The last six months...

As we end the first half of the 2022-2023 school year, I want to thank our entire OCSD family for supporting our students, families, each other, and the community. Teachers and support staff have collectively worked to keep students safe and fed and ensure they receive a high-quality education.

In a matter of months, our team has accomplished much because of our employees’ dedication, creativity, commitment, and energy. I cannot overstate my appreciation to teachers and staff for their selfless service and the difference their work makes in the lives of our students.

As we finish the school year, I look forward to seeing what students can achieve here at Orangeburg County School District. Thanks to all who inspire our students to do their personal best.

We Are One!

Dr. Shawn D. Foster, Superintendent
Orangeburg County School District
Bond Referendum

Orangeburg County School District’s (OCSD) comprehensive plan to dramatically improve all schools for all students was approved by the voters on November 8. The $190 million bond referendum passed by more than 50 percent, paving the way to significantly enhancing OCSD facilities over the next three years.

“The vote in favor of the referendum reflects our community’s deep commitment to public education and the families we serve... The referendum will allow the Board and leadership team the opportunity to provide state-of-the-art academic facilities for our students and teachers – which I know will enhance their educational experience.”

-Superintendent, Dr. Shawn Foster

Virtual Convocation

The Orangeburg County School District (OCSD) held its annual Back to School Convocation Wednesday morning (August 10). The event was live-streamed from the District Office on Founders Court out to every school, office and workspace throughout the county. Student Oratory Contest winners headlined the inspiring celebration themed “Know Your Impact,” and helped to announce OCSD’s 2022-2023 Teacher and Support Staff of the Year, as well as alternate winners.

OCSD students named first, second and third place MLK Oratory Competition winners Malachi Jean, Dilyn Berry, and Harlem Brown, respectively, reiterated the superintendent’s theme with their masterful delivery of speeches which spoke directly to the impact of specific groups of employees.
SUPERINTENDENT HIGHLIGHTS

S.C. Supreme Court Oral Arguments

Orangeburg County School District (OCSD) students were invited to witness S.C. Supreme Court oral arguments on Tuesday, November 15, and Wednesday, November 16.

Teacher Supply Closet

As a gift to teachers across the district, Marcus Johnson, owner of Nissan of Orangeburg, announced back in August that his dealership would offer a “Teacher Supply Closet” to all educators in the district. To show his support of educators, teachers can stock up on supplies such as notebooks, pencils, markers, and even cleaning supplies. Johnson says that teachers have been utilizing the closet and they will continue to stock it as the need is there.

“If you are a teacher in Orangeburg County, come. No questions asked. We will stock that supply closet all year. That is our way of supporting you all. We want to say job well done, keep up the great work.”

–Nissan of Orangeburg, Marcus Johnson
COMMUNICATIONS, COMMUNITY & BUSINESS PARTNERSHIPS HIGHLIGHTS

Dr. Irene Myers Grants

More than twenty-eight thousand dollars has been awarded to Orangeburg County School District (OCSD) teachers and staff, funding creative ideas and unique learning opportunities that are outside of the financial support generally available in the budget.

The Dr. Irene H. Myers Education Grant is a funding opportunity made available through the local education foundation that was established in memory of Dr. Myers for her dedicated service of 45 years to public education in our community. The Orangeburg County School District Education Foundation is a not-for-profit organization that was formed for charitable and educational purposes, and to sponsor educational activities in our local public schools.

External /Internal Newsletters

16 issues of One Voice Newsletter have been disseminated to employees of OCSD 8 issues of The Circle have been sent to subscribers.

Over 300 people have subscribed to The Circle Newsletter. This has been achieved through advertisement on district website and call outs sent to community and stakeholders.
The Communication Department spotlighted all of our wonderful Principals for National Principals Month. For the month of October, a graphic containing a headshot of each Principal and a couple fun facts was posted daily.

implemented the use of various forms so schools and departments within the District can request help when needed and to spotlight great achievements in the district.
It is important that the district strengthen our security posture and help prevent data loss and cyber incidents. We are working with SCCIC to better protect Orangeburg County School District. The South Carolina Critical Infrastructure Cybersecurity (SC CIC) Program is a SLED initiative whose mission is to provide critical services and share cybersecurity intelligence to prevent cyber threats, incidents, or attacks that could affect the more than 90% of the State's critical infrastructure organizations. SC CIC personnel are highly trained at analyzing, protecting, responding to, mitigating, and recovering from the effects and consequences of any such incidents or attacks on municipalities, counties, and private critical infrastructure to ensure the health, safety, and well-being of South Carolina's citizens and businesses. The South Carolina Cyber Coordination Center is a key component to the SC CIC Program providing real time intelligence and coordination during cyber incident response efforts.

