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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Dr. Erica S. Taylor
Assistant Superintendent for Communications
and Business and Community Partnerships
erica.taylor@ocsdsc.org



**THE STORIES OF OCSD: SALUTING OUR UNSUNG HEROES ON
NATIONAL SCHOOL CUSTODIAN DAY**

ORANGEBURG, S.C. — October 2nd marks a significant day on our calendars at Orangeburg County School District – it's National School Custodian Day! Established in 1985, this day is dedicated to the unsung heroes who work diligently, ensuring our schools are clean, well-maintained, and safe spaces of learning.

This day provides a platform for expressing our sincere gratitude to the dedicated custodians of our schools, silently contributing to the educational experience by maintaining a conducive learning environment. Their relentless service ensures that every student, teacher, and staff member can thrive in a setting that is clean, orderly, and welcoming.

One such remarkable individual is Mr. Edward Felder, a beloved custodian at Marshall Elementary School, who has been a beacon of light and support in our district for over three years. Felder is a true embodiment of dedication and passion, going above and beyond the traditional duties of a custodian. For him, his role is "bigger than being a custodian". He views his work not merely as a job but as a mission to impact students positively, creating a relationship with them. His love for the students is noticable, and it's mutual; the students adore him, feeling his support and kindness every day.

A testament to Mr. Felder's profound impact is reflected in his relationship with a particular student who struggled with behavior in school. Mr. Felder embraced the challenge and took it upon himself to mentor and guide the student. His consistent support and inspiring words not only transformed the student's attitude but also ignited a newfound motivation within him. It is relationships like these that underscore the profound influence custodians have in shaping the lives of our students.

"Our custodians, like Mr. Felder, are the silent heroes of our learning community. Their hard work, dedication, and love for our students create an environment where every child can feel safe and focus on learning. Their unwavering commitment goes unnoticed most of the time, but today, we pause to acknowledge and appreciate them. Our schools wouldn't be the sanctuaries of learning they are without their contributions," said Dr. Shawn Foster, OCSD Superintendent.

Let us embrace this opportunity to shower our custodians with the appreciation they rightly deserve, expressing our deepest thanks for their countless hours of dedication. Their contributions extend far beyond the realms of maintenance, echoing the essence of our community spirit, and strengthening the bonds within our OCSD family.

As we celebrate National School Custodian Day, let us all extend our heartfelt gratitude and appreciation to Mr. Felder and all the hardworking custodians across our district. Your dedication is seen, your efforts are valued, and your impact is immeasurable. Today, we honor you – the true pillars of our schools.

Watch the view here: https://youtu.be/JwTMLi_-18I

Orangeburg County School District

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. Visit us online at ocsdsc.org

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