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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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BROOKDALE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL ON TRACK TO BECOME FIRST GREEN STEPS-CERTIFIED SCHOOL IN ORANGEBURG COUNTY

ORANGEBURG, S.C. – Brookdale Elementary School is preparing to make history as it is on track to become the first Green Steps-certified school in Orangeburg County. The school has recently received two awards through the Green Steps program, sponsored by the Environmental Education Association of South Carolina, in recognition of its innovative environmental projects.

The ambitious students of Brookdale Elementary School have been hard at work, collecting and recycling ink cartridges from the school's inkjet printers. Their efforts didn't stop there; they also launched a community garden which has now become a collaborative effort involving the entire school.

"We are incredibly proud of our students and staff for their diligent efforts and commitment to the environment. We want to inspire our students to understand the importance of protecting the air, soil, and water. It's not just about preserving our environment for future generations; it's about teaching them the value of stewardship, responsibility, and community engagement," said Principal Latonya Nelson.

Upon receiving Green Steps certification, Brookdale Elementary School will be the first in Orangeburg County to attain this achievement and will be mentored by the Orangeburg Soil and Water Conservation District.

"This is not the end, but just the beginning. We have plans to further extend our environmental initiatives. Our next project will involve substituting chemical-based cleaning supplies with a more eco-friendly alternative—orange peels. Our aim is to become Green Steps-certified in time for the upcoming school year," added Nelson.

The school is setting a remarkable example and encouraging students to take an active role in sustainability and environmental stewardship. As the Brookdale Elementary School community

moves forward, they do so with an unwavering commitment to protecting the planet and fostering a greener future.

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](https://www.ocsdsc.org)

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