# Black Water Middle School

# October Bear Updates

## October 1-30, 2026

### Important Upcoming Dates:

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 10/23/26-First Quarter Ends<br>10/23/26- Fun and Fantastic Friday= College and Career Ready- Wear your favorite college gear<br>10/26-10/30/26-Red Ribbon Week<br>10/26/26- Fall Picture Day<br>10/29/26- Q1 Report Cards Issued via PowerSchool | 10/30/26- Fun and Fantastic Friday- Students are permitted to wear school appropriate costumes.<br>11/3/26- HCS Schools and Offices are closed for Election Day | |

### Important Bear Links

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 26-27 BWMS Student Handbook<br>BWMS Cell Phone Policy<br>BWMS School Website | HCS Student Calendar<br>Payments-MyPaymentsPlus<br>BWMS Facebook Page | |

**Administration and Guidance**

| | |
|---|---|
| **Brandice Gore**-Principal<br>**Sara Smith**-Assistant Principal-8th grade and Team 7-3<br>**Spencer Gaither**-Assistant Principal-6th grade & 7th grade | Julie Hardwick-8th grade<br>Wendy Linen-6th grade<br>Gretta Pratt- 7th Grade |

# From the Desk of Ms. Gore

Greetings BWMS Families,

Thank you for an incredible first quarter of the 2026-2027 school year! Students are thriving inside and outside of the classroom. Student success is attributed to the hard work of our teachers, staff, and you as parents or guardians. Thank you for all that you do to support your student(s) and our school. It truly takes all of us working together to create student success.

We are very happy with our 2025-2026 school report card rating of Good! We will continue to celebrate success, while holding students to high academic and behavioral standards. We put the success of our students first which requires high standards. Please continue to monitor PowerSchool and communicate with your student(s) teachers if you have questions or concerns regarding their academic progress.

My door is also always open. I am here to support and serve you. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me by phone or email.

Sincerely,

Principal Gore

~Building Bear Greatness~ #Greatness is the Expectation!

# 2026-2027 School Improvement and PTO Meeting Dates:

All meetings are conducted at BWMS unless denoted/communicated otherwise. This is a great opportunity to support students, teachers, and staff, while also providing your input to assist with school growth and development.

- Wednesday, November 18, 2026- 8:45 am
- Wednesday, January 27, 2027- 8:45 am
- Wednesday, February 24, 2027- 8:45 am
- Wednesday, March 31, 2027- 8:45 am
- Wednesday, April 28, 2027- 8:45 am

# October Fun/Fantastic Friday Themes

** Students are permitted to wear costumes on Friday, October 30. Face coverings are not permitted. Dress code rules apply.**



