

## from the desk of Ms. Williams...

Trailblazers,

As you know, Monday, April 8, 2024, is the first day back to school after the HCS spring break. On this day, most of the U.S. will experience a solar eclipse. While the total eclipse will not be visible from Horry County, depending upon the weather, the partial eclipse may be visible from 1:52 pm to 4:25 pm, with the eclipse's maximum magnitude of .802 occurring at 3:10 pm. For more information about the eclipse, check out NASA's website:

https://science.nasa.gov/eclipses/

Persons who choose to view the solar eclipse should take appropriate safety measures. It will not be safe at any point to look directly at the eclipse without proper eye protection. NASA's eclipse safety page gives the following safety tips: When watching a partial or annular solar eclipse directly with your eyes, you must look through safe solar viewing glasses ("eclipse glasses") or a safe handheld solar viewer at all times. Eclipse glasses are NOT regular sunglasses; regular sunglasses, no matter how dark, are not safe for viewing the Sun.

Do NOT look at the Sun through a camera lens, telescope, binoculars, or any other optical device while wearing eclipse glasses or using a handheld solar viewer — the concentrated solar rays will burn through the filter and cause serious eye injury.

Horry County Schools will not provide solar eclipse glasses for employees or students. Persons who want to view the eclipse safely must make sure they have the appropriate equipment and follow the safety advice provided by NASA. We ask that you discuss this information with your children.

Please read below for additional important updates and reminders.

# **Upcoming Events**

- April 12
- Juniors

- April 12
- 7:00 10:00 ~ North Beach Plantation

- April 12 Gr. 9
- Playcard Environmental Center

• April 12 - Gr. 10

Aprl 12 ~ ECHS Cafe @ Lunch

- April 18 ~ ECHS Gym
- 3:30 6:00

THE BLAZE

### **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, April 12, 2024, will be a PM Advisory and a Tuesday/Thursday day.

WIN Test: Due to technical difficulties, the WIN test has been rescheduled for <u>Friday</u>, <u>April 12</u>, <u>2024</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. The scores from the WIN are used for the school's report card and to indicate career readiness for students.

Baby Animal Day: Some of the freshman class will be serving as volunteers at Playcard Environmental Center for Baby Animal Day on Friday, April 12, 2024. Students are reminded to wear comfortable clothing and walking shoes and leave their bookbags at home. A bag lunch will be provided for students who signed up for one.

ECHS Prom: Junior-Senior Prom will be Friday, April 12, 2024, at North Beach Plantation (7:00 - 10:00). Students planning to check out early can leave at 11:30 but must submit early dismissal notes to the front office prior to check out.

<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.

HGTC Conway Campus Tour: Sophomores will tour the Conway campus of HGTC on Friday, April 12, 2024. Students are reminded to wear comfortable walking shoes.

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

"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.

THE BLAZE PAGE 02



April 8, 2024 1:52 pm - 4:25 pm

# **Key Reminders**

- You must have safe solar viewing glasses ("eclipse glasses") or a safe handheld solar viewer at all times.
- Eclipse glasses are NOT regular sunglasses; regular sunglasses, no matter how dark, are not safe for viewing the Sun.
- Do NOT look at the Sun through a camera lens, telescope, binoculars, or any other optical device while wearing eclipse glasses or using a handheld solar viewer — the concentrated solar rays will burn through the filter and cause serious eye injury.

HCS will not be providing solar eclipse glasses!

