MARCH 25- 28, 2024

# THE BLAZE

Official Newsletter of HCS Early College High School

"Endless Possibilities"

# from the desk of Ms. Williams...

#### Trailblazers,

Monday, March 25 was 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. <u>Commencement Information</u>

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.

# **Upcoming Events**

### WIN Test

- March 26
- Juniors

#### End of Quarter 3

• March 25

### School Improvement Council Mtg.

- March 26
- 3:00

### 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

Please read below for additional important updates and reminders.

THE BLAZE

# **Important Trailblazer Links**

Lunch MenuECHS WebsiteStudent HandbookSafety Protocols (English / Spanish)Homework AssistanceTranscript Request (ECHS / HGTC)Scholarship WebsiteFacebook, Twitter, Instagram

<u>Advisory</u>: Friday, April 12, 2024, will be a PM Advisory and a Tuesday/Thursday day.

<u>WIN Test</u>: 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. <u>ECHS will administer the test on Tuesday, March 26, 2024.</u>

<u>Baby Animal Day</u>: Freshmen who would like to participate in Baby Animal Day at Playcard on Friday, April 12, 2024, must submit the permission slip by Thursday, March 28. Students can sign up for a school provided bag lunch.

<u>ECHS/HCS Spring Break</u>: Spring break for Horry County Schools is March 29 - April 05, 2024. 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.

<u>ECHS Prom Tickets</u>: 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 until March 28, 2024. Students can purchase tickets for \$65.00 each until April 05, 2024. Prom tickets are non-refundable.

<u>Grand Strand Humane Society/Animal Shelter Drive</u>: 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 Friday, April 12.

<u>Relay for Life</u>: 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. <u>donate</u> "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.















Tuesday 3/25/24

**Beef Nacho's** 

**Turkey & Cheese Sub** 



*Thursday 3/27/24 Baked Ziti/Garlic toast PB&J* 



Friday 3/28/24 Spring Break



# 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 is available to and from the attendance area high school

# ECHS Students & Parents Events Calendar

All dates are tentative and could change based on need

# Link to Calendar

Week of March 25-30, 2024	
Monday, March 25	End of Quarter 3 Human Geography Cultural Celebration (DeCerbo's Classes) Grand Strand Humane Society Food/Supply Drive (Johns/Inman)
Tuesday, March 26	WIN Testing–All Juniors School Improvement Council Meeting - 3:00 Grand Strand Humane Society Food/Supply Drive (Johns/Inman)
Wednesday, March 27	Grand Strand Humane Society Food/Supply Drive (Johns/Inman)

	Art Club Meeting
Thursday, March 28	Club Day (Key Club, Student Council, Recycling, Tollywood, InvenTeam,) Graduation Supply Delivery - 1:00 - 3:00 ~ ECHS Lobby Grand Strand Humane Society Food/Supply Drive (Johns/Inman)
Friday, March 29	No School - ECHS & HGTC Report Cards Issued for Q3



Trailblazer Parents,

We've heard from your students, now we'd love your input! Please take a moment to complete the 2024 Parent Climate Survey. This data is crucial in making sure that ECHS remains THE BEST high school in Horry County. We take great pride in the fact that all students & their families have a voice in our school.

Simple directions to complete the survey - WEBSITE: 1.Log into your <u>PowerSchool account</u> (click for direct access)

2. Select "forms" on the left hand navigation pane

3. "2024 PARENT AND GUARDIAN SCHOOL CLIMATE SURVEY" should appear 4. Click, fill out, & submit

Simple directions to complete the survey - APP:

- 1. Open your PowerSchool app & log in
- 2. Click "more" on the bottom right corner
- 3. Select "forms"

4. "2024 PARENT AND GUARDIAN SCHOOL CLIMATE SURVEY" should appear 5. Click, fill out, & submit

# Opportunity to Earn Community Service Hours

# CITYWIDE CLEANUP MARCH 30 8 a.m.- Noon

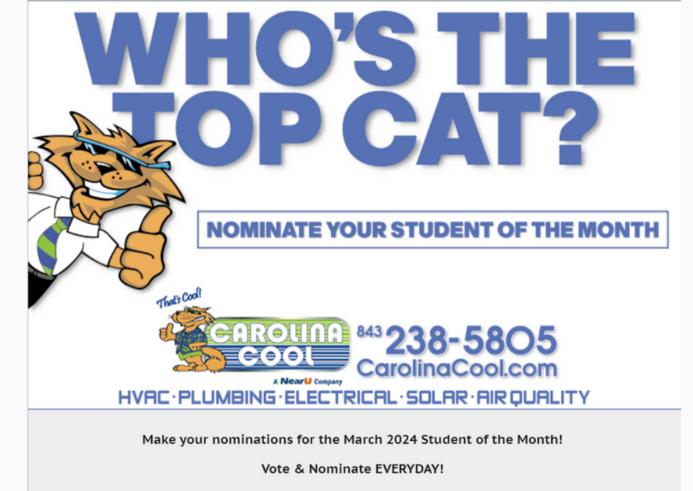
VOLUNTEERS MEET IN CHAMBER PARKING LOT 1200 N. OAK ST., MYRTLE BEACH

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!

