



NOVEMBER 27 - DECEMBER 01, 2023

# THE BLAZE

Official Newsletter of HCS Early College High School

"Endless Possibilities"

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

Trailblazers,

Welcome back, Trailblazers! I hope everyone had a safe and happy Thanksgiving holiday. This week will be another busy, but good week as we close out November.

I cannot believe we are at the mid-way point of Quarter 2. Interim Reports will be emailed Friday, December 01, 2023. Students are reminded to check PowerSchool daily and communicate with teachers about absences and assignments missed. Homework Assistance is available for all students on Tuesdays and Wednesdays after school and online. Students are encouraged to take advantage of this worthwhile opportunity. Help is available for all subjects.

Our School Improvement Council (SIC) will meet Tuesday, November 28 at 3:00 in the ECHS conference room. Students and parents are invited to participate in the meeting as we look forward to your input on all things ECHS.

Congratulations to Mrs. DeCerbo and her Enchanted Home of DeCerbo advisory group for donating the most items for the Salvation Army Food Drive. They donated 211 items and won the donut party.

Congratulations to Dr. Kristy Floyd, our 9th grade science teacher. Dr. Floyd was selected by her colleagues to represent ECHS as the 2023-2024 Teacher of the Year. We are very proud of her and know that she will represent us well.

Seniors are reminded to submit their Herff-Jones graduation supply orders by December 01, 2023, to get the early bird discounts. Supplies will be delivered by March 2024.

We are a drop off destination for the U.S. Marine Corps' Toys for Tots program. We are asking students and families that are able to please donate a new, unwrapped toy and make someone's holidays just a little bit brighter.

Please read below for additional important updates and reminders.

## Upcoming Events

### School Improvement Council Meeting

- November 28
- 3:00

### Toys for Tots Drive

- November 13 - December 08

### Q2 Interim Report

- December 01

### HGTC Final Exams

- December 4 - 7

### Cookies & Milk

- December 15 ~ Advisory

### Winter Formal Dance

- January 05, 2024
- \$15.00
- Marina inn-Grande Dunes

# 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, December 01, 2023, will be a AM Advisory and a Tuesday/Thursday day.

**Salvation Army Food Drive:** Congratulations to Mrs. DeCerbo's Advisory (Enchanted Home of DeCerbo) for donating 211 items.

**Quarter 2 Interim Report:** Interim Reports for Quarter 2 will be emailed to students and parents. Students should make sure they have no missing assignments.

**School Improvement Council Meeting:** All parents and students are invited to attend the first SIC meeting on Tuesday, November 28, 2023, at 3:00 PM.

**Toys for Tots Drive:** ECHS is a drop-off location for the U.S. Marine Corps' Toys for Tots program. Please bring a new, unwrapped toy and make someone's holidays just a little bit brighter. **The last day to bring in items is December 08, 2023.**

**Winter Formal:** The annual Winter Formal dance will be Friday, January 05, 2024, at the Marina Inn- Grande Dunes, 7:00 PM - 10:00 PM. Tickets are \$15.00 and includes food and drinks. Students can pay in person to Ms. Katie before school and during lunch or online using [mypaymentsplus](#). The last day to purchase a ticket is Tuesday, December 19, 2023. A signed parent permission slip is required with payment. Permission slips are available on the counter in the front office and in the link with the advertisement.

**Graduation Supply Order:** Seniors are reminded to order their graduation supplies by Friday, December 01 in order for them to receive the early discounts as well as be back in time for the March 2024 delivery.

**Composting:** 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.

"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.

# Happy Thanksgiving, Trailblazers!



**ECHS will be closed Nov. 20 - 24.**  
**HGTC will be closed Nov. 22 - 24.**



# ***TRAILBLAZER***

## ***DAILY LUNCH SPECIALS***



***Monday 11/27/23***

***Szechuan Chicken***

***PB&J***



***Tuesday 11/28/23***

***Chicken Filet Sandwich***

***Turkey & Cheese Sub***



***Wednesday 11/29/23***

***Soft Taco's Beef***

***Crispy Chicken Salad***



***Thursday 11/30/23***

***Chicken Bog***

***Chicken Salad Sub***



***Friday 12/01/23***

***Pizza Crunchers***

***PB&J***



# ECHS Students & Parents

## Events Calendar

All dates are tentative and could change based on need

[Link to Calendar](#)

