



SEPTEMBER 09 - 13, 2024

THE BLAZE

Official Newsletter of HCS Early College High School

"Endless Possibilities and Opportunities"

from the desk of Ms. Williams...

Greetings, Trailblazers!

I cannot believe this is our fourth week in school. Parents will receive Quarter I Interim Reports via email Friday, September 20. We will begin our after school and online tutoring program the week of September 23. Students will need to provide their own transportation. Please check your email for weekly updates from the school with through this newsletter.

The next few weeks of this month will be very busy. Please take a moment to review this edition of the newsletter for updates.

Please see a brief list of upcoming events:

- Title I Annual Meeting & Trailblazer Showcase - Sept. 12@ 6:00
- Fall Pictures - Friday, September 13 (During Advisory & Blocks 1-2)
- School Improvement Council Nominations Due - September 13
- School Improvement Council Elections - September 20
- AVID Signing Day - Freshmen- Friday, September 20 @ 8:15
- Homecoming Day - Friday, September 20 @ 6:00 - ECHS Cafe

Please read below for additional important updates and reminders.

Upcoming Events

Title 1 Annual Mtg & Trailblazer Showcase

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

Fall Pictures

- Friday, September 13

SIC Nominations & Elections

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

Homecoming Dance

- Friday, September 20
- 6:00 - 9:00 - EHCS Cafe
- \$12.00

AVID Signing Day

- Friday, September 20
- B & C Auditorium @ 8:15

Quarter 1 Interim Report

- Friday, September 20 - Emailed

Spring 2024 Awards Ceremony

- Friday, October 04
- B & C Auditorium @ 8:15

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 13, 2024, will be an AM Advisory and a Tuesday/ Thursday day.

Title I Meeting & Trailblazer Showcase: Students, parents, and community members are invited to the annual Title I Meeting and Trailblazer Showcase Thursday, September 12, 2024. Dinner (hotdogs, fries, drinks, and dessert) will be served in the cafe. The Title I meeting will begin at 6:00 and the Trailblazer Showcase will follow the meeting. Dinner will be available from 6:00 - 8:00.

Picture Day: Friday, September 13 is picture day. Students will take pictures in the downstairs AVID classroom. The picture schedule is as follows: Juniors - during Advisory; Sophomores - during Block 1; and Freshmen - during Block 2. Parents will receive proofs and information on purchasing packages by accessing <https://my.photoday.com/s/LTBW/425976>

Homecoming Dance: The annual Homecoming Dance is Friday, **September 20, 2024, in the ECHS cafe 6:00 - 9:00. Tickets are \$12.00** and the price include food and drink. The last day to purchase tickets is Wednesday, September 18, 2024. Students must have a signed permission slip prior to purchasing a ticket. Tickets can be purchased before school and during lunch to Ms. Katie in the front office. Students can pay for tickets online using Mypaymentsplus.com. The dance is open to ECHS students only. Please the information on [guidelines for dress code](#).

AVID Signing Day: Freshmen students in front of their parents and family members will sign the AVID Commitment Contract in the B & C Auditorium on Friday, September 20, 2024. The purpose of this event is to have students make a commitment to academic excellence, enrollment in the AVID elective class, and the goals and responsibilities of AVID. Following the ceremony, parents and students will enjoy light refreshments in the cafeteria of Building 1100. Photos will be taken during and after the ceremony.

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.

"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 9/9/24

Mandarin Chicken Bowl

PB&J



Tuesday 9/10/24

Cheeseburger/Baked Potato

Crispy Chicken Salad



Wednesday 9/11/24

Chicken Bog

Turkey & Cheese Croissant



Thursday 9/12/24

Cheese Pizza

Crispy Chicken Salad



Friday 9/13/24

Chicken Filet Sandwich

PB&J

ECHS Events Calendar

All dates are tentative and
could change based on need.

