



SEPTEMBER 30 - OCTOBER 04, 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 doing well and experienced no major damages from the storm. As we come to the end of September, please remember students unable to participate in the eLearning Day have until Friday, October 04 to submit all assignments. Students who do not submit work will be marked with an unexcused absence.

Students in need of assistance with homework or have questions about various concepts can get help after school on Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 2:30 to 4:30 pm. Please take a moment to review the after school schedule.

We are excited to announce that the process to select the 2023 Teacher of the Year and Support Staff of the Year has begun! Any ECHS Trailblazer or member of the community may nominate a candidate to apply to be ECHS's Teacher of the Year and Support Staff of the Year. The nomination form is linked below. Nominations for both Teacher of the Year and Support Staff of the Year are due by Friday, October 04, 2024, at 2:30 PM.

Please take a moment to review this edition of the newsletter for updates.

Upcoming Events

Spring 2024 Awards Ceremony

- Friday, October 04
- ECHS Cafe @ 8:20

Student Health Screenings

- Tuesday, October 08
- w/school nurse

AVID Family Night

- Tuesday, October 08
- 6:00 - 8:00

Fall Pictures Make-Up

- Thursday, October 10

PSAT

- Friday, October 11
- Room 152 - Sophomores only

Hispanic Heritage Art Contest Deadline

- Friday, October 11
- Rm. 224 (Ms. Kalbaugh)

ECHS Blood Drive

- Thursday, October 24, 2024
- 9:00 - 12:00

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, October 04, 2024, will be an AM Advisory and a Monday/Wednesday day.

Awards Ceremony: Parents and family members are invited to the Spring 2024 Awards Ceremony Friday, October 04, 2024, at 8:20 in the Trailblazer Cafe. The Awards Ceremony will honor the academic achievements of sophomores, juniors, and seniors from the spring 2024 semester.

AVID Family Night: Students, parents, and family members are invited to the annual AVID Family Night on Tuesday, October 08, 2024. Dinner will be served in the cafe at 5:30. AVID Family Night is an opportunity for everyone to learn about AVID, Advisory, community and service learning, clubs, college readiness, and programs at HGTC.

Blood Drive: The annual Blood Connection Blood Drive will be Thursday, October 24, 2024 from 9:00 to 12:00 pm. Donors must be 17 years of age or older to donate. Students who are age 16 can donate with parent permission. To be eligible to give, donors must be 17 years old, weigh at least 110 pounds, have a good meal and stay fully hydrated, and have a photo ID. We are accepting walk ups but donors can make appointments.

PSAT: The PSAT is a practice SAT test, which is a college admissions test. The PSAT will be administered October 11. The test will be administered in Room 152 to registered sophomores and begin at approximately 8:30. As a final practice review, students are encouraged to use [Khan Academy Prep](#). The day of their scheduled test, students should eat a healthy breakfast. [Math Skills for Top Scorers](#)

Hispanic Heritage 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. All students are encouraged to submit original work which can include art, photography, or poetry. The deadline to submit to Ms. Kalbaugh in Room 224 is Friday, October 11, 2024. Prizes will be awarded to the top three on October 15th. The student body and faculty will vote.

"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 9/30/24

Chicken Bacon Ranch Mac & Cheese
PB&J



Tuesday 10/1/24

Walking Taco's
Turkey & Cheese Sub



Wednesday 10/2/24

Chicken Nuggets
Crispy Chicken Salad



Thursday 10/3/24

Chicken Parmesan/Garlic Toast
Chicken Salad Croissant



Friday 10/4/24

Cheesy Bites/marinara
PB&J



ECHS Events Calendar

All dates are tentative and
could change based on need.

Calendar Link

September 30-October 4	
30	Fostering Hope Clothing Drive
1	Rho Kappa Social Studies Honor Society Meeting After School Tutoring - 2:30 -4:30 Fostering Hope Clothing Drive
2	After School Tutoring - 2:30 -4:30 Fostering Hope Clothing Drive
3	Fostering Hope Clothing Drive
4	MW Friday - AM eLearning Work Due (for students with power outages, tech issues, etc.) Fostering Hope Clothing Drive Spring 2024 Awards Ceremony -Cafe - 8:15 (Grs. 10 - 11)



August Teachers of the Month



Mr. Will Chappell



Dr. Kristy Floyd



Dr. Kim Carroll

Congratulations, Trailblazers!