Week of November 27-December 2, 2023	
Monday, November 27	
Tuesday, November 28	National Honor Society Meeting School Improvement Council Meeting - 3:00
Wednesday, November 29	
Thursday, November 30	Club Day (Key Club, Recycling) Last Day for HGTC Classes
Friday, December 1	AM Advisory T/Th Early Discount Order - Senior Graduation Supplies (last day) Interim Reports Issued for Q2
Saturday, December 2	SAT National Testing-Seniors
DECEMBER 2023	

Week of December 4-9, 2023	
Monday, December 4	HGTC Final Exams
Tuesday, December 5	HGTC Final Exams Rho Kappa Meeting
Wednesday, December 6	HGTC Final Exams Early College Informational Meeting for Class of 2028 6:00
Thursday, December 7	HGTC Final Exams English 2 Writing EOC Club Day (Key Club, Recycling, Debate, Battle of the Books)
Friday, December 8	AM Advisory M/W
Saturday, December 9	ACT National Testing-Seniors Conway Christmas Parade - Key Club Selected to Participate

# Class of 2024

Order Graduation Supplies by December 01, 2023.

[Graduation Supply Catalog](#)

[Grad Gear](#)



CLASS OF 24  
ESSENTIALS

ORDER  
PACKAGES  
& MORE  
ONLINE!

[www.scherffjones.com](http://www.scherffjones.com)  
HERFF JONES / THE WATERS GROUP  
scoffice@herffjones.com • 864.244.0110

THESE  
ARE THE  
BEST OF  
TIMES



# College of the Week

## USC - Columbia



# UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA

## COLUMBIA, SOUTH CAROLINA

"AT THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA, YOU CAN BUILD A FUTURE FROM MORE THAN 350 DEGREE OPTIONS — MORE THAN ANY OTHER SCHOOL IN THE STATE. FIND A MAJOR THAT FITS YOUR STRENGTHS AND, MORE IMPORTANTLY, WHAT YOU ENJOY DOING."

SC.EDU



# Salvation Army Canned Food Drive Winners

**Congrats to the  
Enchanted Home of DeCerbo for  
donating 211 items!**



# Toys For Tots Drive

ECHS is a drop-off location for the U.S. Marine Corps' Toys for Tots program. Please bring a new, unwrapped toy and make someone's holidays just a little bit brighter.



# Winter Formal Dance

January 05, 2024

Marina Inn - Grande Dunes

7:00 PM - 10:00 PM

\$15.00

Food & Drinks Included



Pay in person to Ms. Katie or online  
(mypaymentsplus). [Permission slip](#) required  
with payment.





# TEACHER *of the year*



**Congratulations,  
Dr. Kristy Floyd!  
ECHS 2023-2024  
Teacher of the  
Year.**

**We appreciate all  
you do for  
students and  
ECHS!**

**Students in Mr.  
Chappell's Economics &  
Personal Finance class  
participating in job  
interviews for their  
careers.**





## 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

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### 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



# Senior AVID News

Updates on Key Information for Seniors Only!

[Newsletter Link](#)

## SENIOR AVID NEWS



### WHAT'S HAPPENING IN AVID 401

The seniors have been busy in AVID 401 this year. We have completed college applications, done test prep for ACT and SAT, learned about the Cost of Attendance at College, and learned about financing higher education.

### ACT/SAT DATES AND DEADLINES

- ACT Test-Dec. 9, 2023
- Late Deadline-Nov. 17, 2023
- SAT Test-Dec.2, 2023
- Late Deadline-Nov.21, 2023

### UPCOMING EVENTS

- Nov. 22-24-HGTC Thanksgiving Break
- Dec. 4-8-HGTC Final Exam Week

### IMPORTANT

- SC State Scholarships are still requiring ACT/SAT scores. They are NOT test



**EARLY COLLEGE  
OCTOBER 2023**

# **STUDENTS OF THE MONTH**

The Nominees

## **SENIORS**

Michael Hughes  
Faith Mercer  
Alli Owens

## **JUNIORS**

Mya Goodfellow  
Trinytee Gore  
Abella Grant  
Addison Hornick  
Adasyn Tackett  
Kim Zhao

## **SOPHOMORES**

McKay Denham  
Jerry Gordon  
Kevin Moseley  
Morgan Nixon  
AJ Parker  
Mellany Ruiz Rodriguez  
Amber Usher  
Sue Young

## **FRESHMEN**

Heatherlynn Boldt  
Sherlyn Cruz-Ataxca  
Grace De Anda Hernandez  
Charunya Mimi Kuamala  
Israel Miller  
Mackenzie Rogers  
Ammoriana Stevenson  
Stella Vrettos  
Cadaisha Williams