Myrtle Beach CArea CHAMBER of COMMERCE







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 <u>here</u> to vote every day until March 31



Prom tickets are now on sale on mypaymentsplus.com





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.



# Congratulations, ECHS Youth Advisory Board on your design for this year's HorryCast.org prom theme!

# Youth Advisory Board





Congratulations, ECHS Youth Advisory Board on your design for this year's HorryCast.org prom theme!

# Youth Advisory Board



# **Senior AVID News**

# **Updates on Key Information for Seniors Only!**

# **Newsletter Link**

# SENIOR AVID NEWS



# WHAT'S HAPPENING IN AVID 402

Many seniors have completed their 2024-25 FAFSA forms. **The good news is that processing the forms has begun**! To view any updates related to your FAFSA form status, you can check the "My Activity" section of your <u>StudentAid.gov</u> dashboard. Later in March, you will be able to add any missing signatures, add or update schools, and address any errors. For the 2024-25 FAFSA form, the status of you application will be one of the following: Draft, In Progress, In Review , Action Required, Processed or Closed. See Mrs. Johns if you need any assistance.

### ACT/SAT DATES AND DEADLINES

- ACT Test-April 13, 2024
- Late deadline-March 24, 2024
- SAT Test-May 4, 2024
- Deadline-April. 19, 2024

### UPCOMING EVENTS

- April 12-ECHS Prom
- April 24-30-HGTC Final Exam Week
- May 1-HGTC Graduation

# IMPORTANT

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

# College of the Week Benedict College Columbia, SC



**Columbia, SC** 140 miles away 2 hours 20 minutes away

# WHY BENEDICT?

Four-year, private, residential liberal arts college Benedict College is committed to providing transformative learning experiences characterized by high quality academic, cocurricular and extra-curricular programming, intentionally designed to develop superior cultural and professional competencies for a diverse student body.

**Minimum Admission Requirements** 

- GPA: 2.0 minimum
- SAT: 850 minimum
- ACT: 17 minimum For more information, visit www.https://benedict.edu/

# 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 (<u>saysomething@horrycountyschools.net</u>) 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 (<u>srotips@horrycounty.org</u>) that you can use to send an email to law enforcement.

# Congratulations, February Students and Teacher of the Month!

# The Nominees

SENIORS

EARLY COLLEGE

Samantha Brennan Kya Cardelli Jayona Fletcher Destiny White

### SOPHOMORES

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

# JUNIORS

CJ Brown Grayson Lee Taylor Powell Justin Rogers

### 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

DR. FLOYD

TEACHER OF THE MONTH

ABIGAIL ONION SENIOR



#### ASIA HAIRSTON JUNIOR



KASSIDY BELLAMY SOPHOMORE



BRIANNA FLORES FRESHMAN

# **Title I Newsletter**

# March 2024

English, Spanish





# Teach your teen how to take responsibility for academics

igh 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. Milovidov, "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."





# 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 <u>donate</u>.

# 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

# 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

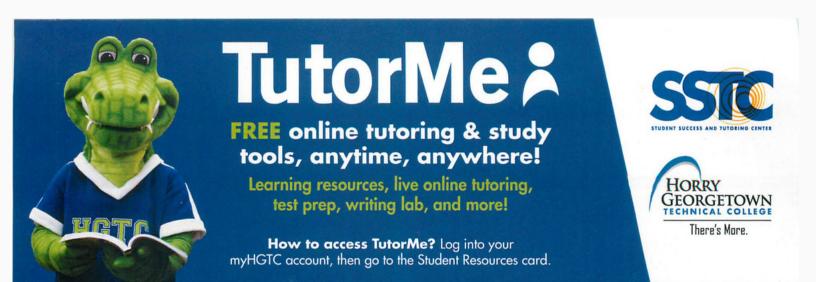
- Use a Clear Subject Line
- Choose the Correct Greeting
- Structure as a Formal Letter
- Include Only Necessary Information
- Keep Your Tone Respectful
- Use an Appropriate Salutation

# 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.



# **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.

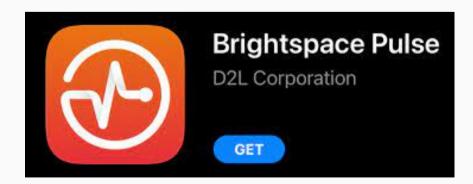
Based on this information, it is not feasible for our secondary schools and program schools to grant principal-approved days effective this year. Religious-based camps, retreats, trips, and conferences are not excused.

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.