Mrs. Brandy Everitte



Mr. Adam Powley

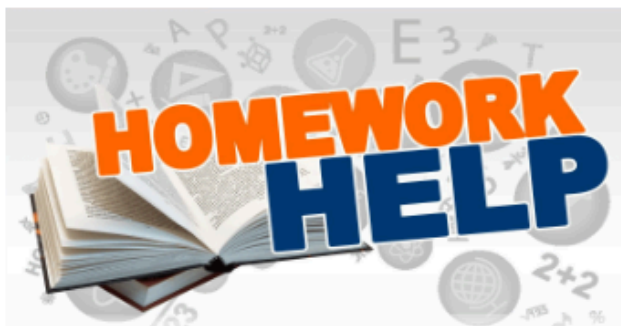
Congratulations, Trailblazers!

Trailblazer Tutoring Program

Tuesdays & Wednesdays
2:30 - 4:30



**HCS EARLY COLLEGE
TRAILBLAZERS**




Homework Help Guidelines:

- **In Person Help** is available after school on Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 2:30 - 4:30.
- Students will meet the teacher at the designated location and remain there until they are picked up.
- Students must be picked up by 4:30

After School Assistance			
English			
Room 230	Ms. Robinette	Tuesdays	2:30 - 4:30
Math (Algebra I, Algebra II, Geometry)			
Room 207	Mrs. Bishop	Tuesdays & Wednesdays	2:30 - 3:30
<i>*no math tutoring with Mrs. Bishop on the 2nd Wednesday of the month*</i>			
All Subjects, Group Projects, & Math			
Room 152B	Ms. Rautsaw	Tuesdays	2:30 - 4:30



**Nominations are due by Friday,
October 04, 2024, at 2:30 pm.**

**NOMINATE**

ECHS Teacher and Support Staff of the Year

Please nominate one teacher for Teacher of the Year, and one staff member for Support Staff of the Year. All nominations are due by 2:30 PM October 04, 2024.

dwilliams001@g.horrycountyschools.net [Switch account](#)

Not shared

* Indicates required question

Teacher of the Year *

Choose

Support Staff of the Year *

Choose

[Nomination Form](#)



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.

