

HCS Scholars Academy High School

2026-2027 Student Handbook



School Contact Information:

HCS Scholars Academy High School

Physical Address: 104 Chanticleer Drive East, Conway, SC 29526

Mailing Address: 642 Century Circle, Conway, SC 29526

Phone: 843-349-4117

Fax: 843-347-2869

Building Hours: 7:30AM - 3:30PM

Dear Students,

Welcome to the 2026-2027 school year. We look forward to working with you and your family as we assist you in meeting your academic needs and provide a learning environment that is second to none. The purpose of this handbook is to provide information regarding procedures, policies, and routines. Please take time to review this guide so you are abreast of expectations and know who to contact for information you need to be successful. I look forward to working with you and watching as you grow into stronger students and leaders.

Sincerely,

Norman McQueen, Principal 

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HCS SCHOLARS ACADEMY - STAFF CONTACT INFORMATION

ADMINISTRATION AND FRONT OFFICE

Norman McQueen Principal	NMcQueen@horrycountyschools.net
Michele Macasek Assistant Principal	MMacasek@horrycountyschools.net
Patrick Rabon Instructional Coach/Teacher	PRabon004@horrycountyschools.net
Genelle Williams School Counselor	GWilliams006@horrycountyschools.net
LaVonda Knox RBHS Counselor	LKnox@horrycountyschools.net
Lynn Bethle School Nurse	LBethle@horrycountyschools.net
Michelle Chevalier-Gavilan Bookkeeper & Data Quality Clerk	MChevalierGavilan@horrycountyschools.net
Mindy Poehmel Attendance Clerk & Front Desk	MPoehmel@horrycountyschools.net
Lindsey Abner Guidance Secretary & Front Desk	LAbner@horrycountyschools.net
Bert DeWitt Custodian	KDewitt@horrycountyschools.net

TEACHERS

ENGLISH/LANGUAGE ARTS	Jamie Carson AP English Language & Composition	JCarson@horrycountyschools.net
	Derek Deremer English 2 Honors & Freshman Seminar (A & B)	DDeremer@horrycountyschools.net
	E. Thor Gunnells* AP English Literature & Composition and Humanities	EGunnells@horrycountyschools.net
MATHEMATICS	Christina Lambert Algebra II Honors, Algebra III Honors, and Precalculus Honors	CLambert@horrycountyschools.net
	Lance Shuford Precalculus Honors, and AP Statistics	LShuford@horrycountyschools.net
	Jennifer Zhang* AP Calculus AB and AP Calculus BC	JZhang@horrycountyschools.net
PHYSICAL EDUCATION	Shane Dular Physical Education 1 (A & B)	SDular@horrycountyschools.net
SCIENCE	Ryan Carter* AP Biology, AP Capstone Research, and Yearbook	RCarter002@horrycountyschools.net
	Malachi Cleary H/AP Physics 1, AP Environmental Science, and AP Chemistry	DCleary@horrycountyschools.net
	Whitney Stancil Biology Honors and Chemistry Honors	WStancil@horrycountyschools.net
SOCIAL STUDIES	Britt McDowell* AP World/European History, AP Comparative Government, and AP Human Geography	BMcDowell@horrycountyschools.net
	Paul Sargent	PSargent@horrycountyschools.net

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	AP US Government & Politics and Economics Honors	
	Tom Warzywak AP US History	TWarzywak@horrycountyschools.net
CAPSTONE	Patrick Rabon AP Capstone Seminar	PRabon004@horrycountyschools.net
(*) Denotes Department Chair		

🟡 HCS Scholars Academy Honor Code 🟡

The HCS Scholars Academy High School (SA) Honor Code has been agreed upon by the faculty, administrators, and student body representatives. The purpose of this honor code is to encourage SA students to achieve at the highest level of their abilities while demonstrating academic honesty and personal integrity; it represents an effort to establish a common understanding among staff, students, and parents as to what constitutes cheating. **Students must understand that they are never to present any words or ideas not their own without proper citation.**

HCS Scholars Academy Honor Code - Pledge

As a student who has chosen to attend HCS Scholars Academy, I understand that I belong to a community of learners dedicated to the pursuit of academic excellence and personal integrity. I accept my responsibility to promote academic honesty and pledge all materials submitted under my name are my work. I promise to uphold the HCS Scholars Academy Honor Code and I will foster an atmosphere of integrity. As a member of the HCS Scholars Academy community, I will not participate in nor tolerate academic dishonesty.

✗ Some Examples of Cheating ✗

- The use of Spark notes or any other student summary aids without the specific permission of the instructor
- Plagiarism: the act of using another person's words or ideas without giving credit to that person (Miriam-Webster.com online Dictionary)
- Submitting as your own work the product of digital paraphrasing tools or Artificial Intelligence (AI), such as ChatGPT bot
- The giving of an individual assignment to another student to assist the student without the permission of the teacher or professor

Homework

- Copying or paraphrasing all or a part of another's work, including work produced by a digital paraphrasing tool or AI
- Allowing another to copy or paraphrase your work, including notes related to assigned reading
- Receiving help on assignments that have been identified as work to be done solely by you

Research Papers and Essays

- Copying phrases, sentences, or paragraphs without using quotation marks and giving proper MLA/APA documentation of the source

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- Paraphrasing or summarizing ideas without giving proper MLA/APA documentation of the source
- Submitting another student's research paper as your own
- Downloading from the Internet a research paper or article in its entirety or in part to submit as your work
- Submitting a paper that was in part or in its entirety drafted by a digital paraphrasing tool or AI
- Asking or paying someone to write a research or other paper for you
- Selling or giving someone a research paper/Lab Report to submit as his/her own work
- Attempting to corrupt another student's data
- Presenting another student's work (computations, graphs, diagrams, answers to conclusion questions) as your work
- Misrepresenting laboratory data

Use of AI may be considered cheating without specific permission from the teacher. The use of generative AI tools is allowed only with explicit teacher permission for designated assignments. AI may be used to support understanding and engagement with course material, as long as academic integrity is maintained. Any use of AI must be clearly cited, and students are fully responsible for the accuracy and authenticity of their submissions, including any content produced using AI. Students must critically evaluate AI-generated content to ensure it aligns with academic expectations. Any use of AI without permission or proper citation will be considered a violation of the Horry County Schools Code of Conduct and may lead to disciplinary consequences.

