

AUGUST 26 - 30, 2024

THE BLAZE

Official Newsletter of HCS Early College High School

"Endless Possibilities and Opportunities"

from the desk of Ms. Williams...

Welcome Back, Trailblazers!

We had an amazing first week! Our students returned eager and ready to get started on reaching their goals. As a team, we are navigating the new changes with all day screenings, clear bags, and appropriate size lunch boxes. We will continue to support our students through the new protocols. I appreciate parents for providing clear bags and making sure that lunch bags meet the guidelines (6x9x5) as outlined in the protocol (see below).

We are excited to have our seniors return to campus and the start of HGTC classes on August 26, 2024. We appreciate the support and encouragement of parents as students begin the journey of blending high school and college courses. Underclassmen students are reminded to take advantage of time on Fridays during College Coverage and Academic Support to complete college assignments due for the upcoming week without distractions.

Herff-Jones representatives, will be on campus August 28-29, 2024, to give seniors information on how to order graduation supplies. Seniors will get information during AVID and then order supplies on September 05 from 11:00 - 3:00 in the lobby.

Please read below for additional important updates and reminders.

Upcoming Events

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

SIC Nominations & Elections

- Nominations Due - Sept. 13
- Voting Ballot - Sept. 20

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](#)

Advisory: Friday, August 30, 2024, will be an AM Advisory and a Tuesday/Thursday day.

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 7:15 am.

Clubs: Clubs will meet on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays after school from 2:30-3:30 unless the sponsors have arranged for students to stay longer. All car rider club members will wait in the front lobby area until they are picked up. Club members should be picked up by 4:00 p.m. Informational meeting in the cafe on Thursday, August 29, 2024. The purpose of this meeting is to give students an opportunity to learn about the various clubs offered at ECHS. The meeting will be from 2:30 - 3:30. If students know they do not have transportation, arrangements can be made to get information from advisory teachers.

School Improvement Council (SIC): ECHS is looking for parent representatives to serve on the School Improvement Council. The two elected positions are for a two-year term. Parents can access the link to nominate themselves or another interested parent via email and this newsletter. All questions should be directed to Ms. Williams at (843) 349-3131. Nominations are due by September 13 and elections will be September 20.

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.

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.

TRAILBLAZER

DAILY LUNCH SPECIALS



Monday 8/26/24

Smash Bowl

Turkey & Cheese Croissant



Tuesday 8/27/24

Nachos Grande (Beef)

Crispy Chicken Salad



Wednesday 8/28/24

Bosco Sticks

Grilled Chicken Salad



Thursday 8/29/24

Baked Ziti/Garlic toast

Chicken Salad Croissant



Friday 8/30/24

Cheeseburger

PB&J



ECHS



Join the
Club!



29th
August
2:30PM-3:30PM

Informational
Meeting



Early College High School
Café

YEARBOOK



ECHS Events Calendar

All dates are tentative and
could change based on need.

[Calendar Link](#)

August 26-30	
26	1st Day of HGTC Classes
27	Kendra Dickerson (SWA) at all lunches (11-1)
28	Graduation Supplies Informational Meeting - During AVID
29	Graduation Supplies Informational Meeting - During AVID
30	TTH Friday College Colors Day - Rock ECHS Colors or Favorite College





South Carolina School Improvement

Nominations for Representatives for Early College SIC (2024-2025)

The ECHS School Improvement Council (SIC) is an advisory council to the principal that is focused on school improvement issues. It is made up of representatives of parents, teachers, and community members. The principal serves as an ex-officio member. The SIC meets several times during the school year.

ECHS parent representatives are nominated and elected by their fellow ECHS parents. Any parent/guardian of at least one child enrolled in ECHS is eligible to place his/her own name or the name of another parent in nomination. This year we will be filling two (2) elected parent positions on the SIC. Parent representatives are typically elected for a term of two years.

A representative of the ECHS SIC will contact all individuals whose names are submitted into nomination prior to the election to confirm acceptance of the nomination. Nominees will be invited to submit a brief statement about themselves and why they want to serve on the SIC. All statements received will be printed on the opposite side of the ballot so that voters will have a chance to get to know each of the candidates.

You can submit your nomination to the ECHS SIC via several methods: #1-complete this Google form (see link below); #2- drop off the nomination at the ECHS front office in person; #3-email ECHS Principal, Ms. Williams (dwilliams001@horrycountyschools.net); #4-or by mail (PO Box 261966 Conway, SC 29528, Attention: Ms. Williams, SIC).

Please ensure the following information is provided if you use another method besides the Google Form: Name of nominee, Phone # of nominee, Email address of nominee, Student of nominee enrolled at ECHS.

