ORANGEBURG COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT
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THE STORIES OF OCSD: NORTH MIDDLE HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC DIRECTOR ENSURES BRIGHT FUTURES FOR STUDENT-ATHLETES WITH NCAA CLEARING HOUSE REGISTRATION

ORANGEBURG, S.C. – In an extraordinary act of leadership, Mr. Keith Parks, Athletic Director at North Middle High School, recently utilized the school's lunch period to register the entire Varsity basketball team with the NCAA Clearing House Eligibility Center. This proactive step by Coach Parks has opened doors for these young men, making them eligible to receive scholarship funds and offers from Division 1, 2, and 3 universities.

The Orangeburg County School District prides itself on student development, nurturing both academic and extracurricular talents. Coach Parks' recent initiative aligns perfectly with this philosophy, demonstrating a commitment to prepare student-athletes for a prosperous future in sports and academics alike.

To fully appreciate this remarkable initiative, one must understand the personal journey of Coach Parks himself. A graduate of Carver High School in the class of 2000, Coach Parks was a standout student-athlete whose basketball skills led to a full Junior College Basketball Scholarship at

Parkland College in Champaign, IL. Following his time at Parkland, Coach Parks received a full Division 1 Basketball Scholarship to the University of North Dakota. These experiences placed him into the Parkland College Basketball Hall of Fame in June 2006 and into the Carver High School Basketball Hall of Fame in July 2023.

"When you're on the court, every play matters. But off the court, every decision, every opportunity, every mentor can change the trajectory of your life. I've been blessed to have those opportunities, and now I want to give back to the next generation," said Coach Keith Parks.

According to the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA), only about 2% of high school athletes are awarded athletic scholarships to compete in college. Coach Parks' proactive steps greatly increase the chances for these students to be among that percentage.

"You're not just coaching them for the season; you're coaching them for life," stated Coach Keith Parks. "This isn't just about basketball; it's about broadening their horizons and setting them up for academic and personal success," he continued.

This simple yet impactful act will extend far beyond the basketball court and the classrooms of North Middle High School. It sets a precedent and provides a model for how educators can go the extra mile to secure the futures of their students, integrating both their athletic and academic endeavors into a unified vision for success.

"Coach Parks' actions show what our educational mission is all about—creating pathways for our students to thrive in multiple aspects of their lives. The scholarship opportunities that may arise from this can significantly lessen the financial burden on families and open new doors for our students," said, Debra Norman, Principal of North Middle High School.

Inspired by Coach Parks' leadership, all coaches at North Middle High School will also register their respective teams with the Clearing House, widening the scope of this life-changing opportunity to student-athletes across various sports disciplines.

Watch the entire video here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EH94ghDPQz4

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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