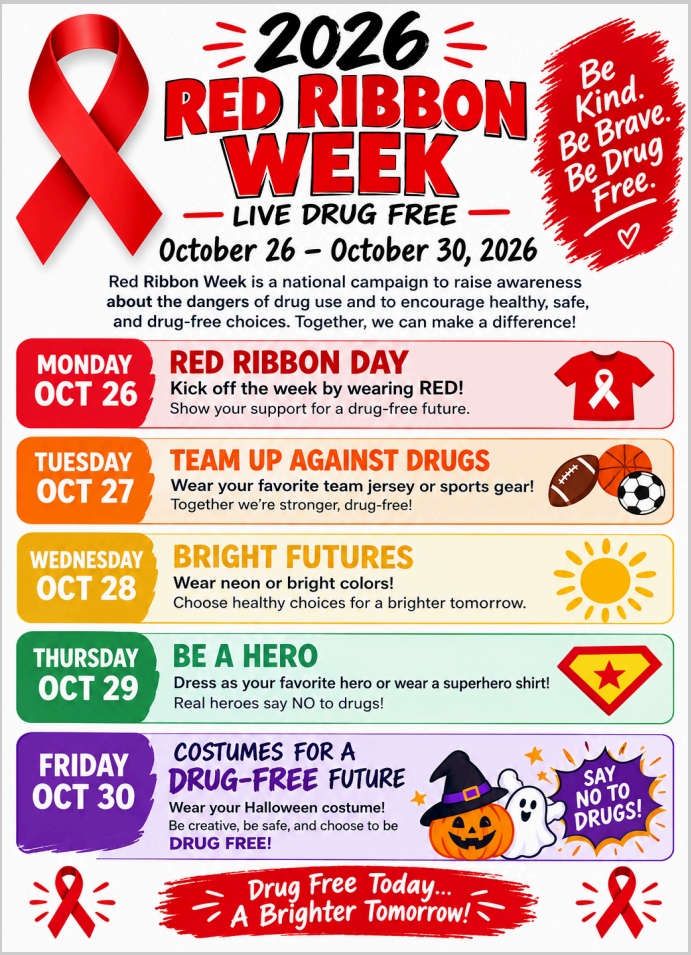
## Fall Picture Day

** Students will take photos during their first discovery class.**



# Red Ribbon Week- October 26-30

Students will learn and engage in activities that promote positive decision making and living drug and alcohol free. Students will complete literacy based activities during DEN each day of Red Ribbon week to learn more about living drug free.



# Accessing Report Cards in PowerSchool

***Please ensure that you use the web version of PowerSchool and not the APP to access report cards. *****

Logging on to PowerSchool Parent/Student Portal:

The PowerSchool Parent/Student Portal is web-based and can be accessed from any computer with internet access. Compatible web browsers include Internet Explorer 8, Firefox, Safari, and Chrome. The PowerSchool Parent/Student Portal can be found at the following secured web address:

https://myps.horrycountyschools.net/public/

# 2026-2027 Bus Information




The Carolina Forest Bus Office offers a Facebook page that is updated daily during the school year with announcements relative to bus schedules, arrival and departure times, and route changes. Please like their page to remain updated. https://www.facebook.com/CarolinaForestBusOffice

Stop times are established through the bus office, we encourage parents to reach out to the Carolina Forest Bus Office at the beginning

of the school year and throughout the school year with bus questions. Use this link to complete a form which requests bus information. The forms are checked and you will receive an email response.

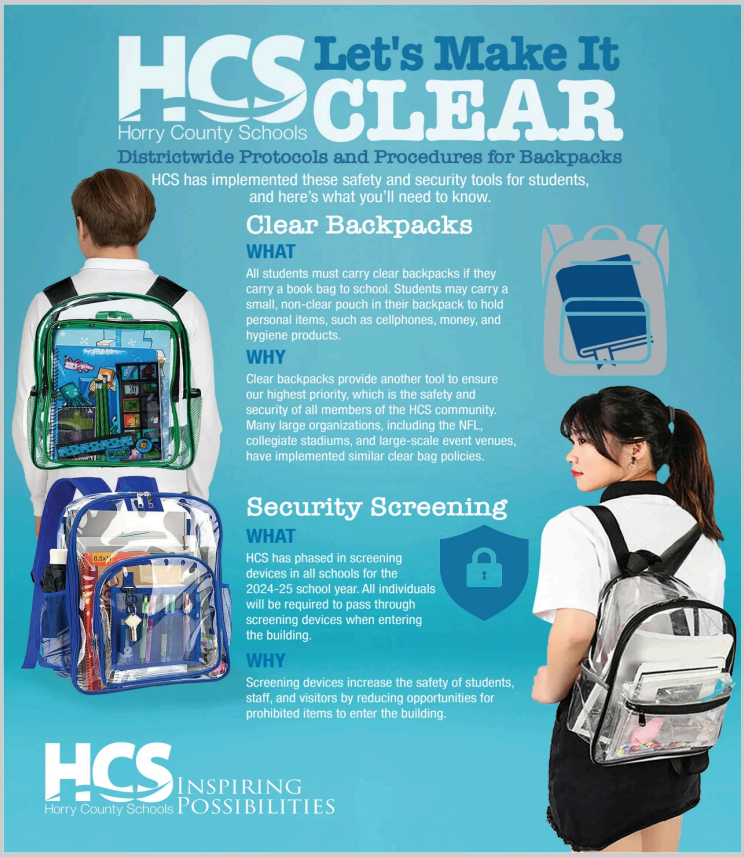
https://forms.gle/Fj3Hu5kLqcZLJWW58

2026-2027 Breakfast and Lunch Menus:




