ORANGEBURG COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT
We Are One
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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ORANGEBURG COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT EDUCATORS NOMINATED FOR PRESTIGIOUS LIFECHANGER OF THE YEAR AWARD

ORANGEBURG, S.C. – Orangeburg County School District (OCSD) proudly announces that three of its educators have been nominated for the prestigious 2023-2024 LifeChanger of the Year program. This national program, sponsored by the National Life Group Foundation, celebrates K-12 educators who have made significant contributions to student lives through exemplary excellence, positive influence, and leadership.

The district's nominees are Mr. Johnnie Smith, Principal of Holly Hill Elementary School, Dr. Vickel Darby, Coordinator of Early Learning and Instructional Technology, and Mrs. Mary Stephens, a First Grade Teacher at Edisto Primary School. These dedicated professionals have been recognized for their commitment to educational excellence and profoundly impacting the lives of their students.

Mr. Johnnie Smith has been instrumental in creating an engaging and supportive learning environment at Holly Hill Elementary School. Under his leadership, the school has seen remarkable improvements in student engagement and academic achievement.

Dr. Vickel Darby has been a key figure in integrating technology into early learning curricula, enhancing the educational experience for our youngest learners. Her initiatives have significantly contributed to the development of a robust and forward-thinking educational framework within the District, including implementing the Waterford curriculum.

Mrs. Mary Stephens, with her innovative teaching methods and compassionate approach, has touched the lives of numerous first graders at Edisto Primary School. Her dedication to nurturing young minds has left an indelible mark on her students and colleagues. Notably, she is also the current OCSD Alternate Teacher of the Year.

The LifeChanger of the Year program begins in the Spring, offering each nominee a chance to be selected as one of the winners, potentially earning cash prizes of up to $10,000 for themselves and their respective schools or districts. The community, including colleagues, students, friends, and family, are encouraged to support these remarkable nominees by visiting their profiles on the LifeChanger of the Year website and leaving supportive comments.

Orangeburg County School District celebrates the exceptional achievements of Mr. Smith, Dr. Darby, and Ms. Stephens. Their nominations are a testament to the district's commitment to educational excellence and the impactful work of its educators. We wish them the best of luck in the selection process and are proud to have them as part of our community.

Please get involved and add to the nominations by leaving comments on their individual profiles. The selection committee will take these comments into consideration.

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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