



SEPTEMBER 02 -06, 2024

THE BLAZE

Official Newsletter of HCS Early College High School

"Endless Possibilities and Opportunities"

from the desk of Ms. Williams...

Greetings, Trailblazers!

I hope everyone is enjoying the long weekend. We had another amazing week! As students settle back into the routine of school, parents are reminded to check PowerSchool for grades and attendance. The first quarter interim report will be issued September 20, 2024, via email. Parents are asked to check their email and contact numbers and notify the school to update any changes.

Due to the instructional schedule and the successful completion of high school courses required to earn Carnegie units needed for a high school diploma, there will be no principal approved absences. Parents can review page 16 of this newsletter for additional information.

We are looking forward to all parents, family members, and students celebrating with us for the following evening events:

- Junior Class Ring Ceremony - Sept. 05 @ 5:00
- Key Club Induction Ceremony - Sept. 05 @ 6:00
- Title I Annual Meeting & Trailblazer Showcase - Sept. 12 @ 6:00

Herff-Jones representatives, will be on campus Thursday, September 05 to assist seniors with orders for their graduation supplies from 11:00 - 3:00 in the lobby.

Please read below for additional important updates and reminders.

Upcoming Events

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

Title 1 Annual Mtg & Trailblazer Showcase

- Thursday, September 12
- 6:00 -8:00 (dinner provided)

Fall Pictures

- Friday, September 13

SIC Nomations & Elections

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

Quarter 1 Interim Report

- Friday, September 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, September 06, 2024, will be an AM Advisory and a Wednesday/ 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 start on Tuesday, September 02, 2024. Clubs will meet Tuesday - Friday 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.

Key Club Induction Ceremony: The annual induction ceremony for Key Club is Thursday, September 12 at 6:00 in the Burroughs and Chapin Auditorium located in Building 1100. There will be a light reception following the ceremony in Cafe 1100.

Jr. Class Ring Ceremony: Parents and community members are cordially invited to attend the Class of 2026 Ring Ceremony Thursday, September 12 at 5:00 in the cafe.

Student Athletes & Extracurriculars: Students involved in sports and other extracurricular activities are asked to complete the Google form so the ECHS staff members are able to come out and support their events.

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.

