

MARCH 04 - 08, 2024

THE BLAZE

Official Newsletter of HCS Early College High School

"Endless Possibilities"

from the desk of Ms. Williams...

Trailblazers,

I cannot believe we are less than 100 days away from the Class of 2024 walking across the stage to receive their high school diplomas! The third grading quarter will end on Monday, March 25 and report cards will be emailed to parents on Friday, March 29, 2024. Students in need of assistance with homework or studying for tests are encouraged to take advantage of tutoring on Tuesdays and Wednesdays after school and online. [Schedule](#)

Parents are encouraged to check PowerSchool weekly for updates on grades and attendance. For students enrolled in HGTC classes, parents are reminded to check the D2L platform by having the student login. If parents have questions about how to access PowerSchool or D2L, please do not hesitate to contact the school.

Juniors who selected the SAT will test on Friday, March 08, 2024, in Building 300. Students are encouraged to get a good night's rest and eat breakfast. Testing will begin at 8:00. Students will bring their personal belongings with them to the testing room (Rm. 110). They must power down all electronic devices (cell phones, smart watches, headphones, etc.) and store them in their bookbags.

Students will participate in a statewide tornado drill on Wednesday, March 06, 2024. During the drill, students will go to the interior hall (away from windows) crouch low, head down, and protect the back of their head with their arms. The purpose of the drill is to practice emergency safety procedures.

Please read below for additional important updates and reminders.

Upcoming Events

Tornado Drill

- March 06

SAT - Juniors

- March 08 ~ Building 300

Waccamaw River Clean Up

- March 08 ~ 8:30 - 12:30
- Bishop, Woodard, DeCerbe grps

Friday Fun Day ~ During Lunch

- March 08
- Kahoot game / prizes

NHD Regional Competition - CCU

- March 08
- Jr. Volunteers

Prom Tickets

- April 5 last day to purchase
- \$65.00 per ticket

Quarter 3 Report Cards

- March 29

HGTC Spring Break

- March 18 - 22

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, March 08, 2024, will be an AM Advisory and a Monday/Wednesday day.

SAT Test: Juniors (26 students) will take the ACT on Friday, March 08, 2024, in Building 300 Room 110. The test will begin at 8:00. Students will leave their personal belongings (phones, smart watches, book bags, etc.) at the front of Rm. 110 in Building 300.

Waccamaw River Park Clean Up: Students in the Advisory groups for Mrs. DeCerbo, Mrs. Bishop, and Ms. Woodard will participate in the river park clean-up community service project on Friday, March 08, 2024. Students going on the trip are reminded to wear comfortable walking shoes and clothing. The bus will depart at 8:30 and students will return by 12:15 for third lunch.

Relay for Life: The American Cancer Society Relay for Life event is fast approaching, and we would love to have more people join the team. The event will be held at Market Common's Valor Park on Saturday, May 04, 2024, from 3:00 PM - 9:00 PM. If your schedule allows, we would love for you to join us (part of the day or all of the day based on your schedule). If you are not able to come out but still want to help, you can donate to the team. Please use the link below to donate to our team. We appreciate your help. Click here to [donate](#).

ECHS Prom Tickets: Prom tickets are on sale for juniors and seniors until April 05, 2024. Students can purchase tickets online using mypaymentsplus.com or pay in person to Ms. Katie in the front office. Students can purchase tickets for \$65.00 each until April 05, 2024.

HGTC Spring Break: HGTC will be on spring break March 18 - 22, 2024. ECHS students (sophomores and juniors) enrolled in college courses (excluding classes for Dr. Carroll, Mr. Powley, and Mrs. Calos) will report to the College Coverage room to work on assignments. Students are required to attend school all day.

National History Day Competition Volunteers: The regional competition for NHD will be held at CCU on Friday, March 08, 2024. Student volunteers will return their permission slips to Mr. Powley by Thursday, March 07, 2024.

