DECEMBER 20, 2023 - JANUARY 01, 2024

THE BLAZE

Official Newsletter of HCS Early College High School

"Endless Possibilities"

from the desk of Ms. Williams...

Trailblazers,

I hope everyone is doing fine and had no major damage from the storm on Sunday. As we close out the last day before winter break, students are reminded to make sure all assignments have been submitted. When we return to school on January 02, 2024, students will take final exams on Wednesday and Thursday. Friday, January 05, 2024, is the last day of the semester for ECHS students. Monday, January 08, 2024, will be the first day of the new semester for ECHS and HGTC.

As we close out the semester, students who have missed more than 5 unexcused days in a course must make-up time to avoid failing due to attendance. Please see the attendance make-up schedule. Questions regarding attendance can be sent to Ms. Mojo, Ms. Williams, and Ms. Macasek.

I am very proud of the students enrolled in Algebra I, Biology I, and English II and their performance on the End of Course (EOC) tests. We currently have 100% passage rate on all three tests. We had 10 students join our academic group known as the EOC All Stars for their score of a 100 on the End of Course Test. We had 5 students in Biology and 5 students in English II to score a 100. Kudos to the students and teachers (Mrs. Bishop-Algebra I, Mrs. Farmer -Biology, and Mrs. Robinette - English II) for all their dedication and hard work.

The annual Winter Formal is Friday, January 05, 2024, at the Marina Inn-Grande Dunes. The attire for the dance is semi-formal. Students are reminded to adhere to school dress code when selecting their attire. Students planning to check out early on the day of the dance must have a parent note or email sent to Ms. Patti. Students cannot checkout prior to 11:30 AM. Students who choose to check out early are reminded the class time missed is unexcused and they are responsible for all assignments missed.

I hope everyone have a safe and happy holiday break, and I cannot wait until we return on January 02, 2024!

Please read below for additional important updates and reminders.

Upcoming Events

Winter Break

• December 20 - January 01

ECHS Final Exams

• January 3 - <u>5,</u> 2024

Winter Formal Dance

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

Semester 2 - ECHS & HGTC

• January 08, 2024

Early Dismissal - HCS

- January 12, 2024
- 2.5 hrs. early ECHS

No School - ECHS

• January 15 - 16, 2024

No School - HGTC

• January 15

Quarter 2 Report Cards

• January 23, 20<u>2</u>4

Important Trailblazer Links

<u>Lunch Menu</u>

ECHS Website

<u>Student Handbook</u> <u>Homework Assistance</u> <u>Scholarship Website</u> Safety Protocols (<u>English</u> / <u>Spanish</u>) Transcript Request (<u>ECHS</u> / <u>HGTC</u>) <u>Facebook</u>, <u>Twitter</u>, <u>Instagram</u>

<u>Advisory</u>: Friday, January 05, 2024, will be a PM Advisory and a Monday/Wednesday day.

<u>College Textbooks Return</u>: Students enrolled in college classes can return their textbooks to the cart in the front lobby. Students will not be issued textbooks until they return books from first semester.

Final Exams: Students will take final exams Wednesday and Thursday. The EOC will count as the final exam for students enrolled in Algebra I, Biology I, and English II.

<u>Winter Formal</u>: 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 are reminded to follow the school dress code when selecting their attire. Students who plan to attend the dance and leave school early, cannot check out before 11:30 AM. All early checkouts for the dance are unexcused (unless students have a medical note) and students are responsible for work missed.

<u>Spring Semester</u>: The spring semester will begin Monday, January 08, 2024, for ECHS and HGTC students.

<u>Early Dismissal Day</u>: Friday, January 12, 2024, will be a 2.5 hour early dismissal day. ECHS will dismiss at 12:00 PM.

<u>Student Holiday</u>: Monday, January 15 and Tuesday, January 16 will be a student holiday for ECHS students. HGTC will be closed Monday, January 15. Students enrolled in college classes are required to attend school for HGTC on Tuesday, January 16. Students in need of transportation will complete the Google Form during AVID to indicate if they need bus transportation. All transportation questions for January 16 can be directed to Ms. Macasek. "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



<u>Title I</u>

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. Horry County Schools Schools will be closed from December 20 - January 1, 2024

APPY

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Happy Holidays, Trailblazers!

We look forward to seeing everyone on January 02, 2024!

Congratulations to our EOC All Stars! They scored a 100 on the test.