# **TEACHER OF THE MONTH**



**DR. FLOYD**



**FERSHY CARBAJAL GARCIA  
SENIOR**



**KAMRYN JOHNSON  
JUNIOR**



**DAYSHAUN MARKS  
SOPHOMORE**



**GRACEY LLAKA  
FRESHMAN**

# Tips to Successfully Email a Teacher or Professor

## Tips for Writing an Email to a Teacher

- Use a Clear Subject Line
- Choose the Correct Greeting
- Structure as a Formal Letter
- Include Only Necessary Information
- Keep Your Tone Respectful
- Use an Appropriate Salutation

## HOW TO EMAIL A TEACHER

### 1 SUBJECT LINE

2-5 word summary of the email

- Missing Grade
- Homework Question
- Late Work

### 4 CLOSING

- Thank you
- Have a nice day!



### 5 SIGN YOUR NAME!

### 2 BEGIN WITH A GREETING

- Good Morning
- Hello
- Good Afternoon

This is in the body  
of the email



### 3 BODY OF THE EMAIL

- I am writing because.....
- I need help help.....
- I am confused by.....



### General Tips:

- Be sure to use proper capitalization & punctuation.
- Always use proper grammar.
- Plz spell out ur words.
  - Please spell out your words.



# Title I Newsletter

## November 2023

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

# High School Parents

November 2023  
Vol. 31, No. 3

Horry County Schools

***still make the difference!***



## Relating facts to something meaningful improves recall

**B**rain research sheds light on how memory works. And that can make test time a little easier for your teen.

When it comes to studying, some methods work better than others. Memorization is a case in point. Teens often memorize by repeating something over and over. But one brain study says there's a better way to retain information.

Repetition can help with short-term memory. But long-term memory is what your teen needs to call up a fact on a test. Researchers found that the best way to store information long term is to relate it to other facts already stored in the brain.

To make new material more memorable, encourage your teen to:

- **Make a mental picture.** The Spanish word for *narrow* is *estrecho*. Think of

the word stretched out until it is very thin. The sillier the picture, the easier it may be for your teen to remember.

- **Link facts to prior knowledge.** Which spelling (*stationary* or *stationery*) means paper? "*Stationery* uses envelopes."
- **Use rhymes.** "Columbus sailed the ocean blue in fourteen hundred ninety-two" illustrates the power of a rhyme.
- **Create a sentence.** "I shouldn't battle again." The number of letters in each word correlates to the year the Civil War ended: 1865.

Spending time creating these memory links will help your teen study smarter and remember more.

Source: "Long-Term Memories Made with Meaningful Information," Science Daily.

## Listen to your teen's ideas and opinions



"Could you please hear me out?" You've probably asked that question yourself in a dis-

cussion at work or with a family member. Even if you don't get your way, you want to know your point of view is being considered.

It should come as no surprise that teens feel the same way. Giving them a chance to express their opinions makes them happier, more engaged and more confident.

When your teen has something to say, take time to listen carefully. And when you hear a valid point, seriously consider it. For example, your teen might have a reasonable idea about switching up chores, or a compelling argument for staying up a bit later on Friday night.

You may not always agree with your teen, but by listening, you are demonstrating respect—and instilling the confidence your teen will need to speak up and contribute in school and in life.

Source: K.N. Marbell-Pierre and others, "Parental Autonomy Support in Two Cultures: The Moderating Effects of Adolescents' Self-Concepts," *Child Development*.

# Free Tutoring Available

Help Every Day, Any Time



**TutorMe** 

**FREE** online tutoring & study tools, anytime, anywhere!

Learning resources, live online tutoring, test prep, writing lab, and more!

**How to access TutorMe?** Log into your myHGTC account, then go to the Student Resources card.



STUDENT SUCCESS AND TUTORING CENTER



There's More.

**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](#).**

# Homework Assistance

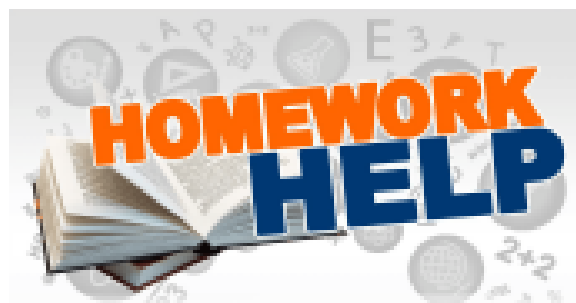
**Tuesdays & Wednesdays**

**2:30 - 4:30 (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>	



# 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.**





# 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.







# 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

