



NOVEMBER 04 - 08, 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 enjoyed the beautiful weather this weekend.

As we approach the holiday season and students prepare to end college courses, I wanted to remind our families about Care Solace, a mental health resource provided by Horry County Schools at no cost. Care Solace is a free, confidential service that connects students, staff and their families to mental health providers and substance use treatment matched to their needs - regardless of insurance. If you have additional questions about this valuable resource, please do not hesitate to contact the school to speak with Dr. Adams, our school counselor.

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

## Upcoming Events

### Election Day /No School

- Tuesday, November 05

### Senior Make-Up Portraits

- Friday, November 08

### Youth Advisory Board Meeting

- Friday, November 08
- Advisory - Cafe @ 8:00

### Murder Mystery Theater Show

- Thursday, November 14 @ 6:00
- \$10.00 students / \$15.00 adults
- ECHS Cafe - Tollywood

### Honor Society Induction Ceremony

- Thursday, November 21
- B & C Auditorium @ 6:00

# 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, November 08, 2024, will be an AM Advisory and a Tuesday/Thursday day.

**Election Day/No School:** Tuesday, November 05 is Election Day and school will be closed for ECHS and HGTC.

**Purple Heart Fundraiser:** The Key Club will be selling bracelets, pins, stickers, and candy during lunch this week. All proceeds will go to the Purple Heart Foundation.

**Murder Mystery Theater:** Tollywood will be hosting "The Death of Grant Redmon" murder mystery theater Thursday, November 14, 2024, at 6:00 pm in the Trailblazer Cafe. Tickets are \$10.00 for students and \$15.00 for adults. The admission price includes free food. Tickets must be purchased in advance through MyPaymentsPlus and the last day to buy tickets is Monday, November 11, 2024.

**Winter Wonderland Winter Formal:** The annual winter formal dance is Friday, January 10, 2025, at the Marina Inn-Grande Dunes. Tickets are \$15.00 and can be purchased online using mypaymentsplus.com or during lunch. The permission slip is included in mypaymentsplus with online purchases. Students purchasing tickets during lunch must have the signed permission slip. Permission slips are included on the ECHS Activity Calendar on the date January 10. Tickets will be sold only during lunch. The dance is for ECHS students only.

**Talent Show:** ECHS will be hosting a Talent Show on Friday, February 21, 2025. All students are encouraged to participate and show off their amazing talents. You can sing, dance, play an instrument, create art, recite poetry, do a skit, solve a Rubik's cube, do gymnastics, perform a magic trick, cheer, do karate, or any number of other things. You must sign up no later than Friday, December 6, 2024, and you must attend at least 2 practice sessions at school to be in the show. If you are interested in participating in this year's talent show, complete the Google form posted in the ECHS Google classroom. If you have any questions, please see Mrs. Bishop or Dr. Floyd

"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 for ECHS or HGTC

## Tuesday, November 05





# Mental Health Matters

care/solace.

## Help is Available

Care Solace is available 24/7/365 to connect you to the help you need.

care/solace.

## It's okay to ask for help.

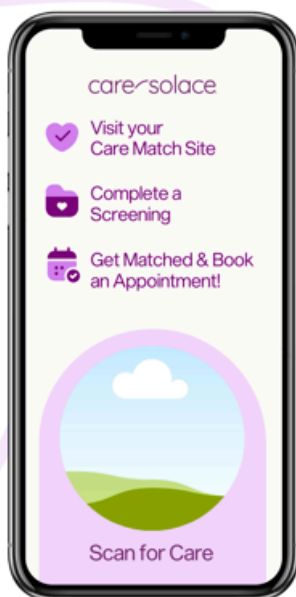


(888) 515-0595

Care Solace is a free, confidential service that connects students, staff and their families to mental health providers and substance use treatment matched to their needs – regardless of insurance.

Scan the code or use your link:  
[caresolace.com/](https://caresolace.com/)

If you have a life-threatening emergency, please call 911 or the Suicide and Crisis Lifeline at 988. Care Solace is not an emergency response service or mental health services provider.



care/solace.

## Esta bien pedir ayuda



Llame al (888) 515-0595

Care Solace conecta a los estudiantes, el personal y sus familias con el cuidado. Sin costo alguno para usted, Care Solace encontrará rápida y confidencialmente proveedores de salud mental y uso de sustancias disponibles que coincidan con sus necesidades.

