



FEBRUARY 12 - 16, 2024

THE BLAZE

Official Newsletter of HCS Early College High School

"Endless Possibilities"

from the desk of Ms. Williams...

Trailblazers,

Congratulations to our students, teachers, and staff for all their hard work! In an article released Friday, February 09, 2024, ECHS was listed as #3 out of the 10 best public high schools in SC for 2024 and ranked #2 among the best magnet high schools in South Carolina. [Article](#)

We are almost at the halfway point for the third grading quarter. Interim Reports will be emailed to parents on February 22, 2024. Students in need of assistance with homework or studying for tests are encouraged to take advantage of peer tutoring after school (2:30 - 3:30) provided by Key Club members on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays in the cafe. In addition to peer tutoring, we also provide assistance from ECHS teachers on Tuesdays and Wednesdays after school and online. [Schedule](#)

We are excited about our annual AVID Family Night on Thursday, February 22, 2024. We encourage all our students and families to join for a night of good food, informative sessions, and chance to win prizes. Students and parents will be able to choose 3 sessions from the available 12. Come out and learn about the many different career path programs available through HGTC. Dinner (free) will begin at 5:00 and our information sessions will begin at 5:45.

Valentine's Day is Wednesday, February 14, 2024. ECHS will not be receiving floral and gift deliveries. Students and parents are encouraged to purchase candy grams and gifts from Key Club. Key Club will deliver items on Valentine's Day during the last academic block.

We are excited and honored to have Alexia Stathes represent ECHS as the Carolina Cool January 2024 Student of the Month.

Please read below for additional important updates and reminders.

Upcoming Events

School Board Visit

- February 29 @ 9:15

ACT Test - Juniors

- February 27 ~ Building 300

Quarter 3 Interim Reports

- February 22

AVID Family Night & Title I Meeting

- February 22
- 5:00 - 6:30

ECHS Student Holiday

- February 19 - 20

HGTC Classes

- February 19 - 20

Class Ring Orders - Sophomores

- February 14
- 11:00 - 1:00 (Lobby)

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, February 16, 2024, will be a PM Advisory and a Tuesday/Thursday day.

Candy Grams: Key Club candy grams sold last week will be delivered on Wednesday, February 14, during the last block.

Peer Tutoring: Key Club is sponsoring after school peering tutoring on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays in the cafe from 2:30 to 3:30 pm. Students can get help with any subject.

Class Ring Orders: A Herff-Jones representative will be in the lobby on Wednesday, February 14, 2024, from 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM to assist sophomores with ring placement orders.

Student Holiday: Monday, February 19 and Tuesday, February 20 will be a student holiday for ECHS students. Students enrolled in classes for Mr. Powley, Mrs. Calos, and Dr. Carroll will not attend school February 19-20. HGTC will be in session both days.

Bus Transportation: Students enrolled in college classes are required to attend school for HGTC on Monday and Tuesday (February 19 -20). Students in need of transportation will complete the Google Form during AVID to indicate if they need bus transportation. All transportation questions for February 19-20 can be directed to Ms. Macasek.

Kiwanis Club Pancake Supper: The Conway Kiwanis Club is sponsoring their annual Pancake Supper and Breakfast at Conway High School on Friday, February 23 and Saturday, February 24, 2024. Tickets are on sale now for \$9.00 each. Please see Ms. Katie in the front office to purchase your tickets.

AVID Family Night: We invite our students and parents to join us for our annual Title I and AVID Family Night meeting on **February 22, 2024**. Students and parents will choose 3 sessions from the 12 available informative sessions. Sessions will include information on the many career programs offered at HGTC. Dinner begins at 5:00 and informative sessions at 5:45.

ACT Test: Juniors (45 students) will take the ACT test on Tuesday, February 27, 2024, in Building 300 Room 110. The test will begin at 8:00. Students will leave the personal belongings (phones, smart watches, book bags, etc.) in a secured location inside ECHS before the test.

"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, ECHS!