Use this link to access breakfast and lunch menus for Black Water Middle School. My School Menus - Menu

# 2026-2027 Clear BookBag Protocol

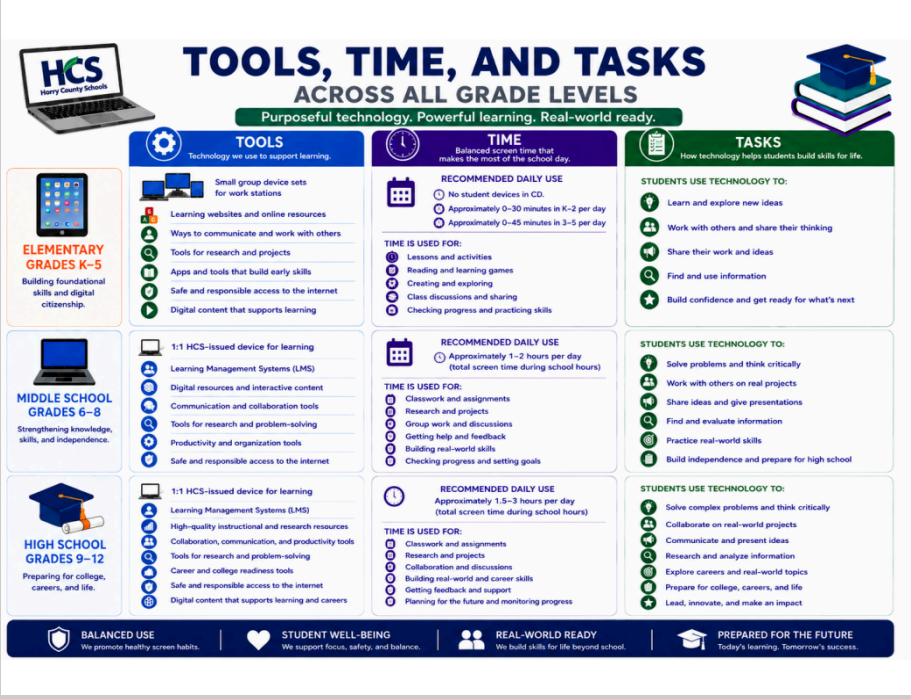


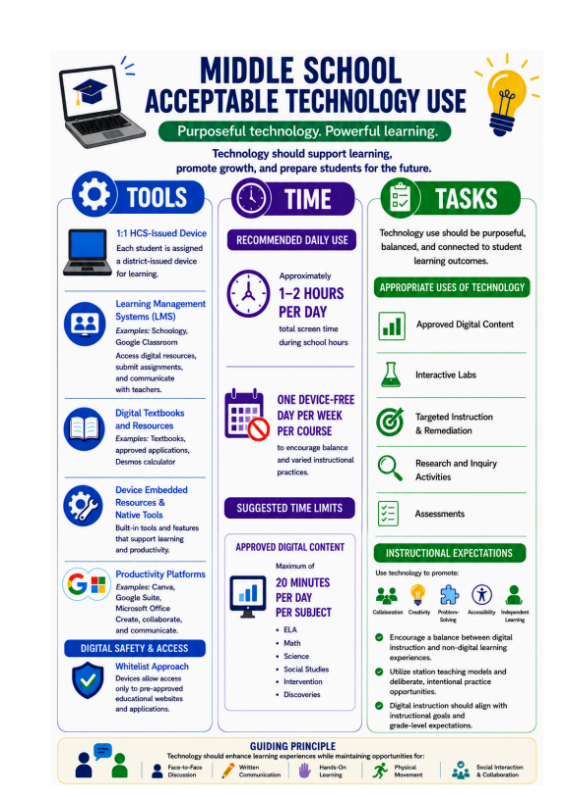
**The Protected Learning Initiative**

Beginning this school year, 2026-2027, steps have been taken to reduce unnecessary screen time and promote balanced, engaging learning experiences. Teachers and staff will be provided with practical tools to include screen time tracking resources, blended learning strategies, and professional development on incorporating hands-on and collaborative classroom activities. Schools will dedicate structured time throughout the school day for device-free instruction, collaborative learning, and wellness- focused educational tasks designed to strengthen student focus and engagement.

Our guiding principle for this initiative is that Technology should enhance learning experiences while maintaining opportunities for:

- Face-to-Face Discussion
- Written Communication
- Hands-On Learning
- Physical Movement
- Social Interaction and Collaboration






# 2026-2027 Student Procedures and Information:

**Morning Arrival:**

Student drop-off begins at 7:30 (the gate to release into the car rider loop will open at 7:30 am daily). Supervision is not available prior to 7:30 and students should not be at school prior to this time. Please ensure that you adhere to this policy for the safety of students.

**Afternoon Dismissal:**

Car riders should be picked up from school no later than 3:50 pm. Please ensure that your students are aware of being a car rider prior to the end of the day if this is not their normal mode of transportation. Transportation changes should be communicated to the front office staff via phone or email.

**Deliveries:**

We do not allow deliveries of flowers, balloons, or the like. No outside food is allowed to be delivered.

**Water Bottles:**

- Students are permitted to bring a sealed or empty water bottle to school to refill in our water fountains/water stations. Water bottles with sports tops are not permitted. Metal and glass water bottles are also not allowed. This is to ensure the safety of our students.

**Perfume/Aerosol Spray:**

Perfume and aerosol sprays are not permitted. This is to ensure the safety of students.

# 2026-2027 HCS Student Calendars and Breaks

Students learn best when they are in school. The flyer below contains the dates this school year where there are breaks from school. Please use this as a guide when planning and scheduling your vacations. We are looking forward to a great school year filled with lots of great learning experiences for our students.



# HCS Horry County Schools 2026-27 Calendar

## August 2026

| S | M | T | W | T | F | S |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | | | 1 |
| 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
| 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 |
| 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 |