Lab Reports

- Attempting to corrupt another student's data
- Presenting another student's work (computations, graphs, diagrams, answers to conclusion questions) as your own work
- Misrepresenting laboratory data

Use of Calculators/Electronic Devices

- Calculators/Electronic devices may be used in a class only with the permission of an SA teacher
- Using any calculator or other electronic device in class not approved by the teacher
- Using any electronic device (including a phone or smart watch) during an assessment without the specific consent of the teacher
- Using programs in programmable calculators without the knowledge and consent of the teacher
- Using programmable calculators as "electronic cheat sheets"
- Storing information in a calculator about a test or quiz
- Sharing information on the calculator/electronic device pertinent to a test or quiz
- Failing to clear the calculator of all displayed or stored information when the calculator is shared with another student during a test or quiz

Penalties of cheating may include but are not limited to the following: no credit or a zero; notification of parent/guardian, school counselor, Principal, and National Honor Society (NHS) advisor; loss of membership in NHS, out-of-school suspension, and/or a disciplinary hearing for further action. See the Academic Expectation for HCS Scholars Academy Students included in this document.

HCS Scholars Academy High School eLearning Policy

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During eLearning, HCS Scholars Academy students are expected to attend Scholars Academy classes following the normal bell schedule for that day. Teachers will share via Schoology a Google Meet link for their classes, and attendance will be taken during each block. If students are unable to attend due to internet outages or other weather related issues, students should contact their teachers as soon as power/internet is restored and it is safe to do so. School administration will reach out to parents/guardians of absent students to check on their technology needs.

Students will then be given five days to complete make-up work that covers the content from the missed course(s).

For additional information, please see [Horry County Schools' eLearning page](#)

Coastal Carolina University (CCU) may make different weather-related choices than Horry County Schools. If CCU decides to hold classes, students are expected to follow CCU's guidelines. CCU provides access to Eduroam, so students who are required to come to CCU for in-person classes can use CCU internet access to join their Scholars Academy classes.

See CCU's [Student Technology Services](#) for information about digital tools and resources related to distance/eLearning: <https://www.coastal.edu/scs/>

Daily Procedures

The HCS Scholars Academy (SA) building is open from 7:30AM to 3:30PM each school day. SA students are **REQUIRED** to sign in and sign out every time they enter or exit the SA Building. There are "sign in" QR codes and "sign out" QR codes in the front lobby of the building for student use. If a student does not have access to a cell phone during the school day, students are able to sign in and

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sign out manually at the front desk using the LobbyGuard system.

Safety is a priority at SAHS. All visitors, staff, and students are subject to search on our campus.

SC LAW SECTION 59-63-1110 Consent to search persons or his effects.

Any person entering the premises of any school in this State shall be deemed to have consented to a reasonable search of his person and effects.

SC LAW SECTION 59-63-1120 Searches by school administrators or officials with or without probable cause.

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, school administrators and officials may conduct reasonable searches on school property of lockers, desks, vehicles, and personal belongings such as purses, book-bags, wallets, and satchels with or without probable cause.

SC LAW SECTION 59-63-1130 Searches by principals or their designees.

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, school principals or their designees may conduct reasonable searches of the person and property of visitors on school premises.

Student Drop-off and Pick-up

Because student safety is a top priority at SA, **students should NOT be dropped off at school BEFORE 7:30AM**. Drop off should happen between CCU's Baxley Hall and the Scholars Academy building. Parents/Guardians should enter the CCU parking lot from the roundabout on University Avenue and proceed to the side of the SA building.

After dropping off your student please DO NOT do a U-turn from the drop-off line. ALL vehicles should proceed to the stop sign, make a left turn, and go to the traffic light located at the intersection of Chanticleer Drive and University Avenue.

Students MUST be **PICKED UP BY 3:00PM** each school day unless PRIOR arrangements have been made with an SA teacher or administrator.

Student(s) should NOT be dropped off OR picked up **IN THE FRONT OF THE SA BUILDING** between 7:30AM – 8:00AM and between 2:00PM – 3:00PM due to school bus right of way.

STUDENTS ARE NOT PERMITTED ON THE SA/CCU CAMPUS AFTER 3:00 PM WITHOUT PRIOR APPROVAL FROM THE SA ADMINISTRATION.

Likewise, students who go on field trips must be dropped off and picked up at the times outlined by the sponsoring teacher. Failure to adhere to such times will result in a loss of field trip privileges.

Students NOT picked up by 3:00 PM should go to the designated area to wait. All students should be off SA/CCU campus by 3:00 PM unless prior arrangements have been made AND approved.

SA students may attend other CCU activities and/or events that have NOT been pre-approved by SA Administration when chaperoned by a parent/ guardian ONLY.

Leaving School Early

Students who need to leave school prior to the end of their school day must sign out with the front office. A note written by a parent/guardian and verified by an SA staff member is required PRIOR to the early dismissal and must include a phone number where the parent/guardian can be reached for confirmation. The note should include the time of and reason for the early dismissal.

Students are NOT allowed to return to SA/CCU campus after leaving.

Failure to notify SA of a student(s) CCU absence may result in disciplinary action. CCU attendance policies will be enforced for all CCU classes.

Attendance Policy



Be in class every day; students who miss class are at a disadvantage.

Cutting/skipping either high school or college classes is NOT permitted and will result in disciplinary action.

HCS Attendance, Truancy and Promotion Retention Guidelines
Horry County Schools

What South Carolina law says...
Section 59-65-10: State law requires a parent to cause his/her children from age five until the attainment of their seventeenth (17) birthday or graduation from high school, to attend regularly a public or private school.

Truancy:

A student between the ages of 6-17 who misses three (3) unexcused consecutive days or five (5) unexcused total days within a school year is deemed truant and will be placed on an Attendance Intervention Plan (AIP).

If a student is absent unlawfully from school after the AIP conference, the student will be referred to the district's attendance coordinator.

The district attendance coordinator and/or designee may refer the student to Family Court.

Promotion Retention:

In order to receive credit for a class, students may not miss:

- over five (5) unexcused or unverified class periods of a subject in one semester/term
- or over ten (10) total unexcused or unverified class periods in yearlong classes.

Attendance make-up school is offered each semester for students who need to make up a minimum of three absences per class. Make up school is solely for the purpose of obtaining attendance credit.

Did you know?

1. Lawful absences are considered medical, judicial, bereavement and recognized religious holidays.
2. Parents and students have daily access to attendance through PowerSchool's Parent Portal which is a helpful tool to keep up with grades and attendance.
3. School privileges, such as school transfers, can be denied due to excessive absences or tardies.
4. School attendance office cannot complete required paperwork for obtaining a driver's license unless the student is in compliance with the South Carolina Truancy Law.



Be There!
School Attendance Matters

For more information please visit HorryCountySchools.net/attendance or contact the Attendance Office at 843-488-6786.

