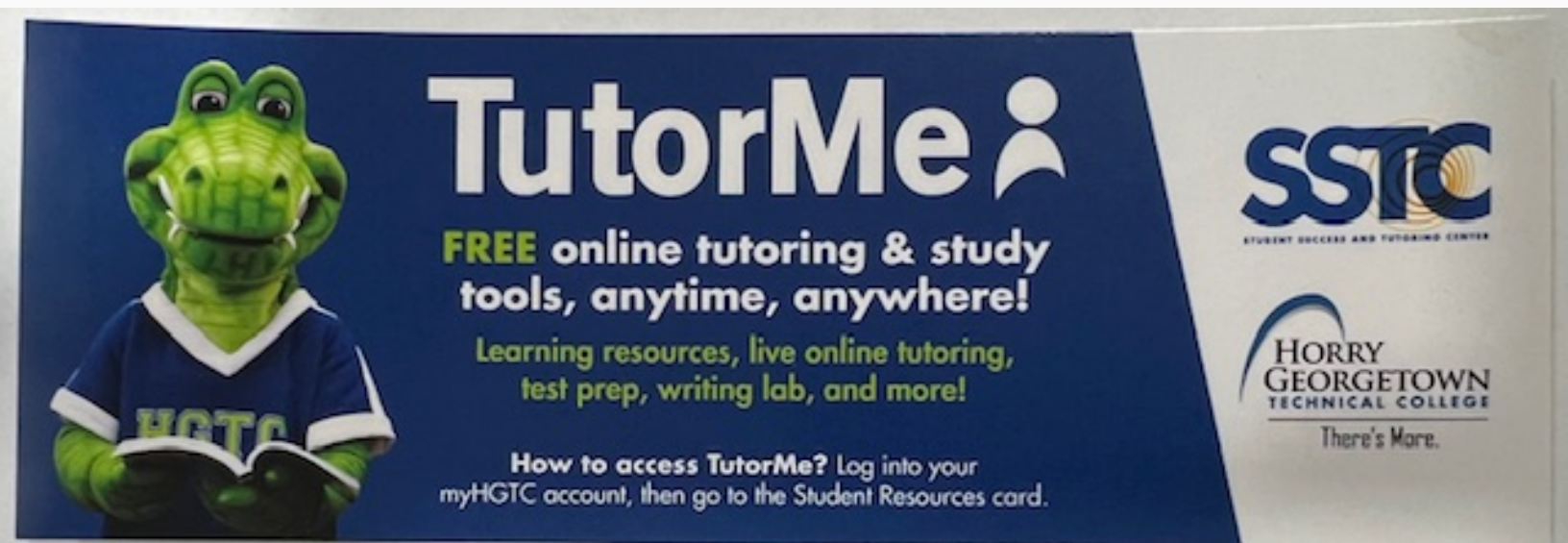
All dates are tentative and could change based on need

[Link to Calendar](#)

Week of October 23-28, 2023	
Monday, October 23	Red Ribbon Week - Stand Up to Drugs Wear RED Salvation Army Canned Food Drive
Tuesday, October 24	Red Ribbon Week - Dress As Your Future Self Salvation Army Canned Food Drive National Honor Society Meeting
Wednesday, October 25	Red Ribbon Week - Wear Comfy Clothes (No PJs) Salvation Army Canned Food Drive End of Quarter 1
Thursday, October 26	Red Ribbon Week - Team Against Drugs Wear Sporty Gear
	Salvation Army Canned Food Drive Club Day (Student Council, Recycling, InvenTeam, Art Club)
Friday, October 27	Red Ribbon Week - Drugs Are Scary Wear Your Costume (no masks) Salvation Army Canned Food Drive PM Advisory T/Th Trunk or Treat - Advisory (1:30 - 2:15)
Saturday, October 28	ACT National Testing–Seniors

Free Tutoring Available

Help Every Day, Any Time



TutorMe provides free, one-on-one online tutoring for HGTC students. Support is available 24/7. To try TutorMe, click the link on the [Student Resources card in myHGTC](#).