[Calendar Link](#)

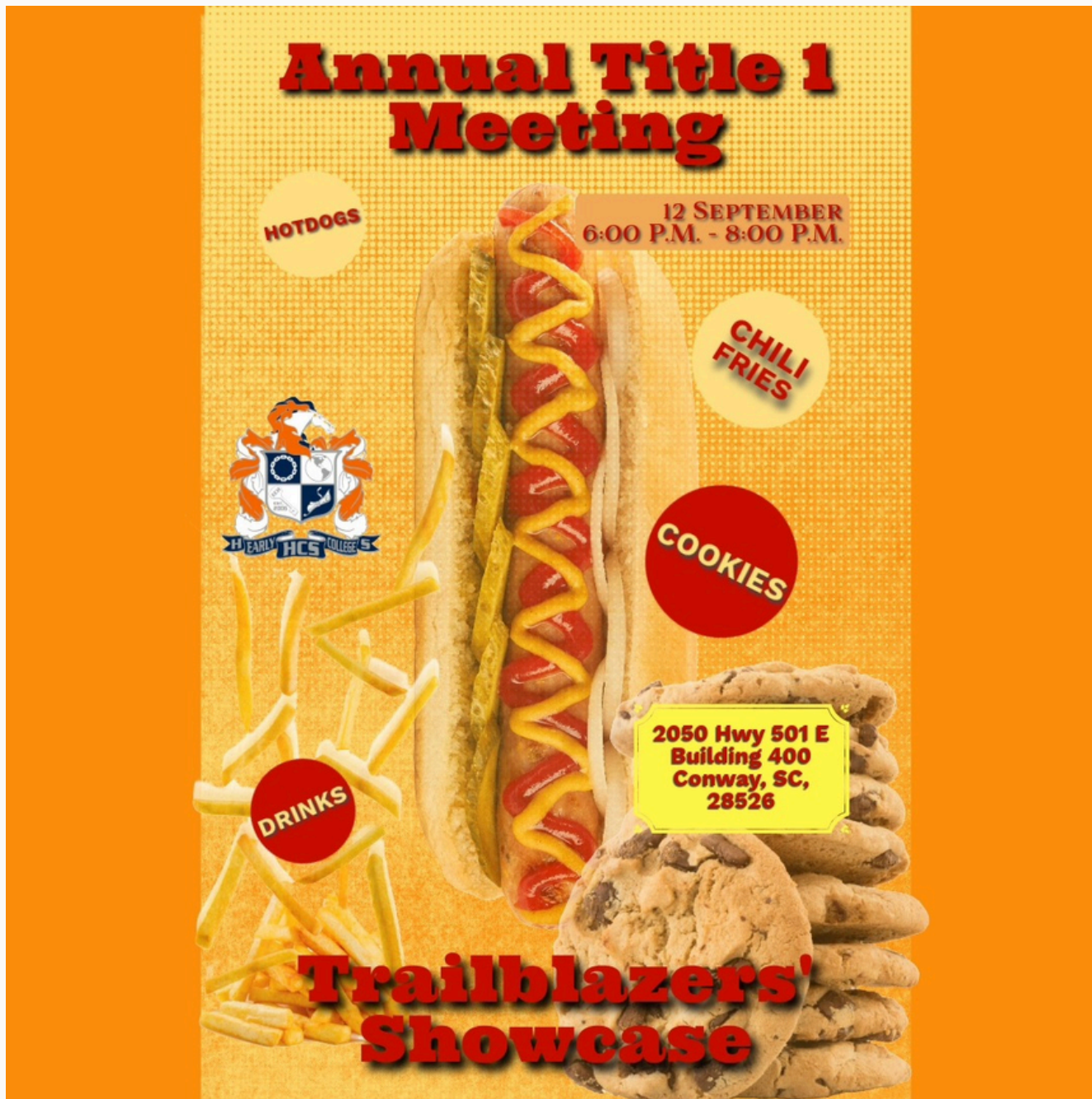
September 9-13	
9	
10	Mu Alpha Theta Honor Society Meeting
11	Patriot Day at Lunch
12	Annual Title I Meeting and Trailblazer Showcase - 6:00 - 8:00 / Dinner will be served
13	TTH Friday - AM - Constitution Day Activity Fall Pictures SIC Nominations Due