# TRAILBLAZER

DAILY LUNCH SPECIALS



Monday 4/8/24
Chicken Bacon Ranch Mac & Cheese Bowl
PB&J



Tuesday 4/9/24
Chicken Nuggets
Turkey & Cheese Sub



Wednesday 4/10/24
Walking Taco's
Turkey Chef Salad



Thursday 4/11/24
Chicken Parmesan Sandwich
Crispy Chicken Salad



Friday 4/12/24
Pepperoni Pizza
PB&J

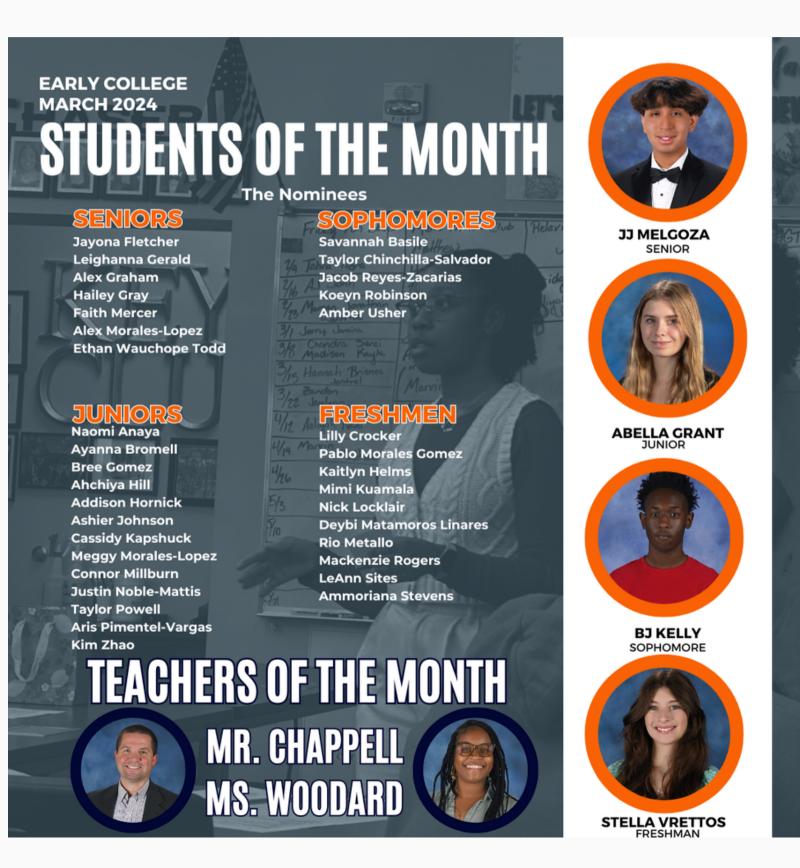
# ECHS Students & Parents Events Calendar

All dates are tentative and could change based on need

# **Link to Calendar**

APRIL 2024	FILE NEW PROPERTY
	Week of April 8-13, 2023
Monday, April 8	Grand Strand Humane Society Food/Supply Drive (Johns/Inman)
Tuesday, April 9	Rho Kappa Meeting Grand Strand Humane Society Food/Supply Drive (Johns/Inman)
Wednesday, April 10	Grand Strand Humane Society Food/Supply Drive (Johns/Inman)
Thursday, April 11	Club Day (Key Club, Student Council, Recycling, Tollywood, InvenTeam, Dungeons and Dragons) Grand Strand Humane Society Food/Supply Drive (Johns/Inman)
Friday, April 12	PM Advisory T/Th Fun Friday BINGO - Lunch Baby Animal Day - Playcard 10th Grade HGTC Tour-Conway campus Prom - North Beach Plantation (7:00 -10:00) Grand Strand Humane Society Food/Supply Drive (Johns/Inman)
Saturday, April 13	ACT National Testing

# Congratulations, March Students and Teachers of the Month!



# College of the Week

# Columbia College Columbia, SC



"The vision of Columbia College is to empower our students to change the world with Courage for Innovation, Commitment to Social Justice, Confidence through Service, and Competence in Leadership.

We define leadership as the choice to use your education to create positive change, in yourself, and in the world around you. The Four Cs are an expression of this emphasis.

- ☑ Courage step up and accept the risks that come with reaching your goals

   ☑ Commitment step in and embrace the values you hold dearly
- ☑Confidence step out, chart your course of action, and seize opportunities
- ${\hspace{-2.5pt}}{\hspace{-2.5pt$

For more information, visit https://www.columbiasc.edu/



### 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 PowerSchool account (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



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





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



# Cap and Gown Pictures

Thursday, April 18 3:30 - 6:00 ECHS Gym

# School Bell FOTOS

For best pictures, please see recommendations of what to wear under your gown.

- Men: A white dress shirt and tie
- Females: An open-neck blouse
- Fees & Proofs: No upfront fees are required and proofs will be emailed and texted in a few weeks.

# **Appointment Sign-up**



# **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!

# 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

# 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
- 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 donate.



### 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 & O-tips
- Cotton balls & pads

# Tips to Successfully Email a Teacher or Professor

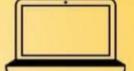
# Tips for Writing an Email to a Teacher

- 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

- 1 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 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.



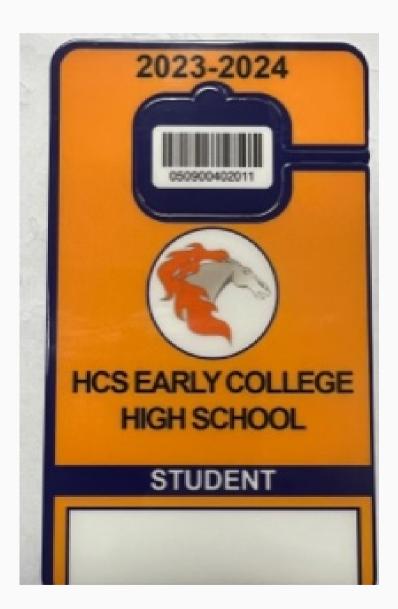
**Brightspace Pulse** 

# 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.

### 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.









### 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.



ACT

# 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

PALMETTO FELLOWS

Students must meet 2 out of 3 (to receive LIFE at an eligible four year institution)

RANKING IN 10, 11, OR 12 GRADE

ALTERNATIVE CRITERIA



Susperscore Calculator act.org/superscoring



FREE ACT Test Prep www.act.org/freetestprep



South Carolina Student Resources act.org/southcarolina