Title I Newsletter

October 2023

[English](#), [Spanish](#)

High School Parents[®]

Horry County Schools

still make the difference!



Challenge your teen to find a 'mind-building' hobby

As students get older, they must develop higher order thinking skills. High school students need to know how to weigh the information they hear, see and read.

To strengthen these thinking skills, encourage your teen to:

- **Read more than just assignments.** The more students read, the more new ideas they are exposed to. It can't be said too often that teens should read for pleasure—everything from news articles to magazines to novels.

and some popular brand name games, such as Scattergories and Catan, build important thinking skills, too.

- **Debate.** Most teens love to argue. Ask your teen to stop arguing with you and join the school debate team instead. No debate team? Perhaps your teen could start one.
- **Play a musical instrument.** Making music teaches about order, rhythm and patterns. It sharpens listening skills. And it can help teens feel calm, which improves their ability

Show your teen what respect looks like



When it comes to teaching your high schooler about respect, the idea isn't to *teach* at all.

It's to demonstrate.

Here are some everyday ways to demonstrate respect:

- **Be polite.** Say *please*, *thank you* and *excuse me* when talking to your teen. Honor privacy by knocking before entering your teen's room.
- **Be fair.** Don't pass judgment on your teen or impose a consequence before learning all the facts. Show respect by taking the time to get your teen's side of the story.
- **Be kind.** Show grace when your teen makes a mistake. Avoid telling childhood stories that might embarrass your teen in front of others.
- **Be dependable.** If you tell your teen you'll do something, be sure you do it.
- **Be honest.** Every little white lie you tell chips away at the



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



October 31, 2023
We Wear Orange

powerful
change
care
community
acceptance
protect
inclusion
Pledge
you're not alone
support
together
kindness
help

[Take the Pledge](#)



October is National Bullying Prevention Month. Bullying can impact a student's education, physical and emotional health, safety, and well-being. Together, we can create kinder, more inclusive, and more accepting communities for all students. If you see or suspect bullying, say something about it!

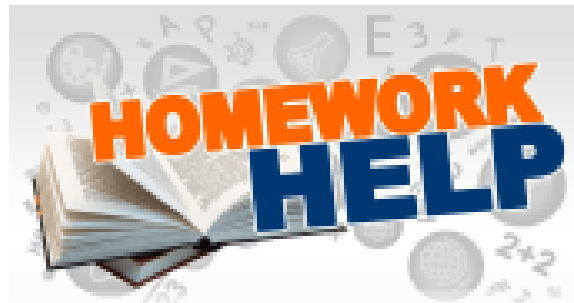
Visit www.horrycountyschools.net/nobullying to learn more about how you can help stomp out bullying.

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	



November 7 - 9, 2023

2:30 PM - 7:00 PM

We will have Student Led Conferences (SLCs) for students in grades 9 -10 November 7 - 9, 2023.

This will be a time for the Parent/Guardian to visit ECHS and listen to the student share his/her progress, achievements, or concerns.

Please make sure that you sign up for a day and time. SLCs are required. We look forward to seeing you!!

Fall /Winter 23-24

EOC Testing Dates

EOC Exam Schedule



2023 End of Course Test Schedule

English II Writing
December 07

Thursday,

Algebra I
December 12

Tuesday,

Biology I
December 13

Wednesday,

English II Reading
December 14

Thursday,

Please reschedule doctor/dental appointments that fall on a test day! **Per South Carolina mandate, the EOC test score will count as 20% of the student's final grade in the corresponding course.**

Students who do not test will receive a score of zero as the final exam grade in the corresponding course. Make up exams may not be rescheduled due to vacations/unexcused absences. Students will not be allowed to have any electronic device other than the HCS computer in the testing location.



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.



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](#)

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.



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!**



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

