



SEPTEMBER 16 - 20, 2024

# THE BLAZE

Official Newsletter of HCS Early College High School

"Endless Possibilities and Opportunities"

*from the desk of Ms. Williams...*

Greetings, Trailblazers!

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 30. Students will need to provide their own transportation. Please check your email for weekly updates from the school with through this newsletter.

The remaining 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:

- School Improvement Council Elections - September 20
- AVID Signing Day - Freshmen- Friday, September 20 @ 8:15
- Homecoming Dance - Friday, September 20 @ 6:00 - ECHS Cafe
- Hispanic Heritage Month Celebrations - September 15 - October 15.

Please read below for additional important updates and reminders.

## Upcoming Events

### College Application Day - Seniors

- September 17 - 18 (AVID 401)

### HGTC IDs - Sophomores

- September 18 - 19 (AVID 201)

### 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
- ECHS Cafe @ 8:20

### 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 20, 2024, will be an AM Advisory and a Monday/Wednesday day.

**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 see the [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 were due by September 13 and elections will be September 20.

**College Application Day:** Seniors in AVID 401 will be filling out college applications September 17-18, 2024.

**HGTC College ID's:** Sophomores in AVID 201 will get their HGTC ID's September 18-19, 2024.

**eLearning Attendance:** Students who missed class on Monday, September 16 due to power outages or technical issues have until Monday, September 23 to submit work

"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 9/16/24***  
***General Tso's Chicken***  
***PB&J***



***Tuesday 9/17/24***  
***Walking Tacos***  
***Crispy Chicken Salad***



***Wednesday 9/18/24***  
***Chicken Tenders***  
***Turkey & Cheese Croissant***



***Thursday 9/19/24***  
***Chicken Bog***  
***Crispy Chicken Salad***



***Friday 9/20/24***  
***Mozzarella Cheese Sticks***  
***PB&J***

# ECHS Events Calendar

All dates are tentative and  
could change based on need.

## Calendar Link

September 16-20	
16	<a href="#">eLearning eLearning Day Schedule</a> <a href="#">Spirit Week - Cliques</a>
17	College Application Days (Seniors) <a href="#">Spirit Week - Reverse Day</a> National Honor Society Meeting
18	<a href="#">Spirit Week - Disney or Marvel Hero/Villain Day</a> AVID 201 students to Tech Central for HGTC IDs
19	<a href="#">Spirit Week - Dynamic Duo Day</a> AVID 201 students to Tech Central for HGTC IDs
20	MW Friday - AM <a href="#">Spirit Week - Trailblazer Day (Wear Orange &amp; Blue)</a> School Improvement Council Elections Quarter 1 - Interim Reports Issued AVID Signing Day - Freshman Advisory Homecoming Dance - 6:00 - 9:00 Homecoming Alumni Social - 5:00 - 7:00





# Homecoming

## *Spirit Week*

SEPTEMBER 16TH-20TH

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### Monday

#### High School Cliques

High school categories Jocks, cheerleaders, popular, nerds ,and so much more. Dress up as your favorite cliché

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### Tuesday

#### Reverse Day

Teachers Dress up like Students  
Students dress up as teachers

### Wednesday

#### Hero V.S. Villians

Dress up as your favorite Disney  
or Marvel Character

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### Thursday

#### Dynamic Duos Day

Dress up as your favorite duo

### Friday

#### Trailblazer Day

Wear Orange and Blue to  
support ECHS

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## Homecoming Friday September 20th

6 pm-9 pm in ECHS Cafe

Theme: A Moment In Time

# AVID Signing Day

## Class of 2028

Friday, September 20, 2024  
B & C Auditorium  
8:20 AM



Parents, family, friends, and community members are invited.

# 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.







# Art Contest

The Art Club will be hosting a contest for Hispanic Heritage Month. Anything you submit should be centered around the **2024 theme** of "**Shaping our Future Together**" and should celebrate Hispanic Heritage.

