

APRIL 15 -19, 2024

THE BLAZE

Official Newsletter of HCS Early College High School

"Endless Possibilities"

from the desk of Ms. Williams...

Trailblazers,

I am not one for counting down days but I cannot believe we are 33 days away from the end of this school year. Time moves quickly when you are having fun! As we bring this year to a close, I want to share some reminders with students:

1. remain focus on your goals
2. complete and submit assignments on time
3. communicate with your teachers for any upcoming absences
4. attend in person or online the ECHS Homework Assistance program for help with assignments
5. study for tests and quizzes
6. check PowerSchool regularly for updates on grades

We are super proud of Kayla U., a sophomore, on her selection as a student speaker at the AVID Dallas Summer Institute in Texas. Kayla and a guest will fly to Dallas June 17 - 19 to share her AVID story. Her inspiring story will be shared with thousands of educators across the country who have dedicated their life to closing the opportunity gap and ensuring students are prepared with the knowledge and skills they need to achieve their dreams. Kayla was selected from a pool of numerous students across the nation and the fourth ECHS student to have this prestigious honor.

Congratulations to Tahra M., a sophomore, on her selection as an HTC REEL Kid. Tahra will be recognized for her perseverance on Thursday, April 18 at the Ripley's Aquarium.

Please read below for additional important updates and reminders.

Upcoming Events

Cap & Gown Pictures

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

School Improvement Council Meeting

- April 23
- 3:00 ~ ECHS Conference Room

Art Club Meeting

- Wednesday, April 24

Trailblazer Talks Series 1

- May 03
- 9:15 ~ ECHS Cafe

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 19, 2024, will be a PM Advisory and a Monday/Wednesday day.

Cap and Gown Pictures: School Bell FOTOS will be in the ECHS gym on Thursday, April 18, 2024, for Cap & Gown pictures.

Photographers will be available from 3:30pm to 6:00pm. A white dress shirt and tie for men and an open-neck blouse for females are recommended to wear under gowns for the best pictures. No upfront fees are required and proofs will be emailed and texted in a few weeks. [Appointment Sign-up](#)

Spirit Week: Students are reminded to participate in Spirit Week Monday, April 22 - Thursday, April 25, 2024.

Art Club: Art Club will meet Wednesday, April 24 at 2:30.

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.

TRAILBLAZER

DAILY LUNCH SPECIALS



Monday 4/15/24

Buffalo Wings

PB&J



Tuesday 4/16/24

Chicken Tenders

Turkey & Cheese Sub



Wednesday 4/17/24

Grilled Cheese/Baked Potato

Grilled Chicken Salad



Thursday 4/18/24

Cheeseburger

Crispy Chicken Salad



Friday 4/19/24

BBQ Pork Sandwich

PB&J

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



ECHS Students & Parents

Events Calendar

All dates are tentative and could change based on need

[Link to Calendar](#)

Week April 15-20, 2024	
Monday, April 15	
Tuesday, April 16	Mu Alpha Theta Meeting ECHS Homework Assistance -2:30 - 4:30 Schedule
Wednesday, April 17	ECHS Homework Assistance -2:30 - 4:30 Schedule
Thursday, April 18	Club Day (Recycle,Tollywood, Disciples Making Disciples) Cap and Gown Pictures -3:30 - 6:00 ~ Trailblazer Cafe (Sign-up)
Friday, April 19	PM Advisory M/W Earth Day - Advisory Activity BE ² Scholarship Interviews - Seniors Deadline to register for May SAT

EARLY COLLEGE
PROUDLY PRESENTS
**TRAILBLAZER
TALKS**

L I V E A N D B E I N S P I R E D

May 3 9:15	May 17 10:15	May 31 9:15
Tahra Maynard Morgan Nixon Jaylynn Ricketts Mar'Kayla McLeod Jamira Bellamy Brianna Naylor Aaliyah Monk Nani Willis	Jerry Gordon Jontrel Hall-Hannah Matthew Bunker A.J. Parker Justice Olavarria Jonathan Fry Marvin Pastelin-Ruiz John Murod Zandon McCurdy	Tiara Wilson-McLean Chandra Robideaux Lily Bridges Eveline Lopez Sarai Jeffery-Lewis Hannah Roberts Madison Llewelyn Kaylee Crandall

QUESTIONS FOR MR. CHAPPELL AT 843-349-3149 OR
WCHAPPELL@HORRYCOUNTYSCHOOLS.NET

EARLY COLLEGE HIGH SCHOOL
2050 Highway 501 E, Building 400
Conway, SC 29528
Located on the
Horry Georgetown Technical College
Conway Campus
843-349-3131



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](#).

AVID Student Speaker

Dallas, TX

June 17 - 19, 2024

Congratulations, Kayla!