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



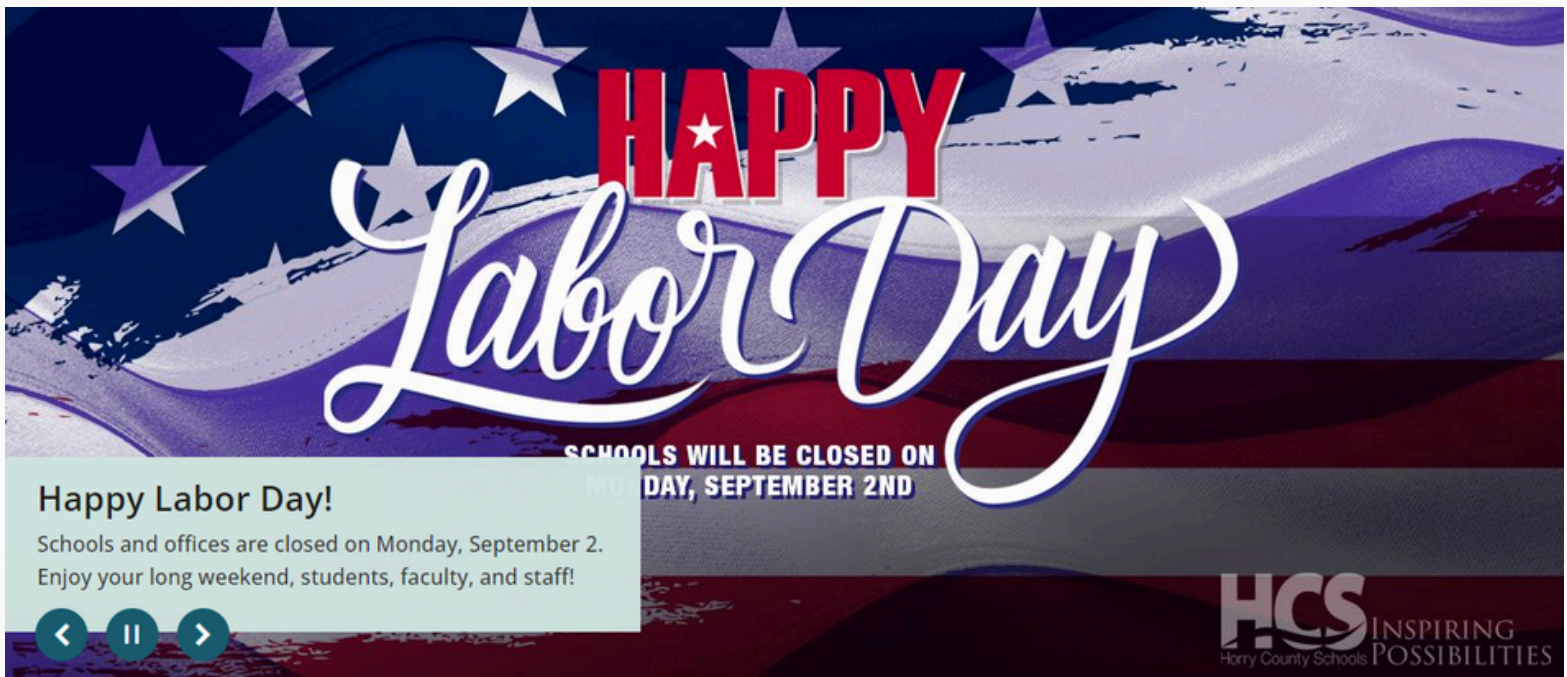
Title I

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.



No School!

Monday, September 02, 2024



TRAILBLAZER

DAILY LUNCH SPECIALS



Monday 9/2/24

Labor Day

No School

Tuesday 9/3/24

Beef Soft Taco's

Crispy Chicken Salad



Wednesday 9/4/24

Chicken Nuggets

Turkey & Cheese Croissant



Thursday 9/5/24

Chicken Parmesan/Garlic toast

Crispy Chicken Salad



Friday 9/6/24

Cheese Pizza

PB&J



ECHS Events Calendar

All dates are tentative and
could change based on need.

Calendar Link

September 2024	
September 2-6	
2	NO SCHOOL (ECHS & HGTC) - Labor Day Holiday
3	Rho Kappa Social Studies Honor Society Meeting
4	
5	Graduation Supply Orders - ECHS Lobby - 11:00 - 3:00 Junior Class Ring Ceremony - ECHS Cafe - 5:00 Key Club Induction Ceremony - B & C Auditorium - 6:00
6	MW Friday Spring 2024 Awards Ceremony - B & C Auditorium (rescheduled date TBD)





EARLY COLLEGE

Junior Ring Ceremony



Presented by Herff Jones

**ECHS Cafe 5:00 P.M.
September 5th 2024**



The Herff Jones Ring Ceremony for juniors will be held Thursday, September 5th, at 5:00 p.m. in the Trailblazer Café. All ring balances must be paid in full to participate in the ceremony.

Key Club Induction Ceremony



**THURSDAY
SEPTEMBER 5TH**

INDUCTION CEREMONY

HORRY GEORGETOWN

TECHNICAL COLLEGE

BURROUGHS & CHAPIN AUDITORIUM

6-7 PM

Key Club News

Key Club will meet differently this year! We will share the projects we are working on each week. Students must get approval from Mr. Chappell at wchappell@horrycountyschools.net PRIOR to attending the meeting. Students may only stay after school on their designated days. They must sign in and out with Mr. Chappell. Students must be picked up on time. Failure to be picked up on time will result in a student losing after-school privileges. We look forward to another outstanding year of Key Club. Please reach out to Mr. Chappell if you have any questions.



