



AUGUST 19 - 23, 2024

THE BLAZE

Official Newsletter of HCS Early College High School

"Endless Possibilities and Opportunities"

from the desk of Ms. Williams...

Welcome Back, Trailblazers!

I hope each of you enjoyed your time off and are excited to get the year started!. We are looking forward to helping you achieve all your goals this year while creating amazing memories.

As you prepare to return on Monday, August 19, 2024, please note all students must have clear bags and follow the guidelines regarding bags for personal care items. Administration will go over procedures and expectations with students regarding clear bookbags, lunch boxes, purses, and small bags for personal care items in grade-level meetings on Friday, August 23, 2024. All students will be screened daily and students are reminded to only bring needed items to school.

Information about the Clear Bag Policy is included on the website for the district and school. The doors will open at 7:30 am for student screening. Students who are dropped early will be allowed to wait in the vestibule.

School supplies, excluding a clear bookbag, will be given to students on Monday during their first block class. Computers will be distributed at that time. In order to receive a computer, students must pay the \$25.00 technology fee and have no other outstanding technology fees. Students who have not paid, can pay Ms. Katie in the front office on Monday, August 19, 2024.

I will continue to share information and updates regarding changes for the new year. We are looking forward to seeing our students on Monday, August 19, 2024.

Please read below for additional important updates and reminders.

Upcoming Events

Grade-Level Meetings with Admin.

- Friday, August 23

Graduation Supply Meeting

- August 28 - 29 / AVID 401

No School - Labor Day Holiday

- Monday, September 02

Junior Class Ring Ceremony

- Thursday, September 05
- ECHS Cafe @ 5:00 PM

Key Club Induction Ceremony

- September 05 @ 6:00
- B & C Auditorium

Graduation Supply Orders

- Thursday, September 05
- 11:00 - 3:00 ~ ECHS Lobby

Fall Pictures

- Friday, September 13

Fall Pictures Make-Up

- Thursday, October 10

Senior Make-Up Portraits

- Friday, November 08

Important Trailblazer Links

[Lunch Menu](#)

[Student Handbook](#)

[Homework Assistance](#)

[Scholarship Website](#)

[ECHS Website](#)

Safety Protocols ([English](#) / [Spanish](#))

Transcript Request ([ECHS](#) / [HGTC](#))

[Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#)

Clear Backpacks: In an effort to further enhance our safety measures, HCS requires clear backpacks for all students (who choose to carry backpacks) for the 2024-2025 school year. Clear backpacks have become a common practice in schools across the country as they allow for easy identification of any items being brought onto campus. By implementing this protocol, we are taking proactive steps to create a safe and secure learning environment for our students.

Visit www.horrycountyschools.net/clearbackpacks for more specifics and FAQs regarding the clear backpack protocols.

Daily Screenings: All students will be screened daily. Students must have clear backpacks and bring only needed items for school. Athletic bags will be searched and secured until the end of the day. Car riders dropped off early will wait in the front entrance vestibule until 7:30 am.

Clubs for Freshmen: Students looking to get involved can join the many clubs available at ECHS. Clubs meet on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays after school (2:30 - 3:30). Advisors will provide freshmen students with information on clubs and how to sign up.

Free Meals for All Students: All students in Horry County Schools will receive free breakfast and lunch during the 2024-2025 school year as part of the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) program.

Vehicle Registration: Student drivers are reminded to register their vehicles with HGTC's Public Safety and ECHS. Parking decals will be issued by the college. Students must also complete a vehicle form for ECHS.

Schedules: Students can view their schedules in PowerSchool. A printed copy will be available upon request on Monday, August 19.

Car Rider Line: Students who are car riders are reminded to enter and exit their cars from the sidewalk on the side of ECHS on the car rider loop. Students can not meet their ride in the parking lot or get picked up or dropped off from any other access point on campus.

Bus Transportation: Due to renovations, parents and students in need of the Myrtle Beach Bus Office can call the North Myrtle Beach Office at (843) 399-8575 and the Socastee Office at the St. James Office (843) 650-1937.

