



MARCH 18- 22, 2024

THE BLAZE

Official Newsletter of HCS Early College High School

"Endless Possibilities"

from the desk of Mrs. Williams...

Trailblazers,

March 25 will be the last day of the Q3 grading quarter. Report cards will be emailed to parents on Friday, March 29, 2024. Parents are reminded to check their email for progress reports as Friday, March 29 is the first day of spring break.

Herff-Jones, our graduation supply company, will be on campus on Thursday, March 28, 2024, to deliver senior supplies. Students planning to participate in HGTC's graduation on May 01 can purchase their gap and gown for \$30.00. Students must bring cash when they pick up their order for ECHS graduation. All seniors were mailed a letter and sent an email with a list of all the upcoming events and deadlines. Seniors are reminded to check Mrs. Johns' Google Classroom for announcements and refer back to the one pager emailed to them. [Commencement Information](#)

We will administer the WIN test on Tuesday, March 26, 2024. The South Carolina Career Ready Test is administered to all eleventh-grade students to measure the most common skills that employers define as foundational for career readiness. Students are assessed in four key areas: Soft Skills Assessment, Math Assessment, Reading Assessment, and Data Assessment. The data from the test will become a part of our school's report card. All juniors are encouraged to get a good night's rest and eat breakfast on the morning of the test.

Please read below for additional important updates and reminders.

Upcoming Events

HGTC Spring Break

- March 18 - 22

WIN Test

- March 26
- Juniors

End of Quarter 3

- March 25

Graduation Supplies Delivery

- March 28
- 1:00 - 3:00 ECHS Lobby

Quarter 3 Report Cards

- March 29

HCS/ECHS Spring Break

- March 29 - April 05

Prom Tickets

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

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 22, 2024, will be an AM Advisory and a Monday/Wednesday day.

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. [donate](#)

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 College Coverage to work on assignments. Students are required to attend school all day.

WIN Test: The South Carolina Career Ready Test is administered to all eleventh-grade students to measure the most common skills that employers define as foundational for career readiness. Students are assessed in four key areas: Soft Skills Assessment, Math Assessment, Reading Assessment, and Data Assessment.

ECHS will administer the test on Tuesday, March 26, 2024.

ECHS/HCS Spring Break: Spring break for Horry County Schools is March 29 - April 05, 2024. Students who need transportation must complete the Google form during AVID by Friday, March 22, 2024. Bus transportation will be available from the attendance area school and back. Students must be able to get a ride to and from the attendance area school if they choose to ride the bus. All bus questions can be directed to Ms. Macasek.

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.

Grand Strand Humane Society/Animal Shelter Drive: The advisory group for Mrs. Johns and Mrs. Iman will be collecting items to assist the shelter. Donated items can be placed in the bin in the lobby. The last day to bring in items is Thursday, March 28.

"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 3/18/24
Mandarin Chicken Bowl
PB&J



Tuesday 3/19/24
Beef Taco's (soft)
Turkey & Cheese Sub



Wednesday 3/20/24
Chicken Nuggets
Grilled Chicken Salad



Thursday 3/21/24
Chicken Bog
Crispy Chicken Salad



Friday 3/22/24
Mozzarella Sticks
PB&J



HGTC March 18 - 22

- Students will report to College Coverage during HGTC class time for spring break
- Students must report to school on time
- Juniors will work on their Junior Exhibition projects

HCS/ECHS March 29 - April 05

- Students enrolled in HGTC classes must attend school
- Students in classes for Dr. Carroll, Mr. Powley, & Mrs. Calos will not attend school during ECHS spring break
- Bus transportation available to and from the attendance area high school
- Students in need of bus transportation will sign up during AVID by Friday, March 22

ECHS Students & Parents

Events Calendar

All dates are tentative and could change based on need

[Link to Calendar](#)

Week of March 18-23, 2023	
Monday, March 18	HGTC Spring Break Grand Strand Humane Society Food/Supply Drive (Johns/Inman)
Tuesday, March 19	HGTC Spring Break National Honor Society Meeting Grand Strand Humane Society Food/Supply Drive (Johns/Inman)
Wednesday, March 20	HGTC Spring Break Battle of the Books Competition (HGTC B & C Auditorium) Grand Strand Humane Society Food/Supply Drive (Johns/Inman)
Thursday, March 21	HGTC Spring Break Club Day (Key Club, Recycling, Tollywood, Disciples Making Disciples) Grand Strand Humane Society Food/Supply Drive (Johns/Inman)
Friday, March 22	AM Advisory M/W HGTC Spring Break Grand Strand Humane Society Food/Supply Drive (Johns/Inman)

See Something, Say Something



A new reporting icon available on your computer

We are replacing the bullying incident report icon on your school-issued computer/iPad with a new icon. *(See the red icon at the bottom of this message.)* When you click on the new red icon, it will take you to a page where you will see several ways you can report information. These include:

- An email address (saysomething@horrycountyschools.net) that you can use to email a district staff member who can let administrators at your school know about the situation.
- An "If You See Something, Say Something®" form you can fill out anonymously that will be sent to a district staff member who will pass it on to your school's administration.
- A phone number (843-915-7767) that will connect directly to law enforcement.
- An email address (srotips@horrycounty.org) that you can use to send an email to law enforcement.

WHO'S THE TOP CAT?



NOMINATE YOUR STUDENT OF THE MONTH

That's Cool!



**CAROLINA
COOL**

A NearU Company

843 **238-5805**
CarolinaCool.com

HVAC · PLUMBING · ELECTRICAL · SOLAR · AIR QUALITY

Make your nominations for the March 2024 Student of the Month!

Vote & Nominate EVERYDAY!

The student with the most votes will win a plaque, prize from Carolina Cool and a follow up story in our local papers!

Vote & Nominate: March 1 - March 31

Winner Contacted: April 1



Vote for
Gracey Llaka
Click [here](#) to vote
every day until
March 31

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!



Congratulations, February Students and Teacher of the Month!

EARLY COLLEGE
FEBRUARY 2024

STUDENTS OF THE MONTH

The Nominees

SENIORS

Samantha Brennan
Kya Cardelli
Jayona Fletcher
Destiny White

JUNIORS

CJ Brown
Grayson Lee
Taylor Powell
Justin Rogers

SOPHOMORES

Savannah Basile
Kassidy Bellamy
Taylor Chinchilla
Hailey Clemens
Kennedy Coggins
Samantha McKenzie
Amber Usher

FRESHMEN

Frank Bigham
Stephany Cardenas Salvador
Pablo Morales Gomez
Kaitlyn Helms
Vincent Hogan
Jerzy Kelly
Paul Livingston
Deybi Matamoros Linares
Sierra Mincey
Mackenzie Rogers
Diego Sanchez Gonzalez

TEACHER OF THE MONTH



DR. FLOYD



ABIGAIL ONION
SENIOR



ASIA HAIRSTON
JUNIOR



KASSIDY BELLAMY
SOPHOMORE



BRIANNA FLORES
FRESHMAN

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](#).

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



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