

## ECHS FAQs

**1. Will transportation be provided?**

Yes, transportation will be provided for all CCSD students who attend the ECHS. Students will meet their bus at a central location, not more than 5 miles from their home address. Families are responsible for transportation to and from the central bus stop. There will be a stop at each home high school in the afternoon so that students can participate in extracurricular activities.

The 2017-18 Bus Schedule can be found at [this link](#).

<http://www.durhamschoolservices.com/charleston/Documents/EARLY%20COLLEGE%20HIGH%20SCHOOL.pdf>

**2. If my child has earned HS credit in middle school, will ECHS be able to offer the next class that they need given the small size of the school?**

Yes, we will ensure that all courses offered are the courses that each child needs in order to complete the core academic credits required to earn a high school diploma in the state of South Carolina.

**3. How are the students who are invited to apply selected?**

Students are invited to apply if they met three (3) criteria as eighth graders:

Winter (2018) Lexile Score of at least 900

Winter (2018) MAP Math RIT Score of at least 225

Not identified as Gifted and Talented by the state of South Carolina

**4. What are the school day start and end times?**

The 2018-19 bell schedule will be 7:45 AM – 2:45 PM

**5. Can my child take elective classes at ECHS?**

Yes, your child will still earn elective credits, however they will be earned through the dual credit and college classes that your child takes in the 10th-12th grades.

**6. Will my child be able to participate in extracurricular activities at his/her home school?**

Yes, all students will be able to participate in extracurricular activities at their home school.

**7. Should my child apply if they are not the first generation to attend college in our family?**

Yes, first generation college attendance is only one of the criteria for acceptance. While priority will be given to students who are first generation college-goers, we also place an emphasis for all groups who are historically underrepresented on college campuses. All CCSD students are invited to apply.

**8. Will my child be able to attend the prom?**

Yes, our hope is that ECHS will host it's own prom by the time the inaugural class are in their third year of high school. However, if ECHS does not host a prom, eligible students will be invited to attend the prom at their home school.

**9. Will my child walk across the stage at their home school's graduation?**

Currently, all ECHS students will be tied to their home school for the purposes of pupil accounting. This means that if graduation were to take place today, students would be a part of their home school's graduation ceremony. However, ECHS will be applying for recognition as a "stand alone" high school. It is our hope that by 2021, the year the inaugural class will graduate, that ECHS holds it's own graduation ceremony.

**10. Is this program for "low income" students?**

ECHS seeks to serve a diverse student body from across Charleston County School District. Having students from various socioeconomic groups, ethnicities, nationalities, and a variety of personal experiences will only strengthen the student body and the high school experience of our children.

**11. What will my child experience, socially?**

Students who attend school at ECHS will be a part of a small cohort of not more than 100 students per grade. Our vision is that the small nature of the school, combined with the unique challenges of the rigorous coursework will encourage strong bonds of friendship and collegiality to last a lifetime. Each student will be assigned a faculty advisor to guide them through all four years of their high school experience. Additionally, students will work closely with a school counselor, and the program director. Students will not only have close relationships with their peers, but also with ECHS faculty. All decisions about a student's readiness to travel through the Palmer Campus alone, and to attend college courses, will be made based upon the individual student taking into account their academic and social readiness.

It is important for students to be aware that space is limited. Our classes eat breakfast outside of their classes, very similarly to the way a college student would. There is no common area like a cafeteria or gym. Freshmen take only core content area classes in their first year of high school. The academic environment is serious, and intentional. Classes are challenging.

**12. How many school counselors will serve the students?**

Each student will have one school counselor, and one faculty advisor.

**13. How will the GPAs be calculated? How are the college courses weighted?**

Honors Courses:

One half of a quality point (.5) is added to the CP weighting for honors courses that meet the three criteria listed above. These criteria apply to all courses including those offered online and in other nontraditional settings and those recorded on a transcript from an out-of-state school that is accredited under the regulations of the board of education of that state or the appropriate regional accrediting agency. Honors credit may be earned only for courses that have published syllabi that establish higher standards.

Advanced Placement Courses:

AP courses are awarded a full quality point above the CP weighting. Seminar or support courses (science labs) for AP are weighted as honors but not as AP or IB courses.

Dual Credit Courses:

Dual Credit Courses (DC) Individual students with the approval of the principal or designee may receive dual credit for courses taken from a college. Only courses applicable to

baccalaureate or associate degrees offered by accredited institutions in South Carolina may be accepted. College courses which meet these criteria and are offered via distance learning or on the internet also qualify as dual credit courses. Participating students receive high school Carnegie units toward high school graduation and also receive college credit from the cooperating college. A three-semester-hour college course shall transfer as one full Carnegie unit. These courses receive an additional quality point weight of 1.0. Credit may be awarded for a correspondence course only upon the approval of the local superintendent or his or her designee prior to enrollment in the course. Students are responsible for verifying any college's acceptance of credits earned as dual credit. Enrollment in a dual credit course does not guarantee college acceptance.

#### Career and Technical Advances Placement Courses:

Career and Technical Advanced Placement (CTAP) CTAP is a Trident Technical College (TTC) program that allows qualified high school students to earn exemption credit at TTC by demonstrating mastery of college course competencies. Students who successfully complete specific high school courses in Career and Technical Education (CTE) and who demonstrate mastery of college course competencies can be awarded exemption credit toward their programs at TTC.

#### **14. Is my 8th grader mature enough to attend high school on a college campus?**

As freshmen, the students will not be traveling throughout the larger Trident Campus. They will be in a small setting on the campus, but will have their ECHS teachers, a school counselor and an administrator in a wing designated for ECHS use. The students will not begin to take college classes until they are ready, both academically and socially. We will provide students with an [AVID](#) class to help them become mature young men and women ready to navigate a college campus. The AVID class will teach students organizational skills, effective study habits, critical thinking and also ensure that one of the ECHS faculty members is their advisor. ECHS advisors will be charged with developing supportive relationships with their advisees and helping each student navigate the resources available to be successful.

Because we are only accepting 100 students into each class, we will give each child and their families customized attention based upon each student's needs. We know that students won't be successful in the college classes unless we provide them with the academic foundation and ongoing support throughout their high school years -- It is our charge to provide them with both the academic foundation and support and ensure their success.