Nomination forms must be received no later than the close of the business day, Friday, September 13, 2024. Elections will be held on/before Friday, September 20, 2024.

Nomination Ballot

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

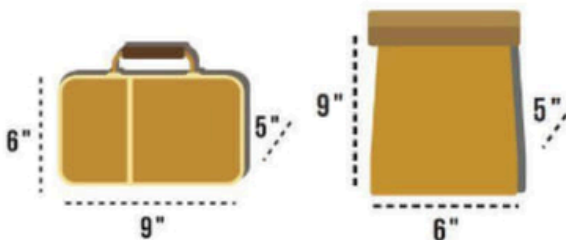
Screening devices reduce the risk to students, staff, and visitors entering the building.





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

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.

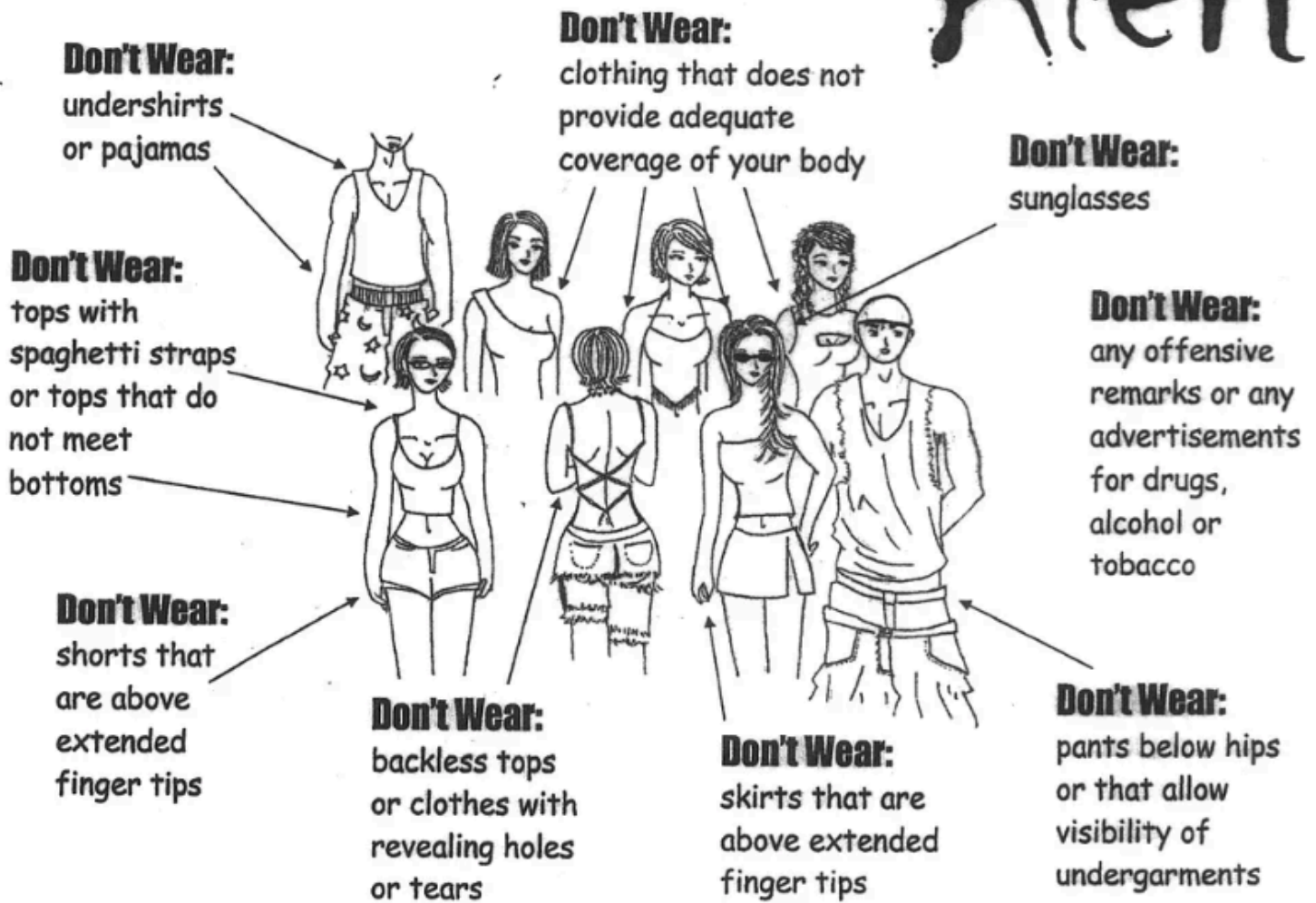


2024-2025 Student Handbook

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.