#3 of the 10 best public high schools in SC for 2024

Article

These are the 10 best public high schools in SC for 2024. See if your child's school made the grade

By [Patrick McCreless](#) February 09, 2024 6:00 AM



The 10 best public high schools in South Carolina for 2024, new ranking shows. ALEJANDRO A. ALVAREZ TNS

#3 HCS Early College High School

Address: 2050 Hwy. 501 East HGTC, Conway

School type: Magnet school

Website: https://www.horrycountyschools.net/Early_College_High

HCS Early College High School has 316 students in grades 9-12 and a student-teacher ratio of 15-1, Niche states. State test scores show that 75% of students are at least proficient in math and 95% in reading. The school is also ranked second among best magnet high schools in South Carolina.

TRAILBLAZER

DAILY LUNCH SPECIALS



Monday 2/12/24

Chicken Bacon Ranch Mac & Cheese Bowl
PB&J



Tuesday 2/13/24

Walking Tacos
Turkey & Cheese Sub



Wednesday 2/14/24

Chicken Nuggets
Grilled Chicken Salad

♥ **HAPPY**
Valentine's
DAY ♥



Thursday 2/15/24

Chicken Filet Sandwich
Turkey & Cheese Wrap



Friday 2/16/24

Cheesy Bites/marinara
PB&J

ECHS Students & Parents

Events Calendar

All dates are tentative and could change based on need

[Link to Calendar](#)

Week of February 12-17, 2024	
Monday, February 12	
Tuesday, February 13	Mu Alpha Theta Key Club Peer Tutoring 2:30 - 3:30 ~ cafe ECHS Staff Tutoring 2:30 - 4:30 (after school & online)
Wednesday, February 14	Sophomore Class Ring Orders - 11:00 - 1:00 ~ ECHS Lobby Key Club Candy/Valentine's Day Grams Delivered - Block 4 Key Club Peer Tutoring 2:30 - 3:30 ~ cafe ECHS Staff Tutoring 2:30 - 4:30 (after school & online)
Thursday, February 15	Club Day (Key Club, Recycling, Disciples Making Disciples, Girls Fitness Club) Key Club Peer Tutoring 2:30 - 3:30 ~ cafe
Friday, February 16	PM Advisory T/TH American Heart Association Heart Walk

College of the Week

Presbyterian College



PRESBYTERIAN COLLEGE

"Do you want to attend a college that will allow you to change many things for the better? At PC, you can do this the moment that you step on the campus. You will be educated by superior faculties numbered No. 1 priority is your success. Having smaller group sizes enables you to establish bonding relationships with your classmates and also tutors. Honor and ethics are the values deeply rooted in the College culture, helping you to become a leader based on the values in your life and career."



MORE INFORMATION



www.presby.edu

Congrats, Ms. Benton!



JANUARY TEACHER OF THE MONTH MS. BENTON

"She appreciates all her students and has very high standards. She wants all her students to excel to their maximum effort and pushes her students. Ms. Benton is a very polite, kind, and loving teacher. I look forward to Ms. Benton's class everyday of the week because of how positive the classroom is!"

Nominating Student



EARLY COLLEGE



Carolina Cool's January 2024 Student of the Month



10th Alexia Stathes

Congratulations, Alexia!