"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.

Welcome to ECHS!

MEET OUR NEW TRAILBLAZERS



MAJA FALL

Math Department



MICHELE MOORE

English Department



BRANDY EVERITTE

Physical Education



DIANNA MCMEINS

Business Education



**We are excited to have Mrs. Fall,
Dr. Moore, Mrs. Everitte, and
Mrs. McMeins join our Trailblazer family.**

TRAILBLAZER

DAILY LUNCH SPECIALS



Monday 8/19/24
Mandarin Chicken Bowl
PB&J



Tuesday 8/20/24
Beef Soft Taco's
Crispy Chicken Salad



Wednesday 8/21/24
Chicken Tenders
Grilled Chicken Salad



Thursday 8/22/24
Chicken Bog
Chicken Salad Croissant



Friday 8/23//24
Pizza Crunchers
PB&J

Breakfast & Lunch at No Cost

FREE MEALS FOR ALL STUDENTS



HCS Offering Free Meals For All Students In The 2024-2025 School Year



[Click here for more details.](#)

HCS INSPIRING
Horry County Schools POSSIBILITIES

[HOME](#) > [DEPARTMENTS & SERVICES](#) > [NUTRITION SERVICES](#) > [CEP PROGRAM](#)

HCS Becomes CEP District, Offering Free Meals For All Students In The 2024-2025 School Year

All students in Horry County Schools will receive free breakfast and lunch during the 2024-2025 school year as part of the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) program.

The Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) is a non-pricing meal service option for qualifying schools and school districts. CEP allows breakfast and lunch to be offered to all enrolled students at no cost. Schools and school districts that qualify are reimbursed for meals using a formula based on the percentage of students that are categorically eligible for free meals based on their participation in other State assistance programs.

This year, CEP in South Carolina has expanded to include students who receive Medicaid benefits, enabling all HCS schools to qualify for the 2024-2025 school year. Participation in this program also eliminates the requirement for parents/guardians to fill out Free and Reduced Meal applications.

Students will still have the option to purchase additional meals, food & snack items, and beverages at à la carte prices. À la carte items can be paid for in cash or by prepayment on the student's cafeteria account. Charging for à la carte sales is not allowed. Prepayments can be made by cash or check at your child's school cafeteria or with a debit card by setting up an account at myschoolbucks.com. Any charges remaining on a student's cafeteria account from a prior school year are still the parent's responsibility. If needed, payment arrangements for larger balances can be made by contacting the school cafeteria manager.



HCS Lets Make it CLEAR

Horry County Schools

It's District-Wide Policy for the 2024-25 School Year.

HCS has implemented new safety and security tools for the upcoming 2024-25 school year this fall and here's what you'll need to know.

Clear Backpacks

WHAT

All students must carry clear backpacks. Students may carry a small, non-clear pouch in their backpack to hold personal items, such as cellphones, money, and hygiene products.

WHY

Clear backpacks provide another tool to ensure our highest priority, which is the safety and security of all members of the HCS community. Many large organizations including the NFL, collegiate stadiums, and large-scale event venues have implemented similar clear bag policies.



Security Screening

WHAT

HCS has phased in screening devices in all schools for the 2024-25 school year. All individuals will be required to pass through screening devices when entering the building.

WHY

Screening devices reduce the risk to students, staff, and visitors entering the building.



HCS Let's Make It CLEAR

Horry County Schools
A NEW DISTRICTWIDE PROTOCOL FOR THE 2024-25 SCHOOL YEAR



What are the size specifications for the clear backpacks?

There are no size specifications for the clear backpack; however, please consider the dimensions for the school-issued devices. District-issued laptops are 12" x 8" x 1".

Are mesh backpacks allowed?

No. Mesh backpacks are not allowed. Students are only permitted to use clear backpacks. (See example.)



Can the backpack have mesh pockets?

Yes. Mesh side pockets are allowed on the backpack. (See example.)