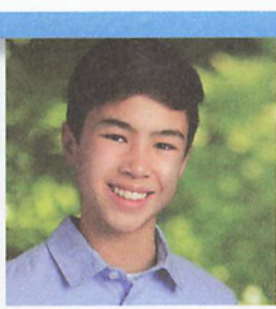
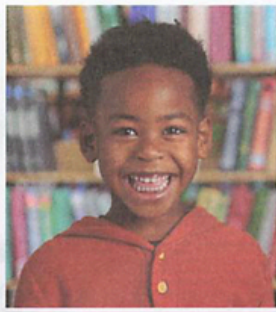


Title I

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!





2024

Picture Day!

See back for details.

¡Día de la Foto! Mira al dorso para conocer detalles.

Lifetouch.

Picture Day is coming!

¡Ya llega el Día de la Foto!

HCS Early College HS
Friday, September 13, 2024
\\ viernes, 13 de septiembre, 2024

Subscribe below to get alerts
when your images are ready.

Suscríbete a continuación para recibir alertas cuando tus imágenes estén listas.

<https://my.photoday.com/s/LTBW/425976>

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Lifetouch.

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Homecoming Dance

A poster for the Homecoming 2024 Moment in Time dance. The background is dark with out-of-focus warm lights and a string of glowing light bulbs. The text is centered and reads: "HOMECOMING 2024" in white, "MOMENT" in pink, and "in Time" in white script. Below this, the date "FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2024" is in pink. At the bottom, "EARLY COLLEGE 6-9" and "TICKETS \$12" are in white.

HOMECOMING 2024
MOMENT
in Time

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2024

EARLY COLLEGE
6-9
TICKETS \$12

[Dance Permission Slip](#)



HCS EARLY COLLEGE TRAILBLAZERS

Homecoming Dance Dress Code

Formal attire is not required for attendance at the dance. Students are reminded to follow the ECHS dress code when selecting formal attire. We have listed below some guidelines for formal and casual attire.

Formal Wear

- The length of skirts or dresses should provide appropriate coverage.
- Dresses can have splits but should provide appropriate coverage when walking, standing, sitting, and dancing
- The top of dresses should appropriately cover the chest and back area.
- Dresses can have spaghetti straps but the top bodices should appropriately cover the chest and back area.
- Male students can wear dress slacks and dress shirts with sleeves, with or without ties and jackets. Dress or casual shoes are allowed.

Casual Wear

- Shorts of appropriate school length can be worn.
- Jeans can be worn but students are reminded to adhere to guidelines for jeans with holes above the fingertip or dollar bill rule.
- Athletic attire can be worn.
- HCSD guidelines prohibiting clothing with profanity, referencing or depicting alcohol, tobacco or weapons, will apply to Prom attire.
- Any student who has a concern about arranging appropriate attire to adhere to these dress code guidelines should speak with the ECHS school administration prior to the week of the dance.



SENIOR AVID NEWS



WELCOME CLASS OF 2025

Welcome to your final and busiest year at ECHS. Whatever your plans beyond high school, my aim is to help you set realistic goals for yourself, develop an action plan for attaining those goals, and secure the financial means by which to implement your plan.

This is the first monthly edition of Senior AVID News. It will be filled with information about educational and work-related opportunities, scholarships, and financial aid.

ACT/SAT DATES AND DEADLINES

- ACT Test-Oct. 26 2024
- Deadline-Sept. 20, 2024
- SAT Test-Oct. 5, 2024
- Deadline-Sept. 20, 2024

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Sept. 16-17, 2024
College Application Days
- Sept. 20, 2024-ECHS
Homecoming Dance

IMPORTANT

- SC State Scholarships are still requiring ACT/SAT scores. They are NOT test optional!





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

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.

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.