Please note that parent contact may be made if a student is NOT in class. If you need to miss a class for any reason, arrangements MUST be made with the teacher or CCU Professor. You may not send word by another student. Students enrolled in college courses are required to attend those courses even when HCS has a scheduled break. Any student absent from a college class must notify the SA office prior to the absence. Failure to notify can result in disciplinary action. CCU attendance policies will be enforced for all CCU classes. HCS lawful absences include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. Students who are ill and whose attendance in school would endanger their health or the health of others (Illness verified by a statement from a physician turned in to the attendance office within three (3) days of the student's return to school)
2. Students in whose immediate family there is a serious illness or death (documented by a statement from the family member's physician with the student's name or a copy of the death announcement, obituary, or a program of the funeral service)
3. Students who are absent for recognized religious holidays of their faith

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Excused Absences

- An absence is considered excused if a valid medical doctor's written note (with the date & time the student was seen) is provided within 3 school days after the absence. Online Medical visits with medical notes and/or screenshots that contain the student's name, date of birth, and results of the online visit (prescription, number of days out before the student's return to school, etc.)
- An absence for bereavement, due to a death in the student's immediate family, may be excused if an obituary or program of service verifying the death is provided to the attendance clerk within 3 school days after the student returns to school.
- An absence for a nationally recognized religious holiday of the student's faith may be excused if a request is made in writing to the principal and written approval is received prior to the absence.
- Parents are allowed to submit up to six (6) notes per school year to excuse student absences for any reason they deem necessary.
 - Notes may be submitted in advance of a planned absence.
 - For unplanned absences, parent notes must be submitted within three (3) school days after the student returns.
 - Late notes (submitted after the three-day window) will not be accepted, and the absence will remain unexcused.
 - High school students will be allowed three (3) parent notes per semester.
 - Parent notes will not be accepted during designated state testing dates.
- For students in grades 9-12, due to High School final exams, parent notes will not be accepted during the last three (3) days of the school year.

HCS Attendance Policies

Please review the HCS Scholars Academy calendar. Note that the Scholars Academy calendar does not always align with the Horry County Schools calendar.



2026 - 27 Calendar

HCS Scholars Academy High School

First day of school: Aug. 17
 First day of CCU: Aug. 19 / Jan. 11
 Last day of CCU: Dec. 11 / May 4
 Last day of school: June 4

AUGUST

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						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					

SEPTEMBER

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		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			

OCTOBER

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				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

NOVEMBER

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
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					

DECEMBER

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		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		

JANUARY

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					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						

FEBRUARY

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	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						

MARCH

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	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			

APRIL

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				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	

MAY

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						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					

JUNE

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		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			

- SAHS + CCU closed
- CCU in session + SAHS closed
- 2.5 hr early dismissal; CCU classes as scheduled
- SAHS in session + CCU in session (HCS closed)
- SAHS in session + CCU closed
- CCU + SA "Spring Break"
- additional teacher days

*August 6/7 exchanged for June 8/9

*August 17/18 exchanged for June 7/8

*October 13 exchanged for October 9

*January 19 exchanged with March 5

*February 15/16 exchanged with March 3/4

Attendance Reporting

Parents/Guardians are responsible to notify HCS Scholars Academy anytime a student is absent from class and/or school. If your student(s) needs to miss a class or a school day for ANY reason, you will need to contact us as soon as you know that your student will be arriving late, leaving early, missing a class or missing a school day. You may call the front office at **843-349-4117** or email us at SAattendance@horrycountyschools.net.

Students should communicate with CCU professors when they miss class and follow any established procedures given to them by their professor.

Tardy Policy

Students should be in class on time ready to begin each school day at 7:58am. Those who are not on time for school/class are tardy.

1st offense: Verbal Warning

2nd offense: Parent contact and 15 minute after school detention

3rd offense: Parent Contact and 30-minute after school detention

4th offense: Students will be referred to the principal for a possible Attendance Intervention Plan (AIP).

After-school tardy detentions will be held on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays outside of class times. It is the responsibility of the student and his/her parents to provide timely transportation from detention in the afternoons.

Make-Up Work

For any excused absence, the following will apply:

- If the student is absent on the due date, BUT was present when it was assigned, the assignment is due when the student returns to class.
- If absent on the due date AND when it was assigned, the student will have one week from their return to submit the work.
- If absent on the date it was assigned, but present the date it is due, no extension will be offered unless arrangements are made in advance.
- Late work will not be accepted for any unexcused absences.

Also note, being out the day before a previously announced test does not mean you get an extra day to study. It is the responsibility of the student to get notes and assignments missed when absent. Tests and labs can be made up by appointment only. Any extenuating circumstances need to be discussed with the teacher.

Visitors on Campus

Visitors, Contractors, and Parents/Guardians **MUST** enter through HCS Scholars Academy **FRONT DOORS ONLY** and report to the main office of the school to obtain the following:

1. SA Visitor Identification Pass (acquired through the LobbyGuard System) - **MUST** be worn at all times while you are on the SA campus.
2. SA Parking Pass - CCU issues parking tickets to any/all vehicles parked in an HCS Scholars Academy VISITOR parking space that does NOT have an SA Parking Pass in the front windshield.
3. According to state law 59-63-1110, anyone who enters the building is subject to search.

Parents are always welcome to visit their child's school as long as their visit does not interrupt the teaching and learning process. **The District tries to protect the integrity of the instructional day; therefore, parents may make an appointment to visit with a teacher during the teacher's planning period by telephoning the school office at 843-349- 4117.**

No visitation by another student will be allowed without at least one day's prior clearance from the school administration. The principal is empowered to take appropriate action against non-students who enter the building, grounds, or other school property. Such action includes the right to call a law enforcement agency and swear out warrants.

HCS Scholars Academy Master Schedule

SCHOLARS ACADEMY MASTER SCHEDULE					
Monday, Wednesday & Friday		Tuesday & Thursday		ADVISORY	
7:58 - 8:00		7:58 - 8:00		7:58 - 8:00	
ANNOUNCEMENTS (Students must be PRESENT at 7:58am)					
8:00 - 8:50		8:00 - 9:15		8:00 - 9:15	
1st Block (50 mins)		1st Block (75 mins)		1st Block (75 mins)	
9:00 - 9:50					
2nd Block (50 mins)		9:25 - 10:40		9:25 - 10:40	
10:00 - 10:50		2nd Block (75 mins)		2nd Block (75 mins)	
3rd Block					

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SCHOLARS ACADEMY MASTER SCHEDULE		
(50 mins)	10:50 - 12:05	10:50 - 12:05
11:00 - 11:50	3rd Block (75 mins)	3rd Block (75 mins)
4th Block (50 mins)	12:10 - 12:50	12:05 - 12:35
11:50 - 12:20	Lunch (40 mins)	Lunch (30 mins)
Lunch (30 mins)	12:55 - 2:15	12:40 - 1:00
12:25 - 1:15	4th Block (80 mins)	ADVISORY (20 mins)
5th Block (50 mins)		1:05 - 2:15
1:25 - 2:15		4th Block (70 mins)
6th Block (50 mins)		
Please note that school start time is 7:58 a.m. and end time is 2:15 p.m.		