*Escanee el código QR para conectarse con atención hoy.*

O ir a este sitio web:  
[caresolace.com/](https://caresolace.com/)

Tenga en cuenta: Care Solace no es un servicio de respuesta a emergencias ni un proveedor de servicios de salud mental. En caso de una emergencia que ponga en peligro la vida, llame al 9-1-1 o a la Línea Directa Nacional de Suicidio 1-800-273-8255.





# ***TRAILBLAZER***

## ***DAILY LUNCH SPECIALS***



***Monday 11/4/24***  
***Mandarin Chicken Bowl***  
***Turkey & Cheese Wrap***

***Tuesday 11/5/24***

***No School***



***Wednesday 11/6/24***  
***Chicken Filet Sandwich***  
***Turkey & Cheese Croissant***



***Thursday 11/7/24***  
***Corn Dog***  
***Crispy Chicken Salad***



***Friday 11/8/24***  
***BBQ Pulled Pork***  
***PB&J***

# ECHS Events Calendar

All dates are tentative and  
could change based on need.

[Calendar Link](#)

November 4-8	
4	Purple Heart Foundation Fundraiser - Lunch
5	NO SCHOOL (ECHS & HGTC) - Election Day
6	<a href="#">After School Tutoring - 2:30 -4:30</a> Purple Heart Foundation Fundraiser - Lunch
7	Purple Heart Foundation Fundraiser - Lunch
8	TTH Friday - AM Youth Advisory Board (YAB) Meeting - 8:00 - 9:00 ~ cafe Veterans' Day Tribute (Veterans' Day cards & Kahoot)- Advisory Purple Heart Foundation Fundraiser - Lunch Senior Portraits Make-Up Pictures