**TUESDAY
SEPTEMBER 3RD
2:30-3:30
ROOM 221**

TUESDAY PROJECTS INCLUDE

9/11 AND FIRST RESPONDERS

YOUTH LITERACY INITIATIVE

ECHS WEEKLY NEWS

HISPANIC HERITAGE

**WE ARE EARLY COLLEGE
PODCAST**



**WEDNESDAY
SEPTEMBER 4TH
2:30-3:30
ROOM 221**

WEDNESDAY PROJECTS INCLUDE

HOMECOMING

MILITARY & VETERAN APPRECIATION

RELAY FOR LIFE

ASSISTED LIVING



**THURSDAY
SEPTEMBER 5TH
2:30-3:30
ROOM 221**

THURSDAY PROJECTS INCLUDE

9/11 AND FIRST RESPONDERS

ECHS WEEKLY NEWS

FOSTERING HOPE CLOTHING DRIVE

HISPANIC HERITAGE

RECYCLING BINS

T-SHIRT DESIGN

GRAPHIC DESIGNERS

**WE ARE EARLY COLLEGE
PODCAST**



**FRIDAY
SEPTEMBER 6TH
2:30-3:30
ROOM 221**

FRIDAY PROJECTS INCLUDE

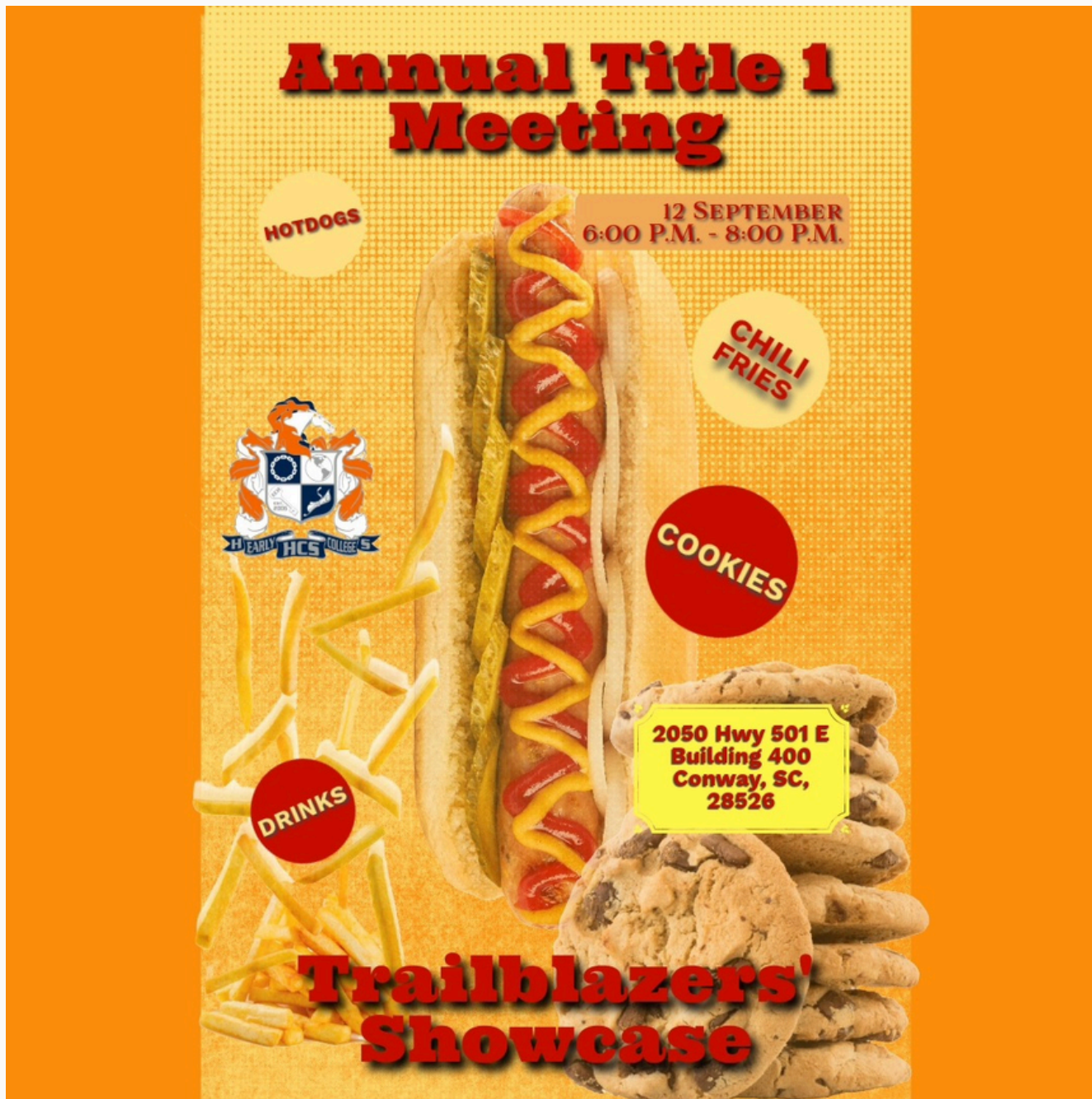
HOMECOMING

TEACHER HELPERS

**RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE
CAN TABS**

Title I Annual Meeting

Parents and community members are cordially invited to the Title I Annual Meeting and Trailblazer Showcase Thursday, September 12, 2024, at 6:00 in the ECHS cafe. Dinner will be served in the cafe at 6:00. We look forward to seeing you there!



