ORANGEBURG COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT
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THE STORIES OF OCSD: BEHIND THE BADGE - A DEEP DIVE INTO THE PILLARS OF SAFETY AND GUIDANCE IN ORANGEBURG COUNTY SCHOOLS

ORANGEBURG, S.C. – For parents sending their children to school, safety is important. For students, seeing familiar, approachable figures in the hallways means the world. For the Orangeburg County School District (OCSD), ensuring both these elements come alive daily is where School Resource Officers (SROs) come into play. As these officers serve a majority of the schools, we turn our spotlight towards two exemplary figures whose stories are representative of the dedication of all SROs.

Sergeant Kendrick McCullum of the Orangeburg Sheriff Department is a seasoned officer with a journey that potrays commitment. Beginning his tenure in Orangeburg County at Robert E. Howard Middle School, McCullum has for the past eight years been a constant at Orangeburg-Wilkinson High School. Within these walls, he isn't just an officer but a mentor, guide, and friend to over 1,100 students. "I've had the privilege of seeing many students grow over the years, and it's heartwarming when they reach out after graduation. A few have even been inspired to walk the path of law enforcement, and it's an indescribable feeling knowing I played a small part in their journey," said Sergeant McCullum. Emphasizing the importance of visibility, McCullum believes that being available can make all the difference to a student in need. He adds, "Each day, I wear this badge not just as a symbol of law but as a testament to my purpose. It's incredible how often the students themselves are the anchors of my day."

On the other side of the district, Deputy Quentin Williams stands tall at Carver-Edisto Middle School. Representing the Orangeburg County Sheriff Department, his association with the school is personal and profound. A product of Carver-Edisto, Williams attended the school from kindergarten and graduated from Edisto High School in 2011. As an SRO for the past five years, his dual role as an alumnus and officer brings a unique perspective. "Our students are the torchbearers of the future," says Deputy Williams, "and I've been where they are. I understand their journey, and I am here, at school and in the community, to ensure they can be there very best." Williams has gone beyond his duty by initiating a student-involved security team and taking on the role of MUSC Health and Wellness Liaison.

"Our SROs, including Sergeant McCollum, Deputy Williams, and all others across our district, embody the dedication and commitment that goes beyond just ensuring safety. They play an integral role in shaping a nurturing and supportive environment. Their consistent presence and genuine care make a significant difference in our students' lives every day," said Dr. Shawn Foster, Superintendent of Orangeburg County School District.

Orangeburg County School District's commitment to its students' welfare is embodied in the stories of these two officers. Their tales aren't just about ensuring safety; they are about shaping futures, building trust, and making a difference one day at a time.

In exciting news for the district, the SC Department of Public Safety has recently awarded a grant to the school district. This grant will cover the complete expenses for SROs at two of the district's elementary schools, separate from the ones mentioned above. Funding for other SROs in the district stems from collaborative efforts between the school district and either the Orangeburg County Sheriff Office or the Orangeburg Department of Public Safety.

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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