Can the front pocket of the backpack have a mesh organizer?

Yes. A mesh organizer inside the front pocket is allowed. (See example.)



Will backpacks with padded backs be accepted?

No. Backpacks must have clear visibility through all dimensions excluding the backpack bottom. (See example.)



Are transparent colored backpacks allowed?

No. Colored, transparent backpacks are not allowed. Only fully clear backpacks are permitted. (See example.)



Are stripes allowed on the backpack?

No. Stripes in any location are not allowed on the backpack. (See example.)



Clear Backpacks 2024-2025

HCS Let's Make It CLEAR

Horry County Schools

A NEW DISTRICTWIDE PROTOCOL FOR THE 2024-25 SCHOOL YEAR



Can the backpack have colored straps?

Yes. The backpack may have colored straps. (See example.)



Are leather reinforcements on the corners of the backpacks allowed?

Yes. Leather reinforcements in the corners are permitted. (See example.)



Are company or trademark logos allowed on the front of the backpack?

Yes. Small company and school logos are allowed, but large logos, monograms, or other visual design obstructions are not. (See example.)



Will athletic/spirit bags and instrument cases that are not clear be allowed on campus?

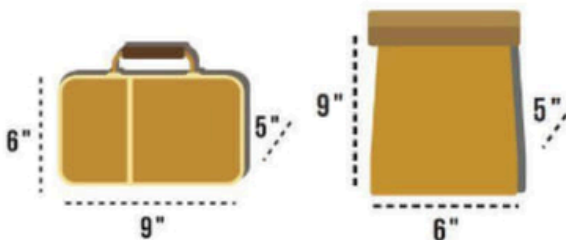
Yes, however, these bags are subject to be searched.

Clear Backpacks 2024-2025



Are lunch boxes permitted?

Yes, however, these lunch boxes are subject to be searched. Non-transparent lunch boxes no larger than approximately 6"x9"x5" are permitted to be carried. (See example.)



What about students that must carry medical items/equipment to school?

An exception will be made for medically necessary items after proper inspection.

What about students that must carry medical items/equipment to school? ▾

An exception will be made for medically necessary items after proper inspection.

Are clear totes, clear purses, and transparent plastic bags allowed? ▾

Yes, clear totes, purses, and bags are allowed. (See examples.)



What about privacy? ▾

We understand the concern regarding the privacy of certain items contained within backpacks. Students will be permitted to carry such items in a small makeup pouch or purse. Any non-transparent pouch, purse, or lunch kit should be no larger than approximately 6" x 9" x 5" and will be subject to search.

Clear Backpacks
2024-2025

HCS Student Devices

Computers will be distributed during first block for underclassmen and AVID 401 for seniors.

Students must pay the technology fee to receive a device.

Devices will not be issued to students with technology fees.



ECHS Events Calendar

All dates are tentative and
could change based on need.

[Calendar Link](#)

| August 19-23 | |
|--------------|--|
| 19 | 1st Day of School Books & Technology Distribution - Underclassmen |
| 20 | |
| 21 | Books & Technology Distribution - Seniors only |
| 22 | Books & Technology Distribution - Seniors only |
| 23 | MW Friday - AM Advisory Grade Level Meetings - Cafe |



Trailblazers are reminded to review the cell phone policy.

ECCHS CELL PHONE POLICY

Cell phone usage

Before school, after school, and during lunch

- **1st Offense** – The phone will be confiscated, discipline infraction entered in PowerSchool, & parent notified of the incident.
- **2nd Offense**- The phone will be confiscated and a discipline infraction will be entered in PowerSchool.
- **3rd Offense**- The phone will be confiscated, discipline infraction entered in PowerSchool. The student's parent/guardian must come to the school to retrieve the device and the student loses cell phone privileges at any time while on school grounds.