Since consolidation, we have updated devices for users across the county to ensure that each device is secure and compatible with the growing need for network and internet based applications. The useful life of most technology is from 4 to five years. We are replacing legacy systems and upgrading all users to include teacher, staff, and students.
A number of OCSD schools took part in Speak Life Day on September 23rd. The objective of the day was to encourage people and students in particular to say positive words of affirmation to one another.

“IT is what should be happening at every school in the world, in the country, and if nothing else, at least in our state and county.. We have students speaking life to each other in the middle of an assembly, teachers speaking life to students, students speaking like this to teachers, motivational people coming from the community. It was just, it was amazing. It was like Christmas with words as gifts.”

-Director of Student Services, Hayward Jean
William J. Clark Middle School organized events and field trips to prepare students for post secondary education and career advancement. Some activities include:

- Boeing Visit
- Career Cafe Sessions
- College Week/Day
STUDENT SERVICES HIGHLIGHTS

School Activities Continued

Bethune Bowman held the Clark Awards program this semester.

Holly Hill Elementary School Beta Club team took a field trip to the Beta Club National Headquarters in Spartanburg, SC.

Vance-Providence Elementary School held a Breast Cancer Walk and participated in Anti-Gun Violence Week in partnership with Orangeburg County Sheriff's Office.
STUDENT SERVICES HIGHLIGHTS

School Activities Continued

On October 14, 2022 four breast cancer survivors were invited to share their journeys during and after their battle with cancer. Funds were raised through breast cancer accessories sales to provide each speaker with a monetary donation. Student leaders in FBLA were responsible for setting up and managing the event. There was a balloon release to honor those who have battled, are currently battling, have lost the battle, and those survivors who continue to share their stories.

Since 2002, the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention’s Out of the Darkness Walks have brought friends, neighbors, family members and colleagues together to walk through their communities to raise public awareness and funds to support suicide prevention. At the conclusion of the Out of the Darkness Walk, students released balloons in memory of those lost to suicide. The walk was held on September 8, 2022.

Junior Achievement of Greater South Carolina invited The Technology Center to conduct an industry field study on November 3, 2022. Students were acclimated to the logistics of natural gas not only within our state but nation.

In celebration of National HBCU Week, The Technology Center hosted an HBCU Student Panel at the Orangeburg County Library on September 20, 2022. The student panel consisted of former OCSD students who shared their experiences and tips learned while at their HBCUs.
On September 1, 2022 OCSD held the Counseling and Career Services Information Fair. The event featured dozens of community partners some of whom have never met together. The purpose was to enhance collaborative support for our students through awareness of initiatives and partnership exploration.

Orangeburg County School District's mentoring program (One Child, One Chance) launched on November 16, 2022.
Nissan of Orangeburg sponsored cash gifts, with $5,000 each awarded to OCSD’s newly-named Teacher of the Year Carol Dean (Edisto High School) and Support Staff of the Year Tiffany Grant (Teacher Assistant at Whittaker Elementary School). They also awarded the runner-ups Alternate Teacher of the Year Jasmine Jackson (Whittaker Elementary School) and Alternate Support Staff of the Year Geri Dukes (nurse at Lockett Elementary School) with $1,500 each.

OCSD has partnered with the Midlands Community Development Corporation to secure a three-year grant opportunity that allowed the district to offer up to $8000 signing bonuses to full-time certified teachers hired before September 15, 2022. Known as the Life2 Grant, OCSD has utilized the signing bonuses to begin the year with a record low in teacher vacancies.

The RECHARGE program has allowed the Human Resources department to decrease classroom vacancies by bringing certified retirees back to the classroom on a part-time or a full-time basis. Implementing this program along with other initiatives has allowed OCSD to begin the year at the lowest number of vacancies that the district has had since consolidation.
Human Resources is continuing the Rookie Teacher of the Month and the OCSD Employee of the Month Programs this school year in an effort to enhance the culture of the district and assist with retention of employees. The Rookie Teacher of the Month program recognized induction teachers for their efforts in the classrooms. A committee at the district level selected the rookie teacher of the month from names submitted by schools. By similar account, the employee of the month program recognized both classified and certified employees for their contributions at their work sites. The rookie teacher of the month and the employee of the month will continue to be recognized at board meetings, celebrated in internal and external newsletters and on our District website.
The Finance Department hosted a Special Revenue training at the Clyburn Center on July 26, 2022, for Directors and District Administrators. Our special guest speaker was Mrs. Devona Youmans. Devona has twenty-three (23) years of experience in education. She has served as a Director for Federal Programs for seven (7) years in Hampton County Schools. As an active member of SCATA (South Carolina Association of Title I Administrators), she holds the title of Region One Representative. Devona is also a member of the SC Committee of Practitioners and NAFEPA (National Association of Federal Education Program Administrators). This past March, Devona received the State Leadership Award for her leadership and dedicated service to the State Affiliation in South Carolina from NAFEPA.
November 30, 2022

Dear Orangeburg County School District Team Members,

Thank you! I thank you for all the exceptional, dedicated, committed, and caring support you have provided to our students, teachers, parents, and colleagues over the past year. We have collectively shown the students we serve what teamwork, resilience, grit, and compassion look like. And, as I have shared with you before, OCSD is what it is and will continue to be because of you.