| 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 |
| 30 | 31 | | | | | |

## September 2026

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## October 2026

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## November 2026

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| 29 | 30 | | | | | |

## December 2026

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## January 2027

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| 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 |
| 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 |
| 31 | | | | | | |

## February 2027

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| 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 |
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## March 2027

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## April 2027

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| 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 |
| 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 |
| 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | |

## May 2027

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| 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 |
| 30 | 31 | | | | | |

## June 2027

| S | M | T | W | T | F | S |
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| 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 |
| 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 |
| 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | | | |

First day for teachers: Aug. 10
First day of school: Aug. 19
Last day of school: June 8
Last day for teachers: June 9

- Schools Closed
- Schools Closed/Possible Make-up Days
- Teacher Work/Staff Development Days - Student Holidays
- Additional Staff Development Day for Teachers - Approved by the Board
- 2 1/2 Hour Early Dismissal for Students
- Teacher Work/Staff Development Days - Student Holidays (Possible Make-up Days)

*Any non-instructional day, including Saturdays, may be considered a make-up day, due to school cancellation.*

### Testing

Dates for SCREADY and SCPASS assessments are May 11 – June 8, 2027.

Dates for EOCEP – 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 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.

### 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 informationto your school.

### eLearning Days

HCS is a SCDE-approved eLearning district. The current provision allows the district to use up to 5 days in eLearning. These days are for emergency situations, such as inclement weather or utility interruptions, such as power outages. They are not planned days on the calendar.

### Transportation/Bus Offices:

If you have a question or concern about school bus transportation, call the bus office in your area.

| | |
|---|---|
| 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 |

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 characteristic 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, 335 Four Mile Road, Conway, SC 29526.

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