Biology EOC All Stars – Fall 2023











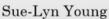


CARLY COLLEGE

Micah Carbaugh

Alexia Stathes

Chloe Denham



English II EOC All Stars – Fall 2023





Brianna Flores



Alexia Stathes







Khloe Perkinson



Samantha McKenzie

TRAILBLAZER DAILY LUNCH SPECIALS



Monday 1/01/24





Tuesday 1/02/24 Chicken Filet Sandwich PB&J



Wednesday 1/03/24 Bosco Sticks/marinara Crispy Chicken Salad



Thursday 1/04/24 Chicken Alfredo/Garlic Toast Turkey & Cheese Sub



Friday 1/05/24 Pulled Pork Sandwich PB&J

ECHS Students & Parents Events Calendar

All dates are tentative and could change based on need

Link to Calendar

Winter Break (No School) December 20, 2023-January 1, 2024					
JANUARY 2024					
Week of January 1-6, 2024					
Monday, January 1	Last Day of Winter Break (No School) New Year's Day				
Tuesday, January 2	Rho Kappa Meeting				
Wednesday, January 3	ECHS Final Exams				
Thursday, January 4	Club Day (Key Club, Recycling, Debate, Battle of the Books) ECHS Final Exams				
Friday, January 5	PM Advisory M/W ECHS Final Exams Winter Formal ~ Marina Inn 7:00 - 10:00 Deadline to register for February ACT Last Day of ECHS First Semester				

ECHS Attendance Make-up Academy Schedule



HCS EARLY COLLEGE TRAILBLAZERS

ECHS Attendance Make-up Schedule

Students are in danger of failing due to attendance if they have missed more than 5 unexcused days per course for semester classes.

Quarter Classes- Students are in danger of failing due to attendance if they have missed more than 3 unexcused days per course for quarter classes. (Government or Economics)

December 2023				
Tuesday, December 5, 2023	2:30-4:30 p.m.			
Wednesday,December 6, 2023	2:30-4:30 p.m.			
Tuesday, December 12, 2023	2:30-4:30 p.m.			
Wednesday,December 13, 2023	2:30-4:30 p.m.			
Saturday, December 16 2023	8:00 a.m12:00 p.m.			
January 2024				
Tuesday, January 2, 2024	2:30-4:30 p.m.			
Wednesday, January 3, 2024	2:30-4:30 p.m.			
Saturday, January 6, 2023	8:00 a.m12:00 p.m.			
Tuesday, January 9 , 2023	2:30-4:30 p.m.			
Wednesday, January 10, 2023	2:30-4:30 p.m.			

Please note: All students who attend attendance make-up school must bring school work to work on. Students must notify Ms. Patti Mojo if you are attending Saturday sessions. All Saturday sessions begin promptly at 8:00 a.m. Students who are late to Saturday school will have to reschedule for another day.

To determine how many hours of makeup you need. Only count the total number of unexcused absences (UNEX/UEPN) in each block then subtract the number 5. This will give you the total number of blocks you have to make up per class.

For Example: A student in a semester-long class has 8 UNEX in block 1, 5 UNEX in block 2, 5 UNEX in block 3, and 6 UNEX in block 4.

- Block 1 3 (8-5 = 3)hours required*
- Block 2 = 0 (5-5 is no make up required)
- Block 3 = 0 (5-5 is no make up required)

Winter Formal Dance

January 05, 2024 Marina Inn - Grande Dunes 7:00 PM - 10:00 PM \$15.00 Food & Drinks Included



EARLY COLLEGE NOVEMBER 2023 STUDENTS OF THE MONTH

SENIORS

Kyriana Days Katiana Eckert Faith Mercer

The Nominees JUNIORS

Mya Goodfellow Ashier Johnson Meggy Morales Garcia

SOPHOMORES FRESHMEN

Othmane Aabid Kadija Abdulmutaale Jordan Atlasy McKay Denham Tahra Maynard Morgan Nixon Koeyn Robinson Brittany Rodriguez Sabino Bianca West Tiara Wilson-McLean Caniyah Beaty Reagan Cox Grace De Anda Hernandez Israel Miller Aiyana Mitchell Ammoriana Stevenson Stella Vrettos

TEACHER OF THE MONTH





LANDEN FENDER SENIOR



CHELSEY VERNON JUNIOR



JERRY GORDON SOPHOMORE



FERGIE CARMONA MENDEZ FRESHMAN

College of the Week South Carolina State University

SOUTH CAROLINA STATE UNIVERSITY

Orangeburg, South Carolina Here are the details: -Established in 1896 -2900+ students

-30,000+ alumni

"SC State was founded as a land grant college with a mission of providing education and service to the citizens of the state. In its first century, SC State was a leader in education and continues to lead the way into the next century."



https://scsu.edu/

Compassion Through Fashion!