# ECHS

## Murder Mystery Theater

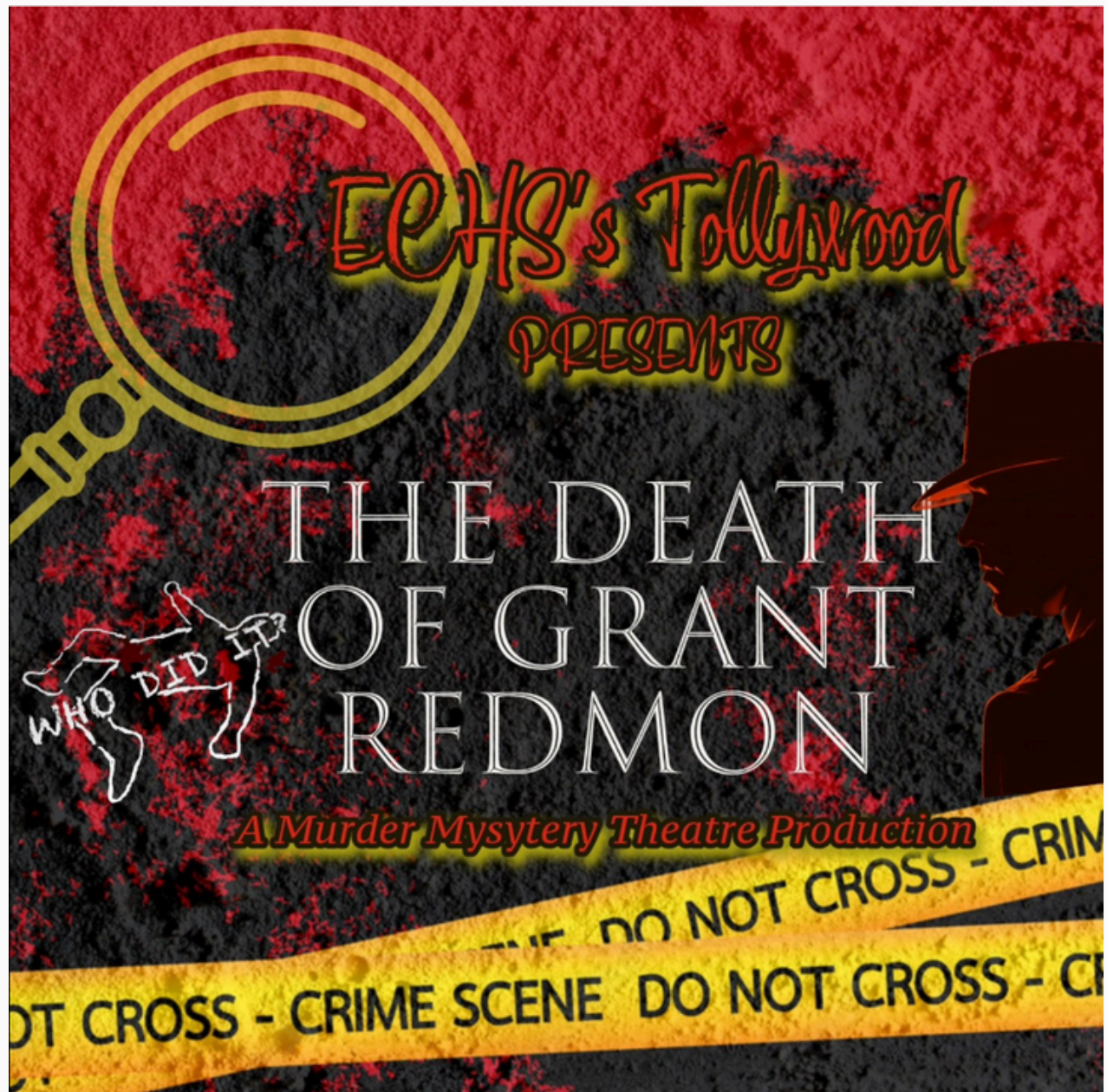
**Date:** Thursday, November 14, 2024

**Time:** 6:00 PM

**Price:** \$10.00 for students & \$15.00 for adults. Price includes free food.

**Ticket Info:** Tickets must be purchased in advance through the school or MY PAYMENTS PLUS.

**Last Day to Buy Tickets:** Monday, November 11, 2024





# 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.



# ECHS Talent Show

February 21, 2025

1:15

B & C Auditorium



[Sign up](#)

# 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

**February 28, 2025 - last day to donate**





**January 10, 2025**

**7:00 - 10:00**

**\$15.00**

**ECHS students only**

- Tickets can be purchased online or in person during lunch.
- Permission slip required with in-person purchase.
- Online sales - MyPaymentsPlus.com (permission slip included).

**Tickets are nonrefundable.**

**[Permission Slip](#)**

**Congratulations to our**  
**October**  
**Students of the Month!**



**OCTOBER 2024**  
**STUDENTS OF THE MONTH**

**KAMRYN JOHNSON**

Senior

**SUE LYN YOUNG**

Junior

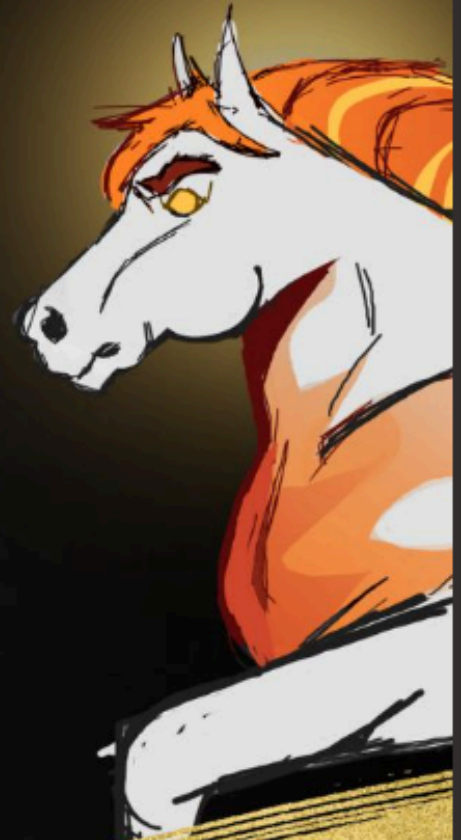
**MAURICIO PALAFOX-CORREA**

Sophomore

**CARLY SILVA**

Freshman

*Congratulations!*



# Congratulations , Mrs. Farmer!

## October

### Teacher of the Month!



**TEACHER  
OF THE  
MONTH**

**OCTOBER '24**

**MRS. FARMER**

SCIENCE

**"SHE'S ALWAYS CONTAGIOUSLY POSITIVE, AND SHE IS VERY EASY TO TALK TO. WHEN PEOPLE ARE STRUGGLING, SHE COMPLIMENTS THEM TO BUILD SELF-ESTEEM. HER PERSONALITY IS EXTREMELY BUBBLY. THE GRATITUDE AND ENCOURAGEMENT HAS NOT GONE UNNOTICED. THANK YOU FOR BEING YOU, MRS. FARMER"**

**Early College  
Trailblazers**





# SENIOR AVID NEWS



## WHAT'S HAPPENING IN AVID 402

The seniors have been busy in AVID 401 so far this semester. They have been completing college applications, sending out their official high school transcripts and completing test prep for the SAT and ACT tests. Some have even been accepted into college already!