Many of you are already aware, but I again proudly announce that during our budget process, our OCSD Board of Trustees decided to award all OCSD employees a holiday bonus. Therefore, as a result of our OCSD finance team’s sound fiscal practice and decision-making, we can provide bonuses of $1000 to all full-time employees; and $500 to all part-time employees.

We know that you have diligently worked for OCSD all year long, and to honor your hard work and fortitude, we wanted to ensure that you received the total bonus award, meaning every check’s amount will be either $1000 or $500.

I believe in you. I believe in your work, and I believe that together, we will continue to make OCSD the best! I appreciate your dedication to OCSD, and it is an honor for me to work alongside each and every one of you.

With warm regards,

[Signature]

Dr. Shawn D. Foster, Superintendent
OPERATIONS HIGHLIGHTS

School Resource Officers

The District partnered with the Orangeburg County Sheriff's Office and the South Carolina Department of Public Safety to add six additional School Resource Officers (SROs) at the following locations: Lake Marion HS Technology Center, Elloree Elementary School, Holly Hill Roberts Middle School, Marshall Elementary and the Orangeburg Technology Center.

No Kid Hungry

$15,000 grant to purchase a new oven at CEMS – The OCSD Office of School Nutrition was granted $15,000 to purchase a new oven for Carver Edisto Middle School.

SDE Audit

The South Carolina Department of Education conducted their annual audit of the School Nutrition Program. Per usual, the audit was considered clean and only a few Technical Assistance items were needed to be addressed by the OCSD School Nutrition team.
The Office of Transportation has ordered three new Activity buses for use by District Staff. One of the buses is currently in use while the other two are still on order. Buses were ordered to be multi-functional in use for student activities and for regular routes as needed.

New camera systems for the interior and exterior of state owned and district owned buses are currently being installed by the vendor. The new systems provide better coverage for investigations should an incident arise.
The Orangeburg County School District received $6.32 million in grants for 16 electric school buses. Grant funding was provided by the EPA in conjunction with the SC Department of Education and the office of Congressman James Clyburn.
Sometimes disasters strike our schools and requires the District to work to repair locations. A water line break at Edisto Primary School caused interior flooding issues and required repairs to the ceiling, floors, media center and nurse’s office. A spring storm caused damage to Branchville’s athletic complex and required repairs to the irrigation system pump house, dugout, baseball/softball fences and batting cages.
As a part of the District’s continued planning to be better prepared to respond to emergencies, the District has completed the purchase of an emergency response trailer. The trailer will be stocked with supplies needed to help better respond to emergencies that require relocation of students or in the event of loss of power at a school.
Windows

Replacement of inefficient windows with double-paned high efficiency windows and doors continues around the District. Doors and/or windows have been replaced at the following locations: Sheridan Elementary, Marshall Elementary, Edisto Elementary, Edisto High School, and the Bethune-Bowman Campus.

ABM
Upgrades

The District is currently working with ABM to complete $40,000,000 in projects at 23 locations that include replacing all lighting with LED lights and timed controls, replacement of HVAC units, and water conservation projects. The lighting projects and water conservation projects are scheduled to be completed by the end of the calendar year. HVAC replacements will be ongoing for an additional 18 months.
HVAC

HVAC units have been repaired/installed all around the District to replace and repair units. Locations include: Dover Elementary School, Holly Hill-Roberts Middle School, Lake Marion High School, Howard Middle School, Marshall Elementary School, and Rivelon Elementary School.

Painting

The District continues to completely paint the interior and exterior of schools that have not had any cosmetic work completed in over 20 years. Since July 1st, painting and floor replacements have been completed at Edisto Primary School, Hunter-Kinard-Tyler Campus and Sheridan Elementary School.
With the passage of the $190 million dollar referendum, the District continues planning with LS3P Architects and our three construction management firms (MB Kahn, Contract Construction and Thompson-Turner Construction) to design the new O-W High School, East Elementary School and Middle School wings at WJC/LMHS.
LAKE MARION MIDDLE SCHOOL ADDITION

- Utilize existing vacancies to house MS spaces (+/- 30,000 SF)
- Relocate necessary HS classrooms in portions of ‘A’ and ‘B’ Wing to allow for placement of MS classrooms

Site Plans for New Construction Continued

ORANGEBURG COUNTY SCHOOLS PROJECT UPDATES

EAST ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

- 750 Students
- (900 Core/Future Expansion)

- 1st Floor Area: 81,000 SF
- 2nd Floor Area: 25,000 SF
- Total Area: 106,000 SF

ORANGEBURG COUNTY SCHOOLS PROJECT UPDATES
Digital Strategic Plan

A summary of our district’s strategic plan in video form. The video highlights the process used to create the strategic plan and the district goals by both internal and external stakeholders.