Early College is trying something new! Ms. Robinette is leading two Early College teams to create entries in this year's Compassion through Fashion fashion show, benefitting New Directions of Horry County.

If you would like to learn more about New Directions or buy tickets for the fashion show, please follow the link provided.

For Tickets

https://www.classy.org/event/compassion-through-fashion/e521883



NEW DIRECTIONS COMPASSION THROUGH FASHION 3 FEBRUARY 2024

6 p.m.

Myrtle Beach Convention Center Tickets are \$75 each and can be bought through the website for New Directions. New Directions is a community outreach program focused on meeting the needs of those who may be experiencing homelessness.

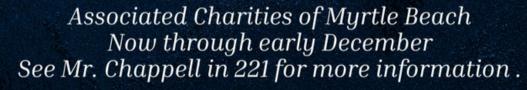
For more information on their programs, please visit the website at the link provided.





CLOTHING Drive

Help families in need with new or used clothes





MILION CAN TAB CHALLENGE RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE

EARLY COLLEGE IS COLLECTING CAN TABS TO BENEFIT THE LIFE CHANGING WORK OF THE RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE IN CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA. WE WILL BE COLLECTING CAN TABS THROUGHOUT THE YEAR.



A DIFFERENS



Saturday, January 27, 2024 Plunge Time: 10:30 AM Sands Ocean Club Resort Myrtle Beach, South Carolina

Join our team or make a donation! https://www.classy.org/team/540635 See Ms. Hecklinger for more information.

AMERICAN CANCER Society Society Relay for life 4 May 2024 3-9 PM Valor Park @ Market Common

Senior AVID News

Updates on Key Information for Seniors Only!

Newsletter Link

SENIOR AVID NEWS



BIG CHANGES COMING FOR THE 2024-2025 FAFSA

There are some big changes coming on the 2024-2025 FAFSA form. The new version is going to be much shorter and more streamlined. The income data will be directly imported from the Internal Revenue Service instead of having to have income tax forms available. The students have already completed their FSA ID's in class. The parents will have to create an FSA ID as well, if they don't already have one. Please use this <u>link</u> to create an account. This will be a requirement to fill out the new FAFSA form.

ACT/SAT DATES AND DEADLINES

- ACT Test-Feb. 10, 2024
- Deadline-Jan.5, 2024
- SAT Test-March 9, 2024
- Deadline-Feb. 23, 2024

UPCOMING EVENTS

- January 8, 2024- HGTC Spring Semester Start
- January 25, 2024- FAFSA Workshop at ECHS

IMPORTANT

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

Title I Newsletter

December 2023

English, Spanish





Horry County Schools



Artificial intelligence can be used to enhance learning

Artificial intelligence (AI) is shaping every aspect of our lives, which means students need to understand how to use the technology responsibly. Knowing what AI can and cannot do will help teens analyze the data it provides—and even use it to enhance their own learning.

Explain that AI systems:

- Are created and controlled by humans—they are not conscious or all-knowing.
- Learn by analyzing information provided by people. But they can't judge the accuracy of that information or think "outside the box," so your teen may receive incorrect or incomplete answers.
- Target data for particular users, which means they can present

biased information. Your teen should always verify information using multiple trustworthy sources. Encourage your high schooler to use AI to dive deeper into class material. Your teen could ask a chat bot to "explain the Pythagorean theorem" or "tell me about the periodic table of elements." However, be sure to caution your teen against using AI to plagiarize.

Also, have your teen research ways AI is used in careers. From human resources to agriculture to entertainment, many industries now incorporate AI. For example, AI may screen candidates for jobs, power drones that monitor crops, and even generate music and art. What other examples can your teen find? Does working with AI in these ways sound interesting to your teen?

Show your teen how to manage test anxiety



Whether they are preparing for a driver's test or a end-of-unit test, high school students

December 2023

have to learn how to perform well under pressure.