Soon they will be learning what makes up the Cost of Attendance at a college and different options for financing the cost of higher education.

## ACT/SAT DATES AND DEADLINES

- ACT Test-Dec 14, 2024
- Deadline-Nov. 8, 2024
- SAT Test-Nov. 2, 2024
- Deadline-Oct. 18, 2024

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- October 23-24 Coastal Application Days
- October 25-Trunk or Treat
- October 26-ACT Test
- October 28-HGTC Spring Scheduling Opens

## IMPORTANT

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



# Title I Newsletter

## November 2024

[English](#), [Spanish](#)

# High School Parents<sup>®</sup>

November 2023  
Vol. 31, No. 3

*still make the difference!*



## Relating facts to something meaningful improves recall

**B**rain research sheds light on how memory works. And that can make test time a little easier for your teen.

When it comes to studying, some methods work better than others. Memorization is a case in point. Teens often memorize by repeating something over and over. But one brain study says there's a better way to retain information.

Repetition can help with short-term memory. But long-term memory is what your teen needs to call up a fact on a test. Researchers found that the best way to store information long term is to relate it to other facts already stored in the brain.

To make new material more memorable, encourage your teen to:

- **Make a mental picture.** The Spanish word for *narrow* is *estrecho*. Think of

the word stretched out until it is very thin. The sillier the picture, the easier it may be for your teen to remember.

- **Link facts to prior knowledge.** Which spelling (*stationary* or *stationery*) means paper? "*Stationery* uses envelopes."
- **Use rhymes.** "Columbus sailed the ocean blue in fourteen hundred ninety-two" illustrates the power of a rhyme.
- **Create a sentence.** "I shouldn't battle again." The number of letters in each word correlates to the year the Civil War ended: 1865.

Spending time creating these memory links will help your teen study smarter and remember more.

Source: "Long-Term Memories Made with Meaningful Information," *Science Daily*.

## Listen to your teen's ideas and opinions



"Could you please hear me out?" You've probably asked that question yourself in a dis-

cussion at work or with a family member. Even if you don't get your way, you want to know your point of view is being considered.

It should come as no surprise that teens feel the same way. Giving them a chance to express their opinions makes them happier, more engaged and more confident.

When your teen has something to say, take time to listen carefully. And when you hear a valid point, seriously consider it. For example, your teen might have a reasonable idea about switching up chores, or a compelling argument for staying up a bit later on Friday night.

You may not always agree with your teen, but by listening, you are demonstrating respect—and instilling the confidence your teen will need to speak up and contribute in school and in life.

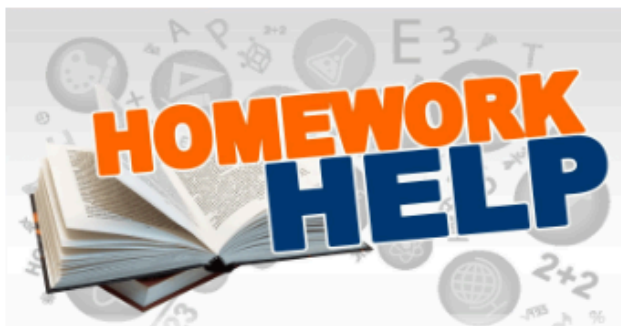
Source: K.N. Marbell-Pierre and others, "Parental Autonomy Support in Two Cultures: The Moderating Effects of Adolescents' Self-Concepts," *Child Development*.