Academic Expectations

By enrolling in HCS Scholars Academy, students understand that they join a family of learners committed to academic excellence, a cooperative learning environment, and personal integrity.

Students are expected to contribute to HCS Scholars Academy's culture of excellence and caring. Failure to meet these guidelines could result in return to the student's HCS high school of residence. The following details provide expectations for students' academic performance:

AP Courses

Students who enter HCS Scholars Academy are to complete a **minimum** of seven (7) Advanced Placement (AP) courses. Students must take all AP exams for any course for which they are enrolled.

The following 4 AP courses are REQUIRED of ALL HCS Scholars Academy students:

AP US Government & Politics

AP US History

AP Language & Composition

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AP Literature & Composition

In addition, students are required to take **at least** one (1) AP course with an HCS Scholars Academy teacher EACH school year. Students must choose a minimum of one (1) Scholars Academy AP course from Science (Biology, Chemistry, Environmental Science, or Physics) and Mathematics (Calculus AB, Calculus BC, or Statistics). The other required AP course may be in any discipline. A maximum of 3 AP classes may be taken in a given semester. Exceptions are handled on an individual basis.

Students must take AP Exams and have scores reported for every AP course in which they are enrolled, including online courses. National AP examinations will be administered in May of each school year for such courses. **AP exam scores may not be canceled and must be reported to Coastal Carolina University.**

SA Online Coursework

Since online coursework places a greater responsibility on the part of the student, those who request such courses should be self-motivated, disciplined, and have strong reading, writing, and technology skills.

All online coursework must be completed in proportion to the amount of class time completed, e.g., in a year-long class, students must have completed 25% of the classwork by the end of the first quarter.

SA students are not allowed to register for on-line (digital) CCU Courses.

Final Exams (updated 2026-2027)

Students in grades 9-12 and middle school students in high school credit courses may be exempt from district or teacher created final exams under the following conditions.

To be eligible for a course exam exemption, a student must meet one of the following criteria:

1. Attendance-Based Exemption - The student must have no more than the following number of absences (excused or unexcused) in the course and a grade of a C or higher.
 - a. Year-long course: Maximum of 2 absences
 - b. 90-day semester course: Maximum of 2 absences
 - c. 45-day (½ credit) course: Maximum of 1 absence

Note: Students may not make up seat time to qualify for this exemption.

2. Grade-Based Exemption - The student must have a current average of 90 or above in the course.

End-of-Course Exams

End-of-course (EOC) exams will count for 20% of a student's final grade and will be administered for Biology, English 2, and US History. Each EOC exam will be given at the end of the semester in which the student is scheduled to complete the course(s).

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Course-Taking Patterns

HCS Scholars Academy students are expected to be enrolled in core courses (for all four core areas) each school year. Exceptions require administrative approval and must be documented in the student's IGP. Once students move into CCU college courses in a core area, course-taking expectations will follow that of a typical CCU college student. Students are expected to be enrolled in a minimum of five (5) courses and a maximum of six (6) courses each school semester for a total of eight semesters.

Course Withdrawal

Students who withdraw from a course within three days in a 45-day course, five days in a 90-day course, or ten days in a 180-day course will do so without penalty under the Uniform Grading Policy. Students who withdraw from a course AFTER the specified time of three days in a 45-day course, five days in a 90-day course, or ten days in a 180-day course shall be assigned a WF, and the F (as a 51) will be calculated in the student's overall grade point average (GPA).

Any student expelled or placed at the HCS Alternative School will be withdrawn from all Dual Enrollment CCU classes and will receive a WF on both the HCS and CCU transcripts.

If expelled, the student will also lose credit in SA classes.

No student may drop a course without permission from HCS Scholars Academy administration.

Consequences of NOT meeting HCS Scholars Academy Academic Expectations

Students will be placed on academic probation for quarter or final averages below 70; an academic improvement plan will be developed at that time. If a student's grade falls below a 70 in any HCS Scholars Academy course at interim, the student will be put on an academic improvement plan. If the student's grade does not improve to a 70 or better by the end of the next grading period, the student will be placed on academic probation.

- To be in "Good Standing" academically, a student must have grades of 70 or higher in all classes. To return to "Good Standing" from academic probation, a student must bring all nine-weeks grades up to 70 or higher by the next quarter grade and bring all final averages to a 70 or better.
- Seniors placed on academic probation during the first or second semester who failed to meet Academic Expectations will not be reassigned to their HCS high school of residence area. However, they are not considered to be in "Good Standing" academically.
- If a student receives more than one semester grade below a 70, the student may have limited access to Dual Enrollment classes the next semester. If a student receives more than one final grade below a 70, the student will be limited to HCS Scholars Academy classes only until the student has a 3.0 GPA or has returned to In Good Standing.
- Depending upon the availability of courses at the HCS high school of residence, reassignment

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at the end of any grading period **may not be possible** without negatively impacting a student's GPA

- All incidents of academic dishonesty are considered cumulative while enrolled at HCS Scholars Academy. Incidents of academic dishonesty may prohibit students from being members of certain clubs, organizations, and participation in various programs.

HCS Scholars Academy - In Good Standing

Students at HCS Scholars Academy are expected to adhere to a high standard of behavior. This includes academic performance, adherence to HCS/CCU disciplinary policies including the SA Honor Code, and completion of required community service volunteer hours each school year.

Grades, Academic Probation, and Reassignment **Cumulative Grade Requirements**

Students are expected to maintain at least a B average (3.0). At the end of each semester, if a student's cumulative GPA in the student's academic courses falls below a 3.0 (unweighted) the student will be placed on academic probation. GPAs will be checked after the 90th and 180th school day to determine "Good Standing". Students who fall below a 3.0 will be placed on academic probation.

Students who accumulate three (3) probations of ANY KIND while at HCS Scholars Academy will have limited access to Dual Enrollment courses.

Interim and Report Cards

Interim Report and Report Card Dates Interim Reports will be issued on September 18 and December 3, 2026, and on February 24 and May 7, 2027. Report Cards will be issued by October 29, 2026, and by January 22, April 2, and June 14, 2027.

Academic Probation

Academic probation is determined by nine-weeks or final grade averages in HCS SA and CCU classes. Probation is cumulative (e.g., a D in history for the first nine-weeks and a D in English for the second nine-weeks constitutes two instances of academic probation). If at the Interim marking period students are not at a 70 or above, SA will implement support during Scholars Station to assist students in bringing up their grades.