Educational Leadership Partnership

The district has a partnership with South Carolina State University and works with student interns seeking graduate degrees in Educational Leadership Programs. This past fall we worked with two students seeking doctoral degrees. They participated in principals’ meetings, our district leadership academy cohort and interviewed district leaders about their roles among many other district level opportunities.

Mission

The mission of Orangeburg County School District, the catalyst of innovation and excellence, is to ensure all students discover and develop their person, purpose and platform through high-quality educational experiences distinguished by:

- a culture of collaboration, equity and inclusion
- a creative learning environment with inspiring opportunities
- a commitment to nurture the academic, physical, social and emotional well-being of all.
Orangeburg County School District (OCSD) honored nearly 40 students during their annual Awards Banquet on November 2, 2022. The event was held at the Orangeburg County Library and Conference Center and celebrated elementary, middle, and high school students receiving perfect scores on the SCREADY assessment and End of Course Exams.

Students and parents from various schools received important information regarding the services that multilingual learners are provided in OCSD. This is the first family night we’ve held since 2019. OCSD has no less than 356 multilingual learners from PK-12th grades in 26 of our schools.
CURRICULUM & INSTRUCTION HIGHLIGHTS

Waterford Year Two

With the exemplary leadership of the Superintendent, Dr. Shawn Foster, the year two Waterford implementation has transitioned from all pre-kindergarten classrooms and several kindergarten through second grade classrooms to all prekindergarten through second grade classrooms. The data provides opportunities for instructional feedback and highly effective intervention strategies. This is an added instructional supplement that will allow our teachers to ensure strong academic support with a focus on foundational literacy skills and literacy development. Parent educators in our schools also support the connection of home and school through this initiative by communicating with parents about student growth and scheduling engaging parenting sessions.

The OCSD Gifted and Talented Program initiated through the Curriculum and Instruction Division is fully operational in four elementary magnet academies. The goals of the program are to provide a specialized educational approach, improve achievement for magnet program participants and promote and maintain diversity. Through the collaboration among principals and other C&I members, a 5 year expansion plan will expand these opportunities across more schools in OCSD. Along with a rigorous standards-based curriculum some student experiences are STEAM Camps, Family Nights, Virtual Field Trips, Expos and Showcases.
The district has transitioned to the iReady assessment for the 2022-2023 school year. This universal screener is used to progress monitor students’ growth and address students’ individual needs. The data from this assessment platform provides an assessment suite that provides actionable data for Mathematics and Reading instruction. The assessment data provides students with a personalized instructional pathway. This personalized pathway supports students with meeting their growth goals.

The National Math & Science Initiative is a college readiness program offered to our students. This program is in its first year of implementation in Orangeburg County School District. The college readiness program provides access to students in rural communities. The benefits of the program are it provides a rigorous college prep curriculum, strengthens transcripts, enhances content knowledge, allows students to skip introductory college courses and allows them to compete nationally with other students during the college admissions process.
CURRICULUM & INSTRUCTION HIGHLIGHTS

Federal Programs
School Support

A Succeed in Federal Programs session was held with all schools and their bookkeepers to ensure all Federal funds are used to maximize the spending of federal dollars as well as capitalize on time and effort of staff whose salaries are funded by Title I. These sessions were held to also ensure we utilize spending power aligned to all Title I evidence-based strategies and activities for the purpose of accelerating student achievement.
The Curriculum and Instruction Department is also conducting learning walks at all schools in the district. The process began with the development of look for documents that align with our curricula. Principals and administrators participate in the learning walks and lead the debrief sessions. During the debrief sessions, we discuss the specific strategies that individual teachers can implement to improve. Overall strengths and opportunities for growth at the school level are provided. We also ask the principal what support is needed from the Curriculum and Instruction department. The goal of the department is that each school has a learning walk each semester. MTSS stands for Multi-Tiered System of Supports. MTSS is a framework used to provide targeted support to struggling students. The goal of MTSS is to intervene early so students can catch up with their peers. It screens all students and aims to address academic and behavior challenges.

Curriculum and Instruction is implementing various strategies in order to continue our continuous improvement journey. We have a new universal screener that was implemented this year. iReady was chosen by teachers and administrators because of its instructional focus. This program allows a teacher to diagnose student needs and provide strategies and tools to assist students. We also have data trackers for elementary, middle, and high school. Schools are asked to submit data trackers in November, February, and April.