**Who:** All ECHS students are encouraged to participate

**What:** Any original work: art, photography, or poetry

**When:** Starting now until Friday, October 11th

**Where:** Submit your entry to Ms. Kalbaugh in room 224 by October 11th.

**Prizes will be awarded to the top three on October 15th. The student body and faculty will vote.**

# August Teachers of the Month



**Mr. Will Chappell**



**Dr. Kristy Floyd**



**Dr. Kim Carroll**

**Congratulations, Trailblazers!**

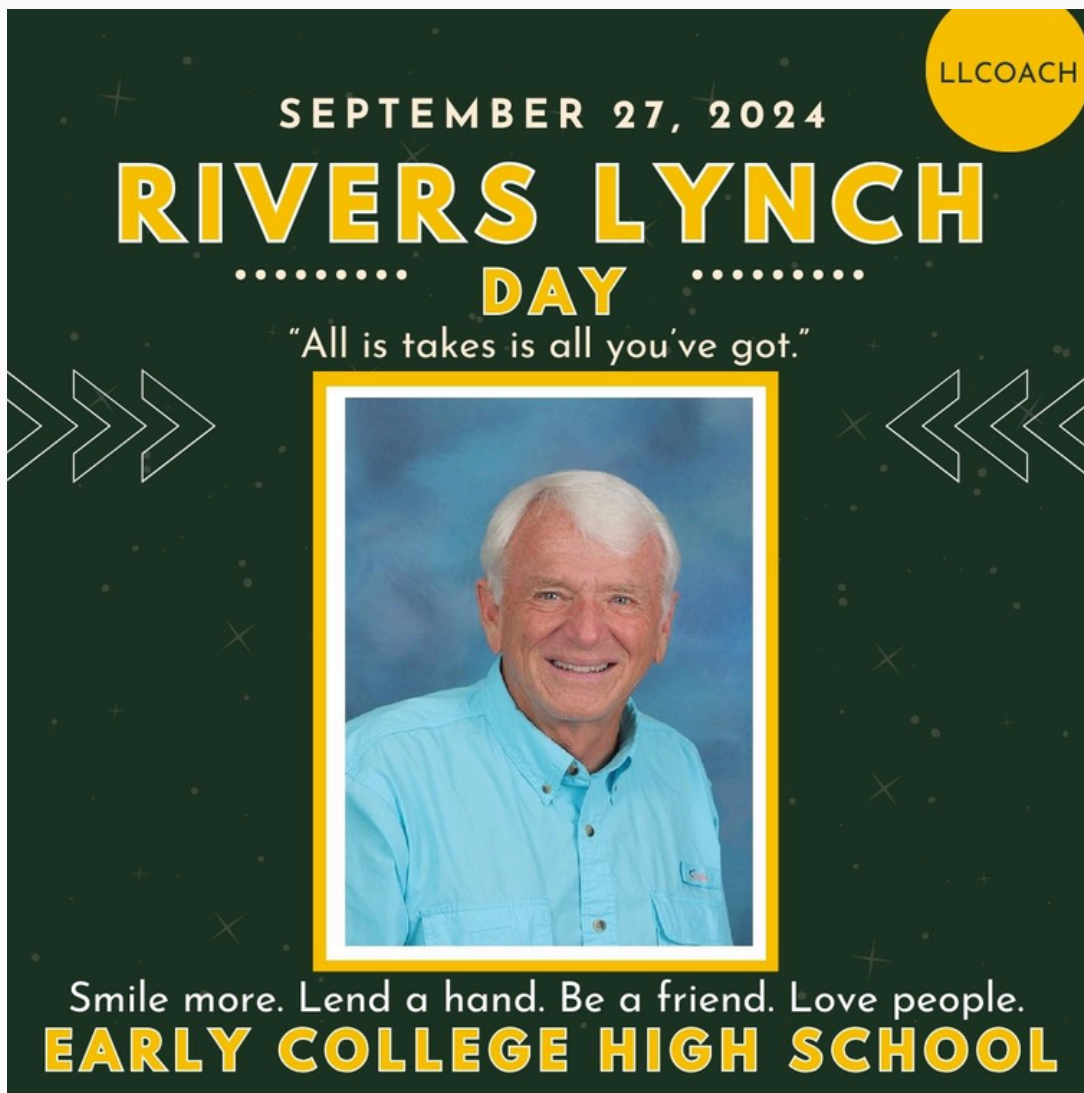


**Mrs. Brandy Everitte**



**Mr. Adam Powley**

**Congratulations, Trailblazers!**



Rivers Lynch was always smiling. He served as our drivers' education teacher for a number of years following his career with Myrtle Beach High School. Known for his positivity and his cheerful disposition, Mr. Lynch made you feel good. He knew absolutely everyone and if by chance, he didn't, it wouldn't take long. Rivers Lynch passed in 2019 at the age of 72. His legacy lives on. Early College began to celebrate Rivers Lynch Day in 2022 as a way to honor him, his family, and his giving nature by committing to a day of service in our school and community.