Studying thoroughly is the best way to go into a test with confidence. In addition, to help your teen keep test stress under control:

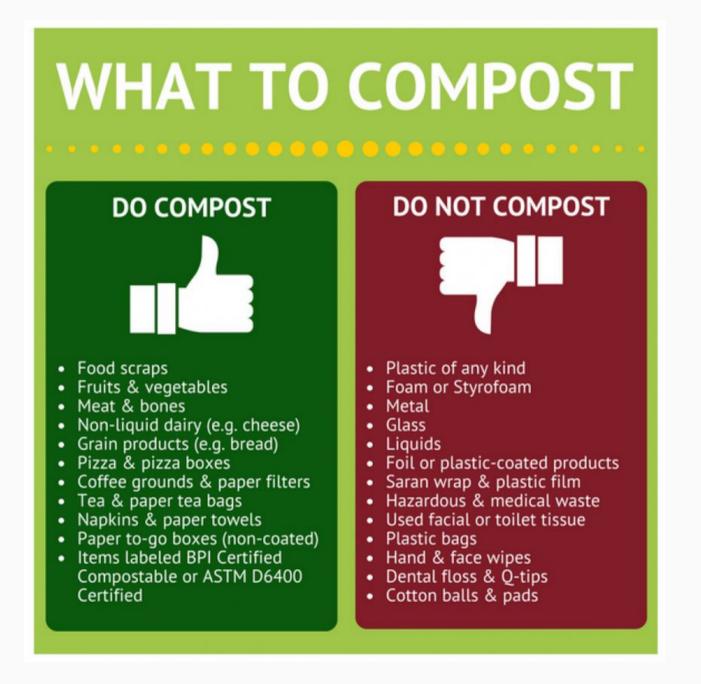
- Put things into perspective. Remind your teen that tests are just a part of life. It's important to always try your best, but also realize that a test merely reflects what happened on one day. A poor grade on one test doesn't mean your teen is a failure.
- Share relaxation strategies. Teach your teen to tense and then relax muscles. Your teen should start by tightening toes, counting to three, and then relaxing them. Then do the same with legs, arms, shoulders and neck.
- Teach visualization. Athletes practice "seeing" themselves winning the game. Help your teen do the same, and picture going into the test feeling confident and prepared.

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.



Tips to Successfully Email a Teacher or Professor

Tips for Writing an Email to a Teacher

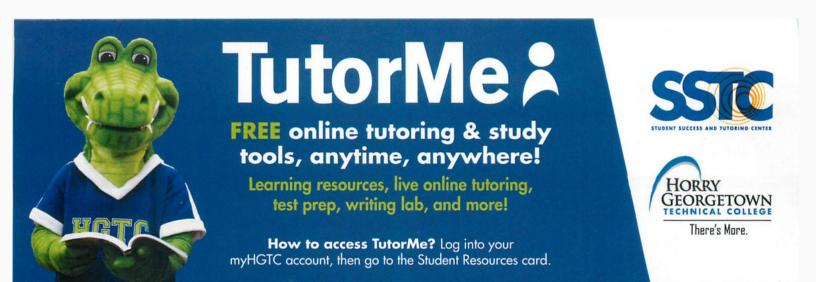
- Use a Clear Subject Line
- Choose the Correct Greeting
- Structure as a Formal Letter
- Include Only Necessary Information
- Keep Your Tone Respectful
- Use an Appropriate Salutation

HOW TO EMAIL A TEACHER

SUBJECT LINE 4 CLOSING Thank you 2-5 word summary of the email Have a nice day! **Missing Grade Homework Question** 5 SIGN YOUR NAME! Late Work BEGIN WITH A GREETIN **General Tips:** Good Morning This is in the body Be sure to use proper Hello of the email capitalization & punctuation. **Good Afternoon** Always use proper grammar. BODY OF THE EMAIL Plz spell out ur words. I am writing because Please spell out your I need help help words. Ō. I am confused by

Free Tutoring Available Help Every Day, Any Time

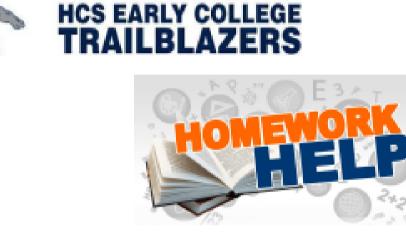




TutorMe provides free, one-on-one online tutoring for HGTC students. Support is available 24/7. To try TutorMe, click the link on the Student Resources card in myHGTC.

Homework Assistance

Tuesdays & Wednesdays 2:30 - 4:30 (after school) 4:00 - 7:00 (Online)



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.

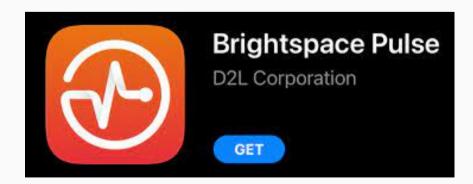
Based on this information, it is not feasible for our secondary schools and program schools to grant principal-approved days effective this year. Religious-based camps, retreats, trips, and conferences are not excused.

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



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.





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 allhazards 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.

HOI D "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

"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.











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.



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SCHOOL IS SECURED

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.