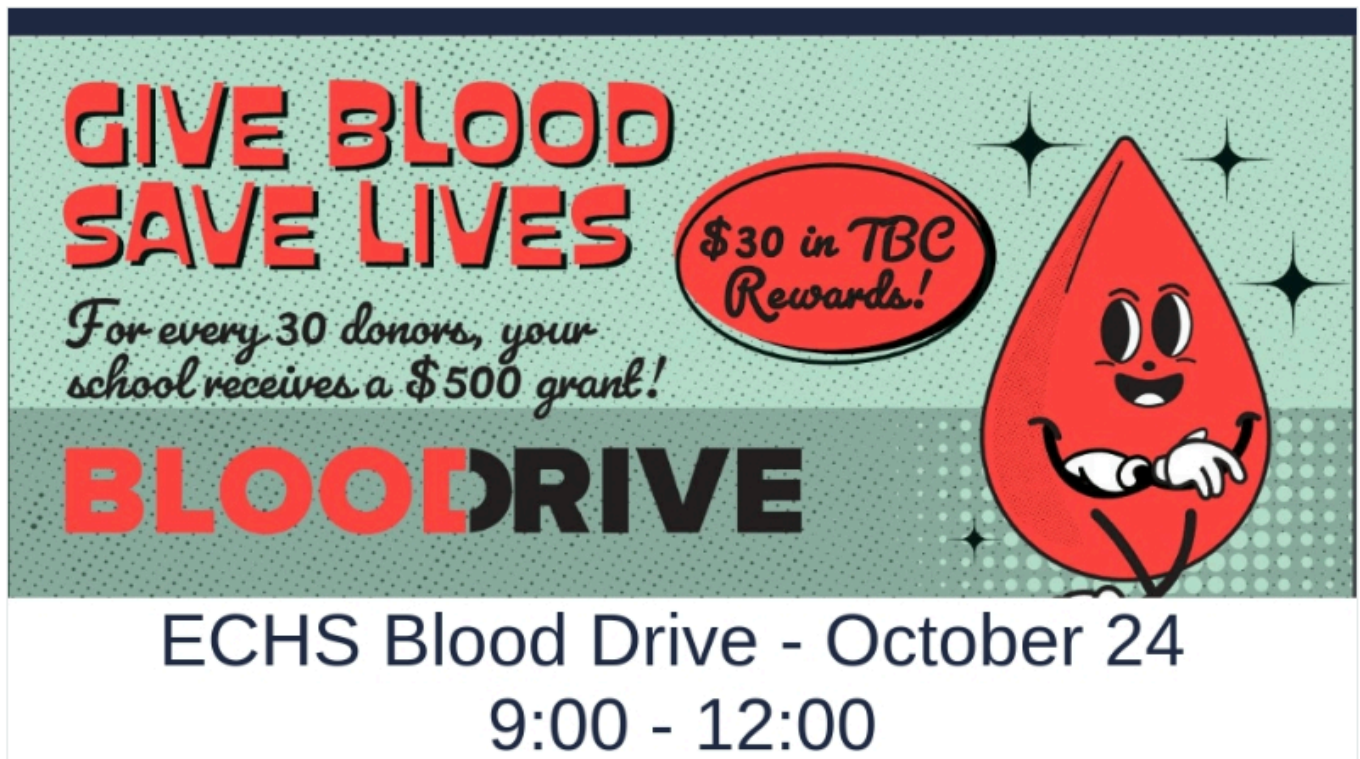
ECHS

Blood Drive

October 24, 2024

9:00 -12:00

Donors must weigh a minimum of 110 pounds and be 17 or older. Students age 16 who meet the weight requirement can donate with parent permission .



**GIVE BLOOD
SAVE LIVES**

*For every 30 donors, your
school receives a \$500 grant!*

BLOOD DRIVE

**\$30 in TBC
Rewards!**

**ECHS Blood Drive - October 24
9:00 - 12:00**

The poster features a green background with a white dotted pattern. On the right side, there is a large, smiling red blood drop character with white gloves and a black outline. A red speech bubble with a black outline is positioned to the left of the blood drop, containing the text '\$30 in TBC Rewards!'. The text 'GIVE BLOOD SAVE LIVES' is in large, bold, red capital letters. Below it, the text 'For every 30 donors, your school receives a \$500 grant!' is in a smaller, italicized, black font. The words 'BLOOD DRIVE' are in large, bold, black capital letters, with 'BLOOD' in red and 'DRIVE' in black. At the bottom, the event details 'ECHS Blood Drive - October 24' and '9:00 - 12:00' are written in a bold, black font.

Shoeboxes for Seniors

Donate by November 22, 2024

Dr. Floyd's Advisory will be collecting items for Shoeboxes for Seniors. The last day to donate will be Friday, November 22, 2024. Boxes can be placed in the bins in the ECHS lobby.



InvenTeam

The InvenTeam is in need of your help to collect several items for an upcoming project.

These items can be dropped off in the box in the main lobby.

We need the following items:

- tall aluminum cans (Arizona, Monster, etc)
- plastic lids (all sizes, colors)
- bottle caps
- cd/dvd
- Capri Sun pouches
- chip bags (all sizes)
- candy bar wrappers (M&M, Skittles, Sour Patch, etc. all sizes)

Please make sure all items are clean, dry, and undamaged

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 use the link to fill out the form. 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.