**Thank you,
Dr. Adams & Mrs. Gibney!**

**We appreciate our awesome
school and RBHS counselor for all
that they do for ECHS!**

School Counselors Appreciation Week



Dr. Adams



Mrs. Gibney

**National School Counselors Appreciation Week
February 5 - 9, 2024**



**Early College will be closed
Monday, February 19 and
Tuesday, February 20.**



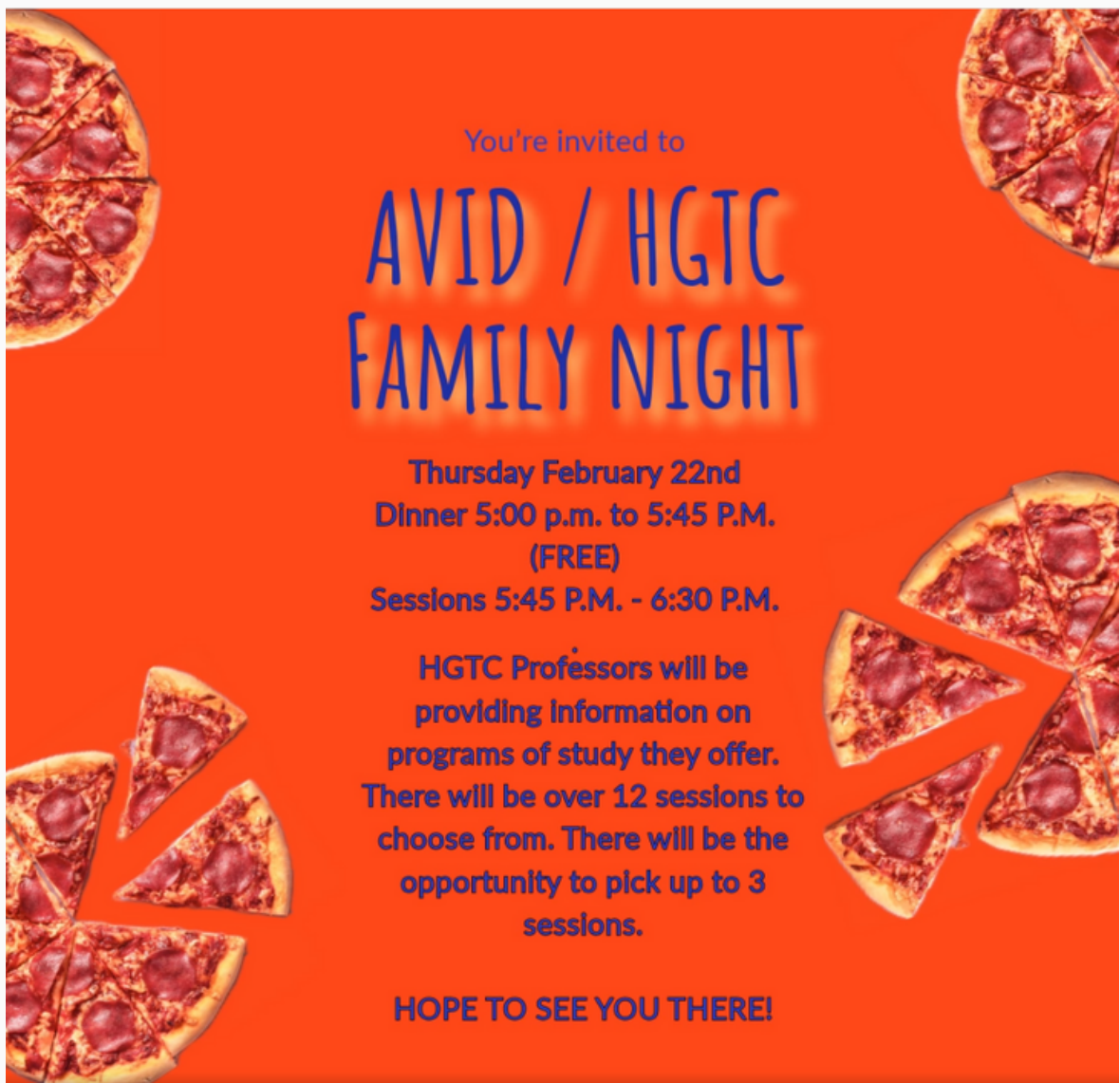
**HGTC will have class on February 19 & 20. Students in need of
transportation must complete the
Google form by Thursday, February 15.**

Join us for AVID Family Night

February 22

Dinner @ 5:00 (free)

Informative Sessions @ 5:45



Kiwanis Pancake Supper Fundraiser

February 23 - 24, 2024

Conway High School

\$9.00 per ticket

TICKET PRICE:

\$9.00

Early College High School Key Club

**KIWANIS PANCAKE
SUPPORT AND
BREAKFAST**

**Friday, February 23rd from 5pm until 8 pm
and
Saturday, February 24th from 7 am until 9:30 am**

Located at Conway High School



Senior AVID News

Updates on Key Information for Seniors Only!

[Newsletter Link](#)

SENIOR AVID NEWS



WHAT'S HAPPENING IN AVID 402

The seniors have gotten their new semester off the ground at HGTC, with many set up to finish their Associate's Degree in the spring or summer. We have completed graduation applications for HGTC in class this week in preparation for the May 1, 2024 event. We have also started our Budget Challenge and are ready to learn how to be financially responsible adults in the future. Many seniors have already completed their 2024-2025 FAFSA forms. If you haven't, get in contact with Mrs. Johns or Dr. Adams as soon as possible.