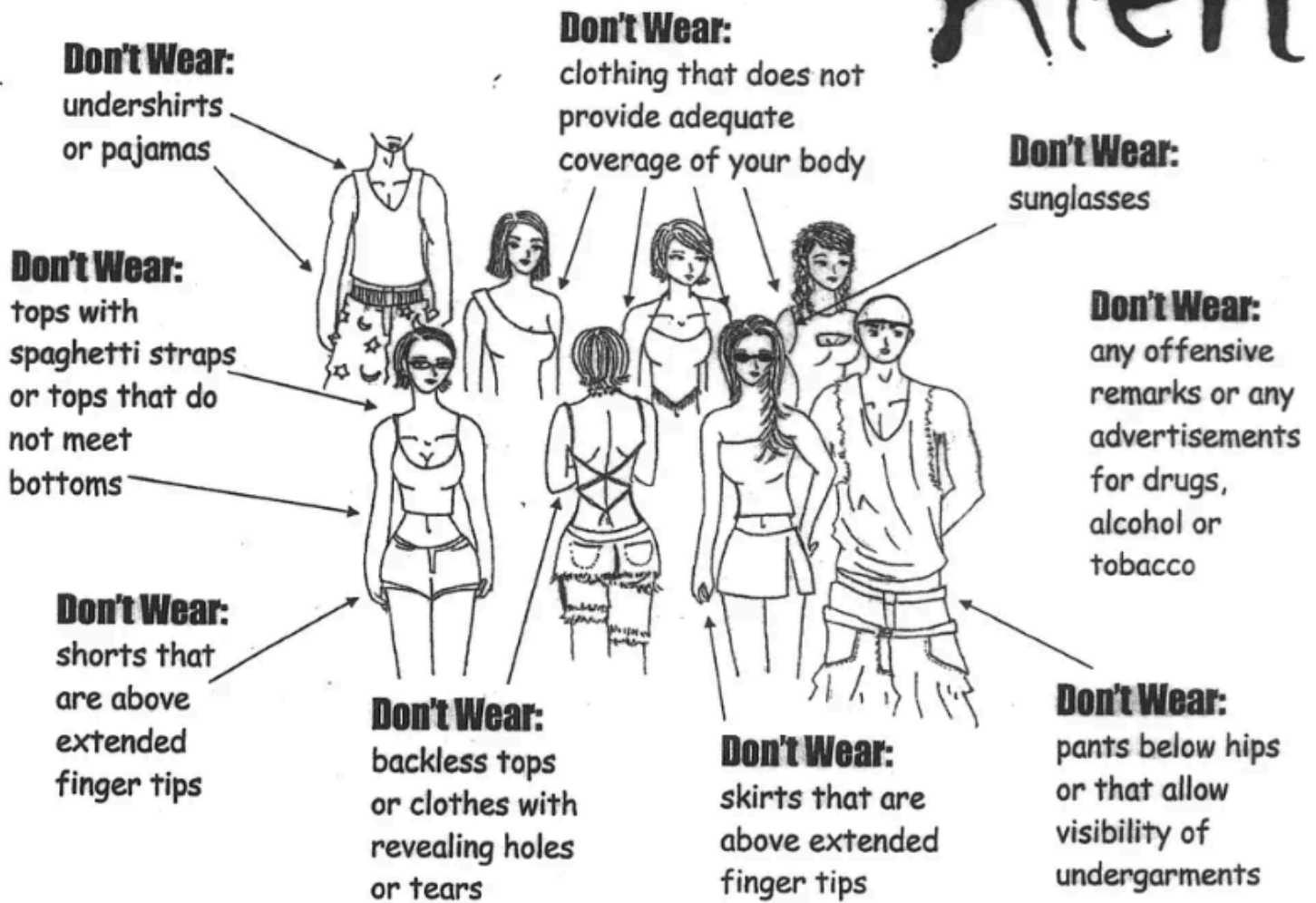


2024-2025 Student Handbook

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.