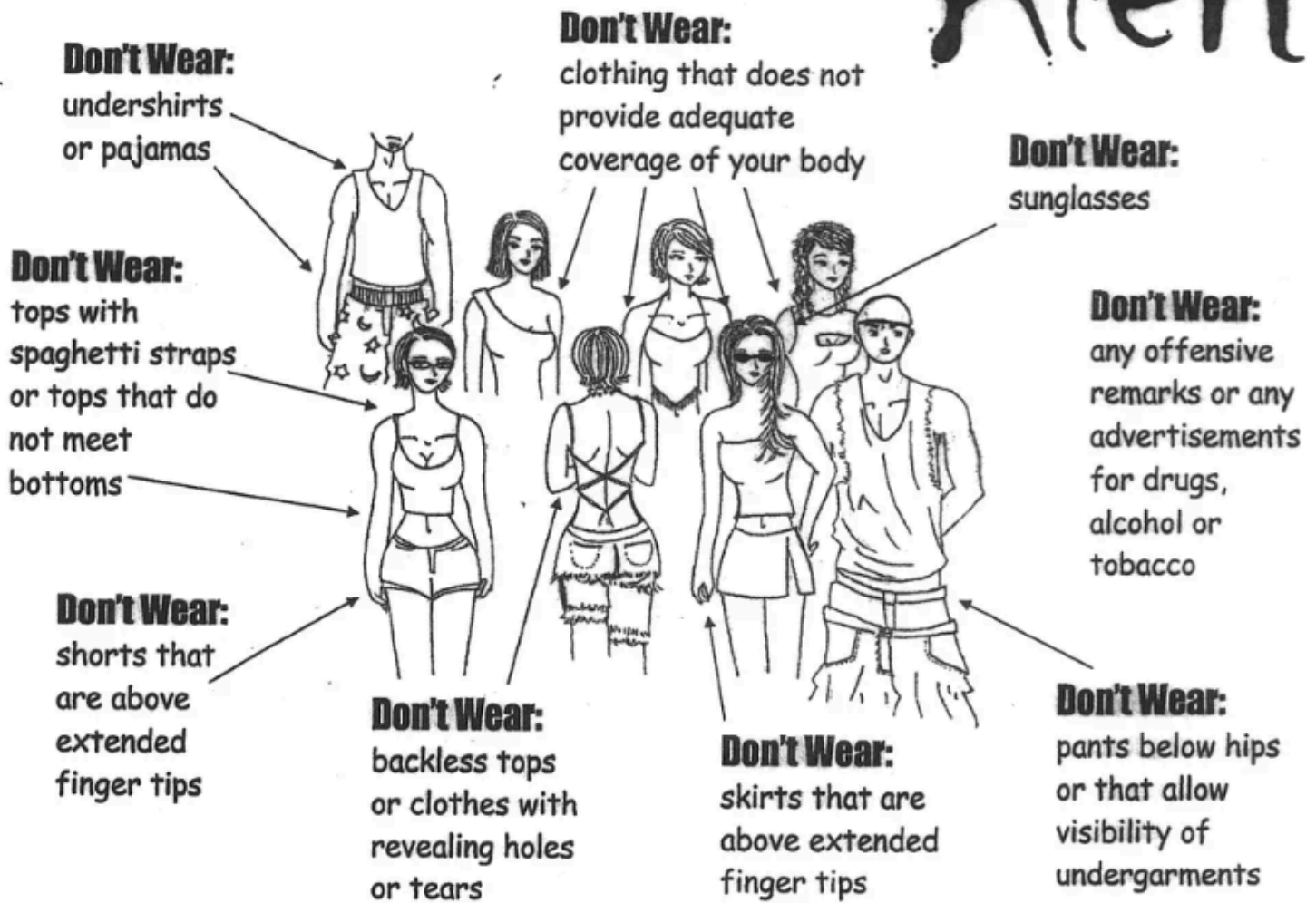


2024-2025 Student Handbook

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.





2024-25 Calendar

<div>August 2024</div> <table><tr><th>S</th><th>M</th><th>T</th><th>W</th><th>T</th><th>F</th><th>S</th></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td></tr><tr><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td></tr><tr><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td></tr><tr><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td></tr><tr><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td>31</td></tr></table>	S	M	T	W	T	F	S					1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	<div>September 2024</div> <table><tr><th>S</th><th>M</th><th>T</th><th>W</th><th>T</th><th>F</th><th>S</th></tr><tr><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td></tr><tr><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td></tr><tr><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td></tr><tr><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td></tr><tr><td>29</td><td>30</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr></table>	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30						<div>October 2024</div> <table><tr><th>S</th><th>M</th><th>T</th><th>W</th><th>T</th><th>F</th><th>S</th></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td></tr><tr><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td></tr><tr><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td></tr><tr><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td></tr><tr><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td>31</td><td></td><td></td></tr></table>	S	M	T	W	T	F	S			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31									
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Any non-instructional day, including Saturdays, may be considered a make-up day, due to school cancellation.

Testing

Dates for SCREAY and SCPASS assessments are May 9 - June 6, 2025.
 Dates for EOCs - English II Reading, Algebra, Biology, and USHC assessments are the last 15 days of each semester. English II writing is the last 20 days of each semester.
 Final exams for high school students are the last two days of the semester.

Interim Report and Report Card Dates

Interim reports will be issued on September 20, 2024, December 4, 2024, February 25, 2025, and May 4, 2025.
 Report cards will be issued by October 30, 2024, January 27, 2025, April 2, 2025, and June 10, 2025.

Emergency Closings

If at any time HCS determines the need for a delayed opening, early dismissal, or school closure, notification will be made via our mass notification system, HCS-TV, the HCS website, the HCS Mobile App, all forms of HCS social media, as well as the local news media. Please ensure that your student's records contain current contact information that will enable HCS to reach you during the school day and after hours. Report changes of information to your school.

Make-Up Days

October 14, 2024, October 15, 2024, and February 18, 2025, are possible make-up days. Any non-instructional day, including Saturdays, may be considered a make-up day due to school cancellation.

Horry County Schools does not discriminate on the basis of race, religion, color, national origin, sex, disability, age, immigrant status, English speaking status, or any other characteristics protected by federal or S.C. law in its programs or activities. For questions regarding the nondiscrimination policy call 843.488.6700, Horry County Schools, 333 Four Mile Road, Conway, SC 29526.

Horry County Schools - P.O. Box 260005 - 335 Four Mile Rd. - Conway, SC 29528-6005 - 843.488.6700 - www.HorryCountySchools.net
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