"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 3/4/24

Chicken Bacon Ranch Mac & Cheese
PB&J



Tuesday 3/5/24

Chicken & Waffles
Turkey & Cheese Wrap



Wednesday 3/6/24

Chicken Nuggets
Grilled Chicken Salad



Thursday 3/7/24

Breakfast for Lunch
Crispy Chicken Salad



Friday 3/8/24

French Bread Pizza
PB&J

ECHS Students & Parents

Events Calendar

All dates are tentative and could change based on need

[Link to Calendar](#)

MARCH 2024	
Week of March 4-9, 2024	
Monday, March 4	
Tuesday, March 5	Rho Kappa Meeting
Wednesday, March 6	
Thursday, March 7	Club Day (Key Club, Recycling, Tollywood, Battle of the Books)
Friday, March 8	AM Advisory M/W SAT Testing for Juniors ~ Bldg 300 Rm. 110 & 104 Deadline to register for April ACT National History Regional Competition at Coastal Carolina for Juniors Waccamaw River Park Clean-up (Bishop, DeCerbo, Woodard)
Saturday, March 9	SAT National Testing–Seniors

Congrats, Dr. Floyd!



FEBRUARY TEACHER OF THE MONTH DR. FLOYD

"Dr. Floyd is always there to boost you up and when she sees that you are struggling or down she will always make you laugh and help you. She supports her students in and out of school!"

Nominating Student



EARLY COLLEGE

College of the Week

Wofford College



WOFFORD
TERRIERS

Spartanburg, SC

232 miles away

3 hours 45 minutes away



WHY WOFFORD?

Four-year, private, residential liberal arts college
Nationally known for the strength of its
academic program, outstanding faculty,
study abroad participation and
successful graduates.

- ✓ 12:1 Student-Teacher Ratio
- ✓ 1,831 undergraduate students
- ✓ 13.6% first generation college students
- ✓ 99% of students receive financial aid
- ✓ Cost of Attendance: \$69, 115



Wofford Scholars Scholarship
\$60,000-\$250,000 over 4 years
To qualify as a nominee:
-Top 10% of class
AND
-Score a combined 1300 on
SAT or 28 on ACT

For more information, visit <https://www.wofford.edu>

Opportunity to Earn Community Service Hours

CITYWIDE CLEANUP

MARCH 30

8 a.m.- Noon

VOLUNTEERS MEET IN CHAMBER PARKING LOT
1200 N. OAK ST., MYRTLE BEACH

Join Keep Myrtle Beach Beautiful,
Myrtle Beach Area Chamber of Commerce,
The City of Myrtle Beach and the
Myrtle Beach Police Department
for a citywide litter pickup!



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.

Title I Newsletter

March 2024

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

High School Parents[®]

March 2024
Vol. 31, No. 7

Horry County Schools

still make the difference!



Teach your teen how to take responsibility for academics

High school is a time to give teens more responsibility. Yet when it comes to academics, it can be hard for some adults to surrender control.

It's essential to be aware of what your teen is learning in school and to get involved when problems arise. However, it's also important to let your high school student take the lead.

Why? Because studies show that when families assume the majority of responsibility for their teen's school performance, academics can suffer. These teens are also more likely to become anxious and depressed.

To shift responsibility to your teen:

- **Expect your teen** to be in charge of assignments. Share time management strategies. Then, allow your teen some space to put them into action. Review progress once a day, rather than once every 15 minutes.

- **Encourage your teen** to solve school problems independently. Questions about a grade? Your teen should talk to the teacher. Failed a big test? Your teen should work with the teacher to create a plan for raising the grade. These are skills that lead to success in college and on the job, so let your teen learn what to say and do now.
- **Choose your words carefully.** "We" don't have a big paper due on Monday—your teen does. Always remember that it's your student's responsibility to fulfill commitments on time. If you hear yourself talking about *our* science project, it's time to take a step back.

Source: K. Reed and others, "Helicopter Parenting and Emerging Adult Self-Efficacy: Implications for Mental and Physical Health," *Journal of Child and Family Studies*, Springer US.