- To be in good academic standing, a student must have grades of 70 or higher in all SA and CCU classes.
- To return to good standing from academic probation, a student must bring ALL nine-week

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subject grades up to 70 or higher by the end of the next quarter and bring all final averages to a 70 or better.

- Juniors and seniors have the privilege of opting out of a Scholars Station course assignment at the beginning and/or the end of the school day. However, if a student's grade falls below a C average or a 70 in any class, this privilege will be revoked, and students will be required to attend their scheduled Scholars Station assignment.
- It is essential to the credibility of the Scholars Academy Program and High School that students maintain a high level of academic integrity.
- Failure to adhere to the academic honor code will result in a zero for the work, parent contact, and a log entry in PowerSchool. Honor Societies will also be notified.
- A second offense of academic dishonesty will result in a zero for the work, parent contact, a log entry in PowerSchool, and a one day out-of-school suspension (OSS). **Academic Dishonesty must be reported by the school and student on any college application.**

Disciplinary Probation

- Any violation of CCU Code of Student Conduct is considered a disciplinary probation.
- Level 2 or 3 violations of the HCS disciplinary policy will result in a disciplinary probation.
- SA Honor code violations are considered HCS Level 2 violations. Honor code violations are cumulative for the student's stay at HCS Scholars Academy. A third honor code violation will result in removal from Scholars Academy.
- Cutting/Skipping of either a CCU or an HCS class, is considered an HCS Level 2 violation, which will result in a disciplinary probation and/or ISS/OSS.
- Any HCS Level 3 violation will result in a disciplinary probation, and would result in removal/Recommendation for Expulsion. If removed or expelled, the student would lose credit for any CCU Dual Enrollment classes and receive a WF on both CCU and HCS transcripts.
- Disciplinary probation lasts for the entire school year. Violations accumulated during the last quarter of the school year may carry over to the following school year.

Community Service

All students enrolled at HCS Scholars Academy must complete 15 hours of community service each school year. All community service must be non-profit in nature. Hours completed are due on the last school day of each month. All community service volunteer hours must be completed, and the Google form must be **completed and submitted by the last school day in April. (April 30, 2027)** No parent or guardian can verify your community service.

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Community Service Probation

- Not completing and submitting all 15 volunteer hours by the last school day of April in the current school year, will result in a community service probation. (HCS Level 2)
- Submitting inaccurate or false information on the community service log form will result in a community service probation. (HCS Level 2)
- Students who are on probation must complete and submit all incomplete hours before the first day of the following school year in order to return. This counts as a probation, even when hours have been completed.

Note: Membership in one or more of the Honor Societies (National Honor Society, English, Mu Alpha Theta [Math], Rho Kappa [Social Studies], and Science) requires an additional 10 hours of Community Service.

Community Service Guidelines are as follows:

- At least half of the hours should be completed in the Horry County area.
- No more than 8 hours will be accepted towards summer hours prior to the beginning of the school year.
- Students are encouraged to target areas of interest to use for college resumes.

**Community Service requirements for Honor Societies are above the required 15 hours for all SA students.*

SC Units Required for Graduation

The units required for graduation are distributed as follows (total of 24 units):

Subject Area	Units
English Language Arts	4.0
Mathematics	4.0
Science	3.0

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U.S. History and Constitution	1.0
Economics	0.5
U.S. Government	0.5
Other Social Studies Course(s)	1.0
Physical Education or Junior ROTC	1.0
Computer Science	1.0
Foreign Language	1.0
Financial Literacy (Class of 2027)	.5
Electives (Class of 2025, 26)	7.0
Electives (Class of 2027 and beyond)	6.5
TOTAL	24

Converting Grades

Letter grades earned in CCU DUAL ENROLLMENT COURSES will be converted to the following numerical averages according to the SC Uniform Grading Policy. There are no exceptions allowed.

CCU letter grade of **A** = **95**

CCU letter grade of **B** = **85**

CCU letter grade of **C** = **75**

CCU letter grade of **D** = **65**

CCU letter grade of **F** = **51**

SC Uniform Grading Policy

A = 90-100

B = 80-89

C = 70-79

D = 60-69

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F = 59 and below

HCS Scholars Academy Student Behavior

HCS Scholars Academy students are held to a high standard, and all students are expected to represent the school in a positive manner.

- Be respectful of teachers, peers, the classroom and its property, and Coastal Carolina University's campus at all times.
- Remain attentive in class, participate, and never distract other students or disrupt the teaching environment.
- Be quiet in the hallways and stairwells of all campus buildings.
- Seek permission for attendance at any Coastal Carolina event **PRIOR** to attendance.
- Drugs, drinking, smoking, or fighting are prohibited while on Coastal Carolina's, HCS Scholars Academy's, or any other HCS school's campus.
- Attend, participate, and behave appropriately in all college-level courses; Honor Code and student behavioral guidelines continue to apply when attending these courses.
- Students are expected to be in the Scholars Academy building except when attending CCU classes or going to CINO Grille during the designated lunch period unless other permission has been granted. Students who need to leave the SA building during the day for any reason other than attending a CCU class, must sign out at the front desk and receive permission to leave the building.
- Except for the bookstore, the CCU HTC Center is off-limits to students unless accompanied by a parent or under the supervision of faculty and staff at CCU or SA.
- When a college class is canceled, students are to report to the Scholars Academy Front Office where they will be assigned to Scholars Station.
- Violations of any of the above rules or other rules contained in this guide can result in disciplinary action. Appropriate disciplinary action may include lunch or after-school detention, in-school suspension, out-of-school suspension, or expulsion from the program.

In addition to the Scholars Academy Academic Expectations, all Scholars

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Academy students are also expected to adhere to Coastal Carolina University's Code of Conduct and standards of academic integrity. Sanctions for academic misconduct in a college class may be subject to campus judicial procedures and may include failure of the course and/or dismissal from the university. Students must remain in "Good Standing" at CCU in order to remain at the Scholars Academy. Consult The CCU Code of Student Conduct. <https://www.coastal.edu/csa/>

Textbooks



It is the responsibility of each student to keep up with his/her textbooks. If a textbook is lost and/or damaged, the student to whom the textbook was assigned will be assessed a charge to cover the textbook's cost. This includes college textbooks as well as high school books. Students will not be allowed to participate in SA's graduation ceremony until all fines are cleared.

Student Parking



- In order to park on campus, all vehicles, including motorcycles, mopeds, scooters, and bicycles must be registered with the Department Of Public Safety and have a current parking decal permanently affixed to the vehicle.
- Bicycle registrations are free. If you have registered your bicycle in the past, you do not have to register it again.
- Please note that it is the responsibility of students, faculty, and staff to read and abide by the Traffic and Parking Regulations as published by the CCU Department of Public Safety. These can be found by clicking this link: [Traffic and Parking Information](#).
- You will need to upload your vehicle registration to the order form. Please scan your VALID vehicle registration card to your order.
- Order online by clicking this link: [Online Decal Purchase](#).