# 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			
<b>English</b>			
Room 230	Ms. Robinette	Tuesdays	2:30 - 4:30
<b>Math (Algebra I, Algebra II, Geometry)</b>			
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>			
<b>All Subjects, Group Projects, &amp; Math</b>			
Room 152B	Ms. Rautsaw	Tuesdays	2:30 - 4:30



# 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.



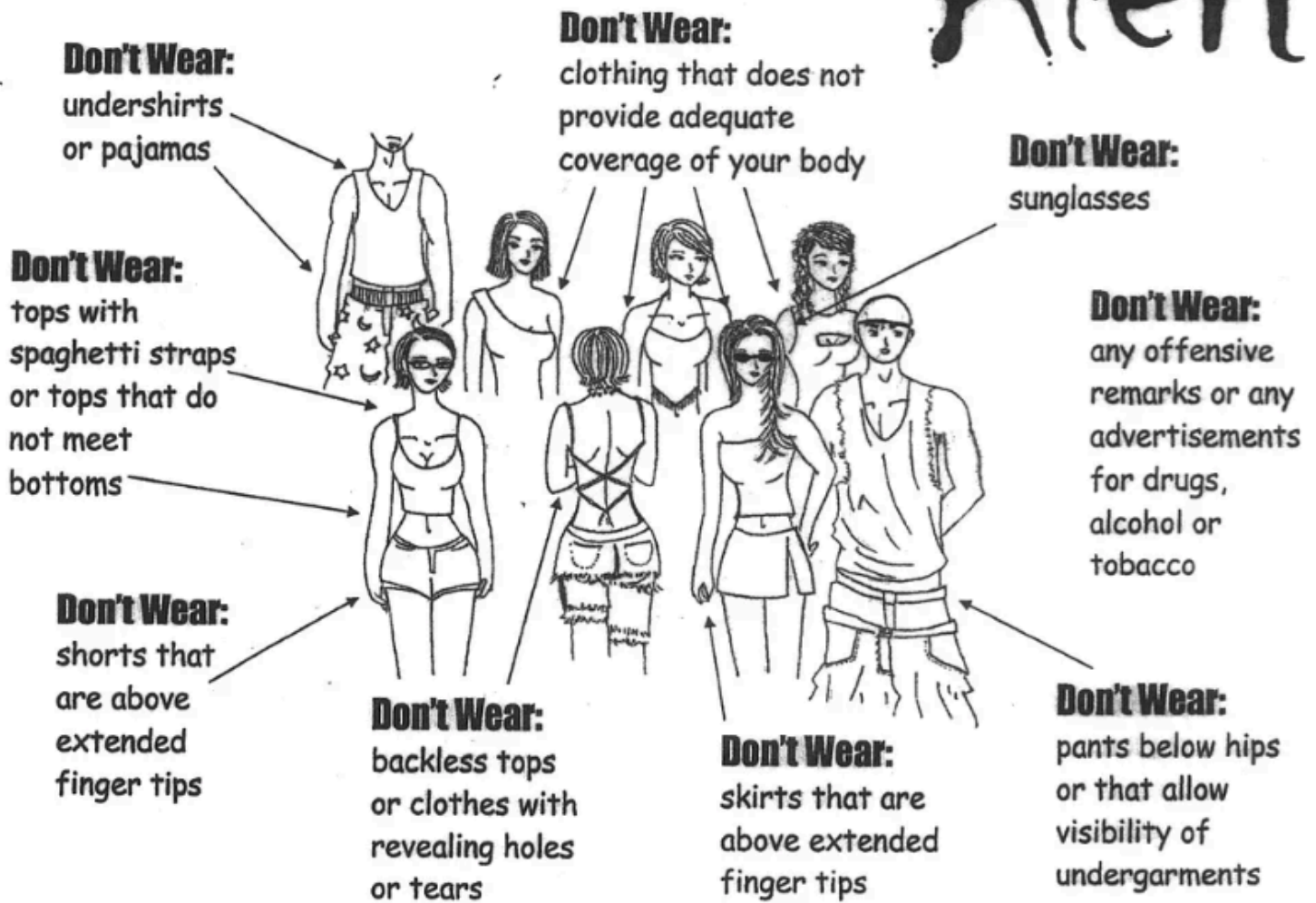
## 2024-2025 Student Handbook

The ECHS cell phone policy is on page 17 of the student handbook.

Changes will be shared as a result of the new cell phone law in January 2025.

# 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.





# 2024-25 Calendar

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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 EOC/EP - 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](http://www.HorryCountySchools.net)  
[Facebook.com/HorryCountySchools](https://facebook.com/HorryCountySchools) - [Twitter.com/HCSinfo](https://twitter.com/HCSinfo) - [YouTube.com/HorryCountySchools](https://youtube.com/HorryCountySchools) - [Instagram.com/HCSinfo](https://instagram.com/HCSinfo)