Help your teen create a positive digital footprint



Many teens don't realize that the choices they make online can affect their future.

Of course, students have the right to free speech. But courts have set limits on what students can say in school settings. And there's a big difference between what students are *allowed* to do and what they *should* do online. Colleges and employers look at students' social media activity.

To manage an online image, encourage your teen to:

- **Delete inappropriate posts.** While nothing ever completely goes away online, cleaning up social media accounts is a wise first step.
- **Practice polite and respectful** interactions online through comments, messages or posts.
- **Share content** that highlights achievements, positive experiences and community involvement.
- **Follow colleges** and business of interest. Your teen can comment on or share their posts.

Sources: E. Milovikov, "College-Bound Students: Create a Positive Digital Footprint," Family Online Safety Institute; National Coalition Against Censorship, "Watch What You Tweet: Schools, Censorship, and Social Media."



Early College Key Club

Join This Team



Event
the Grand Strand



Team Captain(s)
William Chappell

May 04, 2024 Valor Park @ Market Common 3:00 - 9:00

The American Cancer Society Relay for Life event is fast approaching, and we would love to have more people join the team. The event will be held at Market Common's Valor Park on Saturday, May 04, 2024, from 3:00 PM - 9:00 PM. If your schedule allows, we would love for you to join us (part of the day or all of the day based on your schedule). If you are not able to come out but still want to help, you can donate to the team. Please use the link below to donate to our team. We appreciate your help in reaching our goal.

Click here to [donate](#).

College of the Week

Claflin College

WHY CHOOSE CLAFLIN?

“WE BELIEVE THAT MOST LEADERS ARE MADE, NOT BORN. FURTHERMORE, WE BELIEVE THAT STUDENTS WITH PASSION, INTEGRITY AND A WILLINGNESS TO WORK HARD HAVE AN INNATE CAPACITY TO BECOME VISIONARY LEADERS. AS A CLAFLIN STUDENT, YOU BE CHALLENGED TO REALIZE YOUR FULL POTENTIAL, LEAVING HERE WITH AN UNPARALLELED EDUCATION THAT WILL SERVE YOU WELL IN GRADUATE SCHOOL, IN A CAREER – AND IN LIFE.”

ORANGEBURG, SC



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!



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**



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

A promotional banner for TutorMe. On the left is a green alligator mascot wearing a blue HGTC jersey and holding an open book. The background is dark blue. The text "TutorMe" is in large white letters with a person icon. Below it, in yellow and white, is "FREE online tutoring & study tools, anytime, anywhere!". Further down, in yellow, is "Learning resources, live online tutoring, test prep, writing lab, and more!". At the bottom, in white, is "How to access TutorMe? Log into your myHGTC account, then go to the Student Resources card." On the right side of the banner, there are two logos: the SSC (Student Success and Tutoring Center) logo and the Horry Georgetown Technical College logo with the tagline "There's More." below it.

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.

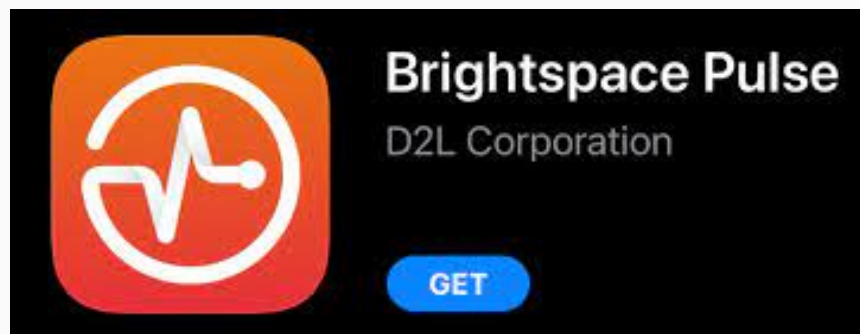
Based on this information, it is not feasible for our secondary schools and program schools to grant principal-approved days effective this year. Religious-based camps, retreats, trips, and conferences are not excused.

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/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