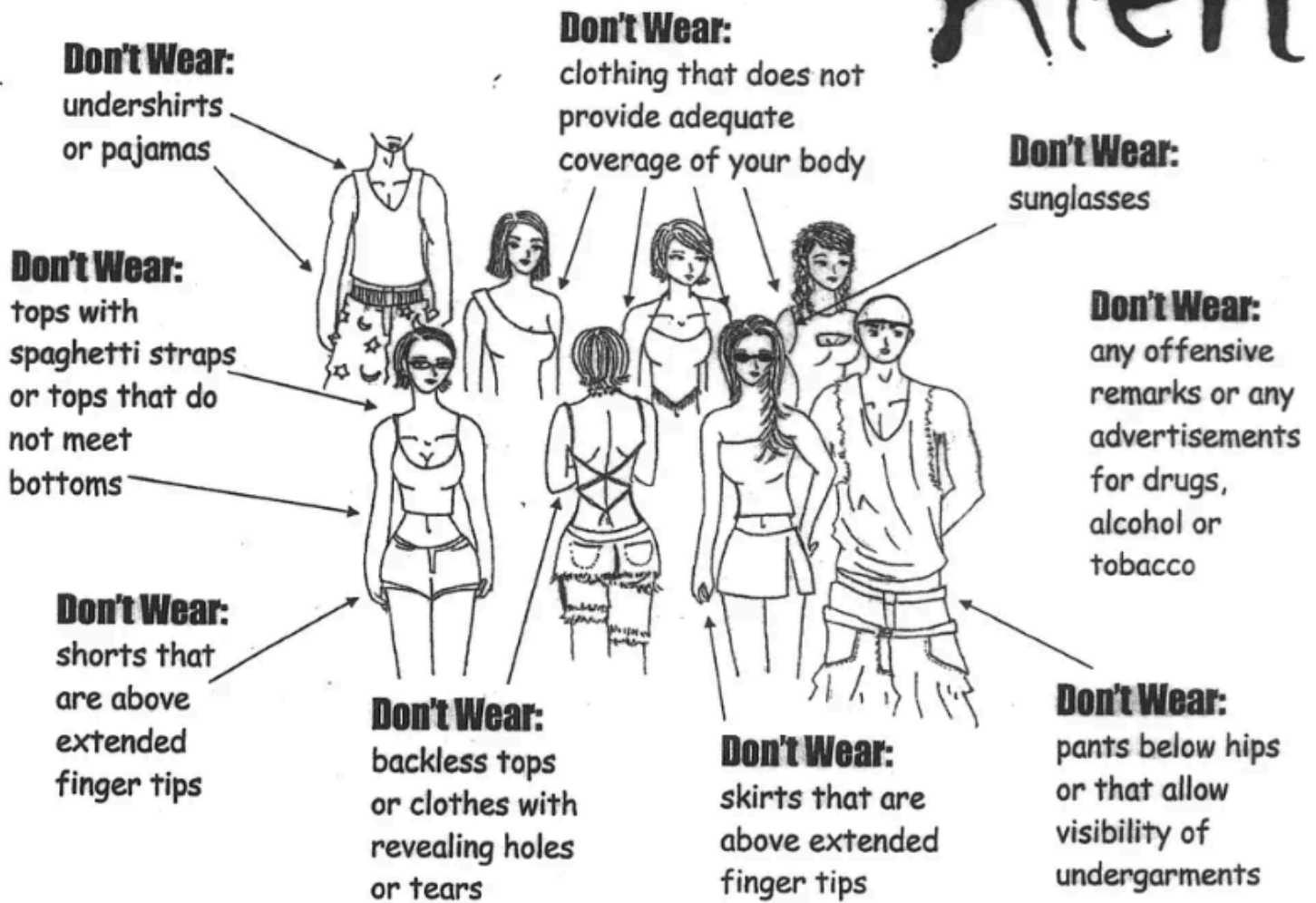


2024-2025 Student Handbook

The ECHS cell phone policy is on page 17 of the student handbook.

Trailblazers are reminded to review the dress code policy.

Dress Code Alert



2024-2025 Student Handbook

The ECHS dress code policy is on page 21 of the student handbook.

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



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.

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





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.