2024 AVID Student Speaker
Dallas Summer Institute



Congratulations, Kayla Uwakwe!



**Congratulations,
Tahra!**

HTC REEL Kid



Congratulations, Tahra Maynard!

**Ripley's Aquarium
April 18, 2024**

Congratulations, March Students and Teachers of the Month!

EARLY COLLEGE
MARCH 2024

STUDENTS OF THE MONTH

The Nominees

SENIORS

Jayona Fletcher
Leighanna Gerald
Alex Graham
Hailey Gray
Faith Mercer
Alex Morales-Lopez
Ethan Wauchope Todd

JUNIORS

Naomi Anaya
Ayanna Bromell
Bree Gomez
Ahchiya Hill
Addison Hornick
Ashier Johnson
Cassidy Kapshuck
Meggy Morales-Lopez
Connor Millburn
Justin Noble-Mattis
Taylor Powell
Aris Pimentel-Vargas
Kim Zhao

SOPHOMORES

Savannah Basile
Taylor Chinchilla-Salvador
Jacob Reyes-Zacarias
Koeyn Robinson
Amber Usher

FRESHMEN

Lilly Crocker
Pablo Morales Gomez
Kaitlyn Helms
Mimi Kuamala
Nick Locklair
Deybi Matamoros Linares
Rio Metallo
Mackenzie Rogers
LeAnn Sites
Ammoriana Stevens



JJ MELGOZA
SENIOR



ABELLA GRANT
JUNIOR



BJ KELLY
SOPHOMORE



STELLA VRETTOS
FRESHMAN

TEACHERS OF THE MONTH



MR. CHAPPELL
MS. WOODARD



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 [StudentAid.gov](https://studentaid.gov) 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 your 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!



Title I Newsletter

April 2024

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



Foster internal motivation to create a lifelong learner

Internal motivation is a significant contributor to student academic success. Teens who are internally motivated *want* to learn. They are not learning solely to receive a particular grade or a parent's approval. They are learning because they find it satisfying.

Most people are motivated to learn for both internal and external reasons. But internal motivation is what creates lifelong learning.

To develop your teen's internal motivation, encourage your student to:

- **Set goals** for mastering the material in classes. Setting goals creates a sense of purpose and ownership for learning. And reaching goals will give your teen a feeling of accomplishment.
- **Connect learning** to real-world situations. This reinforces the value of what your teen is learning.
- **Focus on the value of learning.** Praise your teen for working hard and understanding the material, regardless of the grade earned.
- **Be curious.** Encourage your teen to ask questions about material and to explore topics beyond the assignment at hand.
- **Have confidence** in personal abilities. Say that you believe in your teen. "These math problems look very challenging, but you know the concepts and you'll work them out." Statements like this will help your teen view challenges as opportunities to learn and grow.

Don't let your teen allow work to slide



As soon as the days become longer, students' attention spans seem to become shorter.

It's like there's something in the air that entices kids of all ages to skimp on studying in favor of extra time outdoors.

To ensure your teen is staying engaged with schoolwork:

- **Talk about it.** Ask questions about assignments—which one was the most interesting? Which one was the most difficult? This will remind your teen that you still care about what's going on at school—and your teen should, too.
- **Time it.** If your teen averaged more than one hour of schoolwork per night during the winter, a new 15-minute average should make you suspicious. A comment like, "Your teacher sure let up on the assignments suddenly," might be all it takes to fix the problem.
- **Combine it.** Suggest that your teen do an assigned reading on the front steps or in the backyard. That way, your teen can enjoy the fresh air—without sacrificing schoolwork time.

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.



STUDENT SUCCESS AND TUTORING CENTER



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.

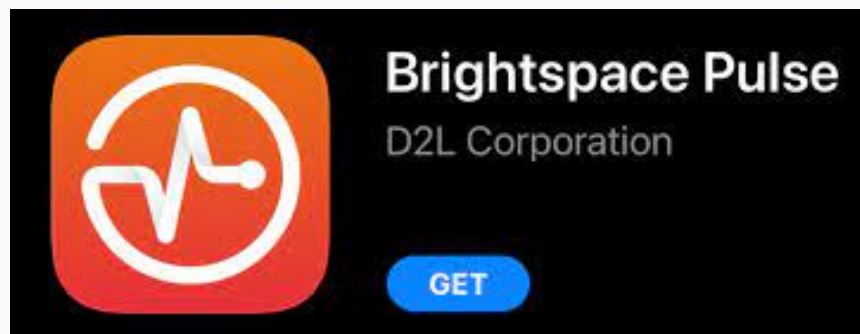
Based on this information, it is not feasible for our secondary schools and program schools to grant principal-approved days effective this year. Religious-based camps, retreats, trips, and conferences are not excused.

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/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