On Friday, September 27th, Early College will be celebrating Rivers Lynch Day. We will have students participating in a park clean-up in Conway, planning and executing a clothing drive for Fostering Hope, developing plans for Veterans Day and so much more.



# 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!





# 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.

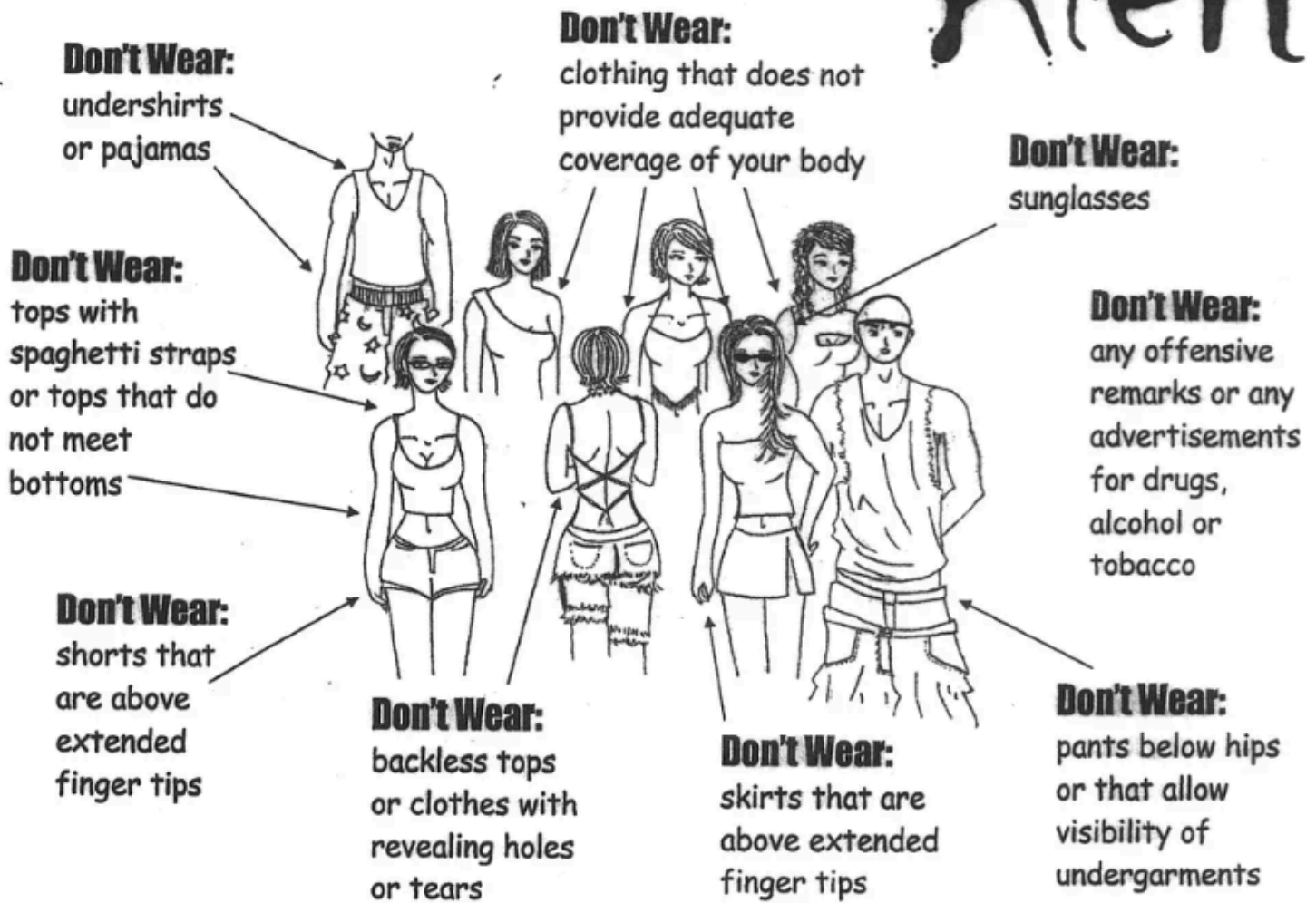


## 2024-2025 Student Handbook

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

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### 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.