Trailblazer Athletes & Extracurriculars



Student Athletes and Extracurriculars

If you participate in ANY TYPE of sports or outside activities (football, soccer, golf, gymnastics, drama, martial arts, dance, rodeo, etc.), please fill out the link information. These activities can be for a school or any other organization.



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

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, a discipline infraction entered in PowerSchool, and the phone returned to a parent.
- **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 while on school grounds.

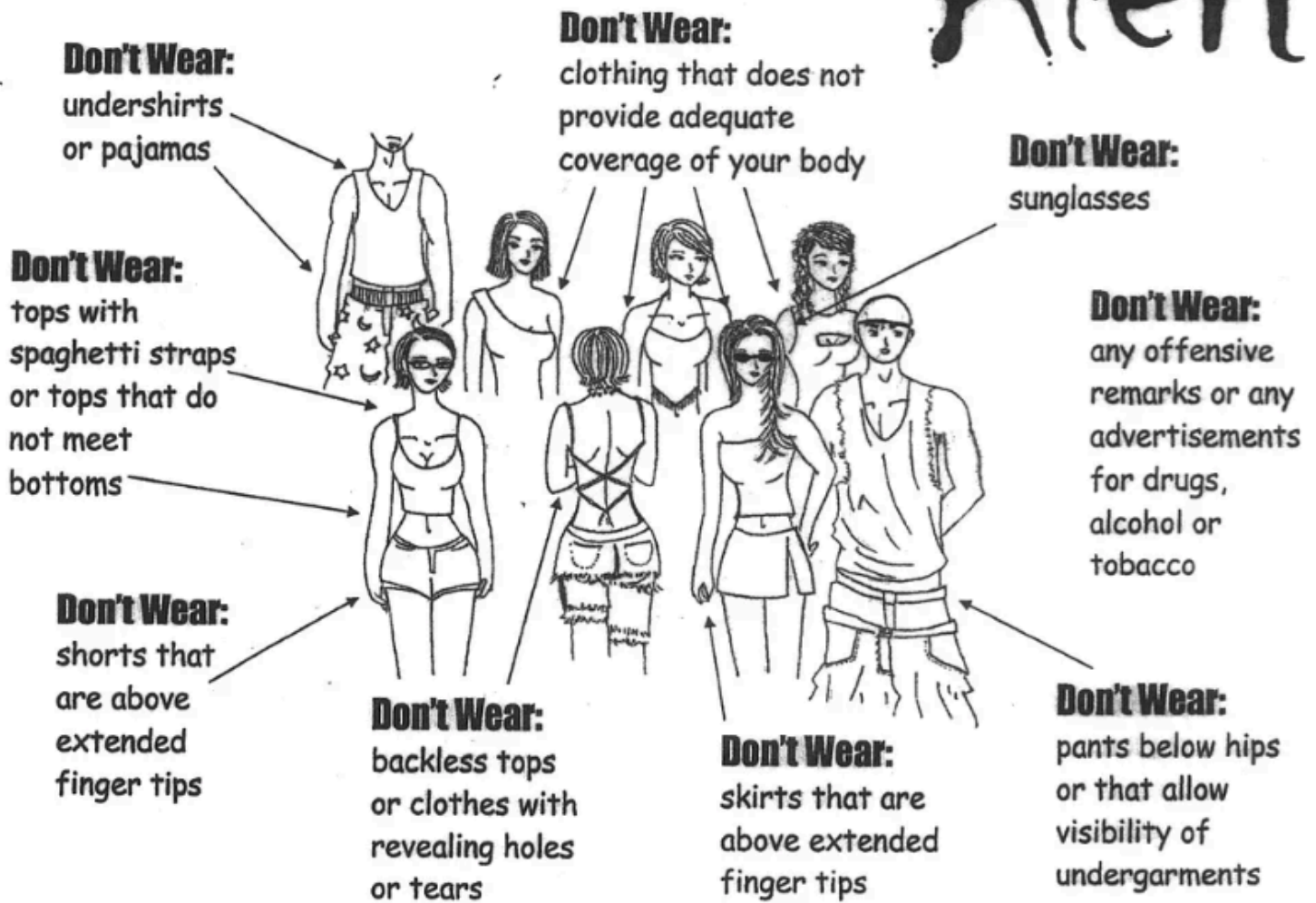


2024-2025 Student Handbook

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. All students are required to follow the dress code policy.

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.