If you order your decal online before Aug. 1, you will have the option to have the decal mailed to your home address, which will save you from waiting in long lines to pick it up. If you order on or after Aug. 1, you will need to pick up your decal in the Department of Public Safety office.

The CCU Department of Public Safety is located on the main campus at 255 University Blvd., next to the Student Health Services building.

Usage of Electronic Devices



All students must comply with the HCS electronic device policy at all times. Possession and use of a school-owned or personal electronic device is a

privilege, and its use is for education purposes only. Inappropriate use of an electronic device may also subject a student to penalties through the academic honor code.
[HCS Electronic Usage Policy](#)

AI Policy

Students are encouraged to responsibly use AI tools in this course to support their learning and complete assignments. AI can be used to deepen understanding and engage with course content, provided that all usage adheres to academic integrity guidelines. Any AI-generated content must be properly cited, and students are accountable for the accuracy and validity of their work, including AI-assisted elements. It is important for students to critically assess AI outputs to ensure they meet academic standards. Unapproved or improperly cited use of AI will be treated as a violation of the Horry County Schools Code of Conduct and may result in disciplinary action.

Cell Phones

Cell phones and other electronic devices may be used by students before and after school instructional hours (before 7:58 and after 2:15). Cell phones and other electronic devices are to be turned off and put away by 7:58 and remain put away until 2:15. [HCS Cell Phone Policy](#)

First Violation: The student's phone will be taken, given to the administrator, and a referral will be written. The student may not get the device until after school hours.

Second Violation: The student's phone will be taken, given to the administrator, and a referral will be written. The student's parent or guardian must come to the school to retrieve the device.

Third Violation: The student is subject to suspension, the student's parent or guardian must come to the school to retrieve the device, and the student loses cell phone privileges at any time while on school grounds.

Transportation

If riding a bus to school, be at the bus stop at the designated time; the responsibility for getting to Coastal Carolina lies with students who miss their bus. If driving a car or bicycle to school, be sure to register the vehicle with Coastal Carolina Public Safety. The appropriate CCU parking decal must also be displayed in the front window. Remember to park only in designated student parking areas. All bicycles must be registered and have a campus sticker attached.

Leaving campus during the school day without consent is **prohibited**; doing

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so is a serious offense and any transportation violation may result in expulsion from SA. Upon arrival to campus, no student should return to his/her vehicle until the end of the day without administration approval.

Students should not remain in cars or parking areas after arrival or dismissal.

Bus Conduct

Responsible and respectful behavior from Scholars Academy students is both extremely important and expected in order for bus drivers to maintain focus on highway safety. Video surveillance is used on buses to monitor student behavior and may be used as evidence during disciplinary proceedings. Bus transportation is a privilege that can be suspended if a student's behavior creates an unsafe condition on the bus. All school rules regarding behavior apply to the bus.

Student Searches

Pursuant to SC law Section 59-63-1110 et seq., any person entering the premises of any school in the state shall be deemed to have consented to a reasonable search of his/her person and effects. Hand-held and walk-through detectors are used daily within the facility.

PDA (Public Display of Affection)

Students should always keep their hands off other students. Students at Scholars Academy are prohibited from any public displays of affection at school. This means no kissing or inappropriate touching within the SA building, on the CCU campus, on the bus, or during school activities. Parents will be contacted, and disciplinary action taken.

Printing / Electronic Issues



Students are responsible for having assignments printed and ready to submit prior to class. Excuses for late work related to printing or electronic issues will not be accepted. **Files must be saved as a PDF to a flash drive in order to print on school printers.**

Medication at School

All prescription and over-the-counter medications must be registered by a parent/guardian with the school nurse; students may not have medication in their possession throughout the school day. Accompanying the medication must be a completed Medical Consent Form. **ALL medication should be delivered in their original containers to the nurse located at Early College High School.**

Selection of Reading Materials

HCS provides access to a wide variety of reading materials and resources in promoting literacy for students. In selecting the materials and resources for classroom libraries and media centers, teachers and Coastal Carolina

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University Expectations follow the general procedures that may be found on the district webpage at Library and Classroom Library resources and media center and classroom library procedures that may be found in the district policy manual.

One of a school's primary goals is to develop lifelong learners, with literacy being a key component in this process. Reading a wide range of materials helps students develop these literacy skills. While a school's classrooms and media center make every effort to provide only the highest quality reading materials, we understand that parents want to help their children make a wise choice as it pertains to what their child reads. A parent who may have questions about his/her child's reading material may contact Ann Hall to request additional information regarding the title, including possible professional reviews of the title. Mrs. Hall will work collaboratively with parents and teachers, to identify titles that will help develop a love of reading.

CCU Campus Safety

! SAFETY FIRST !

1st Semester Freshmen - MUST always have adult supervision when outside of HCS Scholars Academy building on Coastal Carolina's (CCU) campus.

2nd Semester Freshmen - Must always travel in groups of 2 or more SA students when outside of HCS Scholars Academy building on Coastal Carolina's (CCU) campus.

Consent of a teacher is required prior to leaving a classroom. Students should sign out/in each time they leave a classroom. Students should always be certain an adult knows when they leave the building, go to the library, or anywhere else on campus. Students must always receive permission and sign out at the front desk before leaving the building. Dining facilities, college dormitories, apartments, the HTC Center, and the student union game room are always off-limits for all students. Only JUNIORS and SENIORS are allowed to go to Starbucks or Einstein's Bagels. Students may not remain in the car after their arrival on campus or wait in cars after their dismissal. Students must report to the SA building immediately upon their arrival on campus and must leave campus at their scheduled dismissal time. Any violations of these safety guidelines may result in disciplinary action. All students must sign in upon arrival and sign out anytime they leave the SA building.

CCU Alert

Once enrolled in CCU, students should sign up for CCU Alert through the Coastal Carolina Online Emergency Information Center.

CCU ALERT

This will require the student to have a CCU login and password.

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Dual Enrollment Credit Course Regulations

[Please click here for the link to the 2026-2027 Dual Enrollment Course Student Commitment Form](#)

For complete guidelines for taking college courses follow the *HCS Dual Enrollment Course Guidelines*.