ACT/SAT DATES AND DEADLINES

- ACT Test-April 13, 2024
- Deadline-March. 9, 2024
- SAT Test-March 9, 2024
- Deadline-Feb. 23, 2024

UPCOMING EVENTS

- AVID Family Night Feb. 22
- March 18-22-HGTC Spring Break
- April 24-30-HGTC Final Exam Week

IMPORTANT

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



Title I Newsletter

February 2024

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

High School Parents

February 2024
Vol. 31, No. 6

Horry County Schools

still make the difference!



Encourage your teen to stay in school by managing stress

Students who drop out of school limit their life choices forever. But every year, many teens make this destructive choice.

A Canadian study looked at teens who faced big challenges. All were low-income. Most had low grades. But only some of the students dropped out. What made the difference?

The study found that dropping out of school isn't always related to an issue in school. Often, a difficult life event or problem at home—death, divorce, health or legal problems, or even a move—can tip the scales and lead teens to drop out.

Adults can't control all of the stress that happens in their teens' lives. But they can recognize it and find effective ways to help them cope. Teens are often moody, but paying attention to

a major change, such as suddenly losing interest in old friends and things they used to enjoy, is vital.

If you notice signs of stress:

- **Encourage your teen** to take a break. Sometimes just listening to music or watching an old movie can offer some stress relief.
- **Discourage negative self-talk.** Teens under stress sometimes think that nothing will ever change. Help your teen see that even small changes can make a difference.
- **Help your teen** break big challenges into smaller parts. A project can seem overwhelming. So find one small thing your teen can finish today.

Source: V. Dupéré and others, "High School Dropout in Proximal Context: The Triggering Role of Stressful Life Events," *Child Development*, Society for Research in Child Development, Inc.

Responsibility prepares teens for adulthood



Teens are basically in training for adulthood. Assuming more responsibility for themselves is the

way they get there.

To promote responsibility, encourage your teen to:

- **Use a calendar** to manage time. Seeing school deadlines alongside other responsibilities helps teens plan when to accomplish everything.
- **Schedule appointments.** This gives teens more control over their schedules and lets them practice valuable social skills.
- **Set a budget** and stick to it. Teens may have spending money from an allowance or a part-time job. A budget helps them pay attention to their spending—and see that adding to savings can be rewarding.
- **Plan a family project.** Teens can research the steps to take and come up with a budget.
- **Read the news.** Learning about the issues world leaders deal with helps teens see that their responsibilities (such as studying for that history test) aren't that bad!

Compassion Through Fashion!

Congrats, Natalie, Lauryn, Aiyana, Alexia, Naomi!



Cupid's Crush



Spring Blossom



Prom tickets are now on sale on mypaymentsplus.com

EARLY COLLEGE HIGH SCHOOL PRESENTS

BEHIND THE SCENES

PROM

Information



Jan 23 - February 14

\$45.00
PER TICKET

Feb 15 - February 29

\$55.00
PER TICKET

March 1 - April 5

\$65.00
PER TICKET

Tickets

Friday April
12th

7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.
North Beach Plantation

TICKETS MUST BE PURCHASED ON MYPAYMENTSPLUS.COM BY APRIL 5th
TICKETS ARE NONREFUNDABLE & NONTRANSFERRABLE.

Students may bring one guest.

All non ECHS guests must be HS students or under the age of 21 and must submit a guest form for approval. Guest Forms can be picked up at the front office along with permission slips.

MILLION 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.

**MAKE A
DIFFERENCE
TODAY**



The background of the poster features several colorful ribbons arranged in a circular pattern around the central text. The ribbons are in shades of purple, black, blue, light blue, teal, green, light green, yellow, and pink. Each ribbon is folded into a loop, creating a sense of movement and unity.

AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY RELAY FOR LIFE

4 MAY 2024

3-9 PM

**Valor Park @
Market Common**

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

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.

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.

SSC
STUDENT SUCCESS AND TUTORING CENTER

HORRY GEORGETOWN TECHNICAL COLLEGE
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](#).



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.



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





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



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



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