- Most college courses may be taken for dual credit which means the student earns both high school and college credit.
- Dual credit courses are given the same weight as an Advanced Placement course on the Uniform Grading Scale. Therefore, there are restrictions governing which courses are allowed to carry dual credit weight. Courses taken at the college level are entered on the high school transcript as a high school course with college preparatory weight.
- Only courses that are three-credit courses may be taken for dual credit. Any one or two-credit college courses must be approved by HCS before permission is granted or partial credit issued.
- College courses that are taken outside of the regular school day, or out-side of the regular school year, such as during summer school, will not appear on the student's transcript, nor be paid for by HCS.
- Dual Enrollment courses must be scheduled during the school day—8:00-3:00 (exceptions are made for labs).
- Students must complete a dual enrollment form each semester.

HCS Scholars Academy Awards/Recognitions

Junior Marshal Selection:

12 students from the junior class with the highest weighted cumulative GPA at the end of the fall semester will be recognized in the spring semester as Junior Marshals. These students will assist at end-of-the-year ceremonies and activities. The selected students must have their community service forms submitted on time, have no disciplinary infractions, and must not be on probation for any reason. Junior Marshals will follow the Senior End of the Year exam schedule.

Palmetto Fellows:

- All SA students must use ACT/SAT score and GPA to qualify for Palmetto Fellows. On the first day of a student's senior year, any student who has not qualified with documented exams for Palmetto Fellows by ACT/SAT score will

be required to attend an ACT/SAT preparation class. Students will be required to attend ACT/SAT preparation with an assigned faculty member for a minimum of 140 minutes per week. (MWF 1st block or TTH 1st block) during a scheduled Scholars Station.

- Late arrival and/or early release will not be granted without attendance/participation in the preparation course.

Palmetto Fellows Scholarship Information:

SA is a Non-Ranking high school and students must qualify for Palmetto Fellows through GPA and ACT/SAT scores ONLY.

Seals of Distinction

The South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) awards Seals of Distinction to students based on evidence of learning achievement for a student's pathway and area of focus as detailed in the South Carolina Diploma Pathways Overview. Seals of Distinction are delivered in the form of digital credentials issued via the Parchment application. Successful issuing of Seals of Distinction for all recipients, including early graduates, requires at least one contact for each district to serve as a liaison between the district and the Office of Research and Data Analysis (ORDA) at SCDE. Districts are therefore asked to designate a staff member (or multiple staff members) and to add that person to the Seals of Distinction Contact role in the District Entity Management System (DEIM).

[Seals of Distinction Overview Information](#)

Dress Code (HCS Policy)

Parents/guardians are responsible for assuring that individual students dress in an appropriate manner at all times while on campus or when involved in school activities.

The administration of each of the schools will determine the appropriateness of student dress. Guidelines shall be established and disseminated to students and parents. The administrative team of each of the schools will have the authority to decide if a student's dress is inappropriate and to follow through with corrective action. The school administration's ruling regarding inappropriate dress and corrective action is final pending review only by the Superintendent or her/his designee. Disputes involving student dress are not appealable to the Board.

The personal appearance of students should promote health and safety, contribute to a climate conducive to teaching and learning, and project a positive image of the District to the community. Generally, student dress is considered appropriate as long as it does not, or foreseeably could not, interfere with the educational process, cause disruption, or damage school property. In addition to clothing, hats, and shoes, attire includes any jewelry, emblem, badge, symbol, sign, comment or other items worn or displayed by an individual.

The principal shall specify the attire that students must wear in order to participate in a high school graduation ceremony as long as an eligible student's failure to participate does not preclude his/her

receiving a diploma after the ceremony. In addition, attire worn in physical education classes may be regulated by the principal for health and safety reasons, but a student may have the prerogative on Students - Page 118 Horry County Schools religious grounds of wearing more modest clothing.

1. Attire must comply with requirements for health and safety.
2. Attire must not be immodest, obscene, profane, lewd, vulgar, indecent, or offensive. Shorts, skirts and dresses should be of adequate length to assure modesty when the student is seated or engaged in school activities. Appropriate undergarments should be worn and should be covered by outer clothing. Uniforms for extra-curricular activities that are worn during classes other than physical education must be modified to conform to the Student Dress Code guidelines.
3. Attire must not evidence membership or affiliation with a “gang” in any negative sense of the term.
4. Attire must not display any information about, representations of, or advertisements for alcoholic beverage(s), tobacco, controlled drugs, or illegal drugs or paraphernalia associated with the foregoing.

[View the Student Dress Code policy.](#)

Consequences for Violation of Dress Code

Students in violation of this policy will be notified by a school staff member and sent to the office. Parents will be called to bring suitable clothing. An option will be for the students to be provided with a suitable cover-up to wear for the remainder of the day. Time missed in any class due to a dress code violation will be an unexcused absence. A second violation will result in a meeting with parents and after-school detention. Third violations will result in **in-school suspension (ISS) and may result in out-of-school suspension (OSS).**

Sexual Harassment - (HCS Policy)

Sexual harassment of students by district employees, other students, or third parties associated with schools is prohibited. All employees, students, and third parties associated with schools must avoid any action or conduct which could be viewed as sexual harassment. The District will take prompt, appropriate, and responsive action to end sexual harassment and to prevent its reoccurrence. Teachers and school administrators are expected to use judgment and common sense, which are important elements of a proper response to a particular allegation of sexual harassment or inappropriate conduct of a sexual nature.

Certain “inappropriate conduct of a sexual nature” that district employees direct towards students may also be criminal conduct as defined by State law, including S.C. Code Section 16-3-755. However, the District will take appropriate action against any employee who engages in inappropriate conduct of a sexual nature, as defined in District policies, regardless of whether the conduct rises to the level of a crime.

Any student who feels he/she has been subjected to sexual harassment, or the parent of a student who feels his/her child has been subjected to sexual harassment, is encouraged to file a complaint

as set forth below. All allegations will be investigated promptly, thoroughly, and impartially to determine what occurred. In the interim and at the conclusion of the investigation, appropriate steps will be taken to effectively address the situation.

Students who file a complaint of sexual harassment will not be subjected to retaliation or reprisal in any form. Any employee or student who is found to have engaged in sexual harassment or inappropriate conduct of a sexual nature will be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including termination in the case of an employee or expulsion in the case of a student, and all other appropriate steps will be taken to correct or rectify the situation.

Sexual harassment consists of unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and/or verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature. Anyone who participates in deliberate or unsolicited verbal comments, gestures, or physical contact of a sexual nature which is unwelcome is also engaging in sexual harassment.

Any student who feels he/she has been subjected to sexual harassment should immediately notify a teacher or administrator. All allegations will be investigated promptly and confidentially. Any person found to have engaged in sexual harassment will be subject to appropriate disciplinary action.

[Harassment Complaint Information/Forms](#)

Bullying (HCS Policy)

Bullying is recognized in District policy as a Level II offense and is defined as follows: "Harassment, intimidation or bullying (which means a gesture or written, verbal, physical or sexual act

1. that is reasonably perceived to have the effect of harming a student physically or emotionally or damaging a student's property or placing a student in reasonable fear or personal harm or property damage and/or
2. that results or demeans a student or group of students, including acts which cause substantial disruption in, or substantial interference with, the orderly operation of the school)."

All references to bullying include cyber bullying. This includes inappropriate contact via computers or cell phones to any fellow student at school or from a location other than school. Level II sanctions are available for this offense including suspension pending evidentiary hearing.

[Bullying Complaint Form](#)

Scholars Academy Chapter of the National Honor Society (NHS)

The National Honor Society (NHS) of the Scholars Academy is a duly chartered and affiliated chapter of this prestigious national organization. Membership is open to those students who meet the required standards in four areas of evaluation: scholarship, leadership, service, and character.

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Standards for selection are established by the national office of National Honor Society and have been revised to meet our local chapter needs. Students are selected to be members by a five member Faculty Council, appointed by the principal, which bestows this honor upon qualified students on behalf of the faculty of our school in the fall of each year.

Students in the 11th and 12th grades are eligible for membership. For the scholarship criterion, a student must have an unweighted cumulative grade point average of 4.25 or better based on the South Carolina Uniform Grading Policy. Those students who meet this criterion are then evaluated on their community service through time logs and leadership activities. Students must have completed the Scholars Academy requirement of 15 hours of community service each year. Therefore, students eligible at the end of the sophomore year must have completed at least 30 total hours of community service; those students eligible at the end of the junior year must have completed at least 45 hours of community service. Only hours submitted towards the yearly 15 service requirement count towards these totals; hours submitted for an honor society are in addition to this school requirement.

For the leadership criterion, students must submit a list and a thorough description of their leadership activities, which may include leadership activities at the Scholars Academy, at the student's attendance-area school, church, and in the community. It is imperative that students who wish to seek membership understand that service is not the same as leadership. Leadership means that the student led, organized, maintained, or created service/events/ projects, etc. for the Scholars Academy program, the student's attendance area, church, or community. Students must also provide verification from adult supervisors and/or sponsors with whom they worked and specific contact information. Parents/guardians cannot verify leadership. Faculty Council members will review and research the eligible candidates, using the students' submitted lists of leadership activities.

To evaluate a candidate's character criterion, the Faculty Council uses three forms of input. First, the advisor and administration will review school disciplinary records. Any student who has a documented cheating offense will not be eligible for membership. Any student who has 3 or more documented Level 1 offenses will not be admitted. Any student with a documented level 2 offense, within the last year, will not be admitted. A student with a documented level 3 offense will not be considered eligible for membership. Second, each faculty member will be solicited for input of professional reflections on a candidate's service activities, character, and leadership. Third, those submitting verification of your leadership will be asked for input regarding the candidate's character.

These forms and the student activity information are carefully reviewed by the Faculty Council to determine membership. A majority vote of the Faculty Council is necessary for selection. To maintain the integrity of the voting process, the Faculty Council names will not be disclosed to eligible candidates, students, parents, other faculty and staff members, or to people in the community.

Candidates who meet criteria for selection will be notified in writing. Following notification, a formal induction will be held at the school to recognize all new members. Induction will be held once each year. Once inducted, new members are required to maintain the same level of performance or better in all four criteria that led to their selection. This includes regular attendance at chapter meetings and participation in NHS activities. Members must maintain a cumulative 4.25 GPA, continue to exhibit leadership initiative, and complete an additional ten hours of community service each year

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that are dedicated toward NHS sponsored tutoring, fundraising, drives, or events and/or additional student-selected community service. New members are required to read the NHS By-Laws and indicate with their signature that they understand the expectations for members.

National Honor Society is a national organization; therefore, a student may only have one secondary school opportunity for membership. Because the opportunity for membership is available at Scholars Academy, students may only apply to the Scholars Academy NHS; Scholars Academy students are not allowed to apply to their attendance area school NHS. Students inducted at an attendance area school after the fall semester of 2022 will not be accepted for transfer. Junior year candidates, who are invited to apply for selection, but fail to meet all four criteria, are strongly encouraged to seek membership during their senior year. Students who are dismissed from the Scholars Academy National Honor Society are never again eligible for membership at the Scholars Academy NHS.

Patrick Rabon: PRabon004@horrycountyschools.net

Source: [NHS Handbook](#)- May 2019- Approved (Last update-9/21/2023)



Content-Area Honor Societies



HCS Scholars Academy has four chartered content-area honor societies: National English Honor Society, Mu Alpha Theta (math honor society), Rho Kappa (social studies honor society), and Science National Honor Society. These societies are governed by the faculty council, which includes an administrator, the school instructional coach, and teacher representatives from Social Studies, Math, Science, and English.

Each content-area honor society is paired with a student-created club, such as Biology Club or Math Club. During the 2026-2027 school year, the content-area honor societies will develop relationships with these student-created clubs in order to create an inclusive environment where both inducted members and non-inducted members can participate in events and activities. The honor societies and clubs will work together to create leadership opportunities and add to our school culture.

Scholars Academy requires 15 hours of community service each year. A member of one or more content-area honor societies must complete an additional 10 hours of community service. Whether the student is in one content-area honor society or in all four, there is only a single 10-hour requirement. If a student is a member of National Honor Society, meeting the NHS requirement also meets the content-area honor society requirements. Any hours over the 8 allowed summer hours for the SA requirement may be used towards this requirement.

Content-area honor societies only induct during the spring semester at our Awards Ceremony.

Content-Area Honor Society	GPA Requirements*	Course prerequisites	Applications Open
National English Honor Society	Overall: 3.0+ Content Area: 3.0+	English 1 H, English 2 H, and be currently enrolled in an AP, CCU,	Spring of 10th grade year

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		or Honors level ELA course during the current school year.	
Mu Alpha Theta (Math)	Overall: 3.0+ Content Area: 3.0+	Algebra 1 H, Algebra 2 H, Geometry H, and be currently enrolled in an AP, CCU, or Honors level math course during the current school year.	Spring of 9th grade
Rho Kappa (Social Studies)	Overall: 3.0+ Content Area: 3.0+	AP US Government & Politics, AP US History Seminar, and be enrolled in an AP, CCU, or Honors level social studies course during the current school year.	Spring of 10th grade year
Science National Honor Society	Overall: 3.0+ Content Area: 3.5+	Biology H, Chemistry H, and be currently enrolled in an AP, CCU, or Honors level science course during the current school year.	Spring of 10th grade year

*All GPA requirements are unweighted and follow the SC Uniform Grading Policy.

To remain members in good standing, members must continue to meet the above requirements and complete 10 or more community service hours above the 15 hours required by HCS Scholars Academy. Students will need to meet participation requirements through content-area honor society meetings and activities.