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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Orangeburg County Community of Character recently held their 21st Annual Fifth Grade Outstanding Character Recognition Program

ORANGEBURG, S.C. – Orangeburg County Community of Character recently held its 21st Annual Fifth Grade Outstanding Character Recognition Program. The program brings together fifth graders across Orangeburg County to recognize them for exemplifying outstanding character. Each school selects an honoree who embodies excellence in character and has also written an essay on what character trait they feel is most important. Participating schools include Orangeburg County School District elementary schools, Felton Laboratory Charter School, and Orangeburg Preparatory Schools.

The keynote speaker was Gabby Goodwin of Columbia, SC, who founded the first patented and non-slip double-face double-snap barrette. A business owner at seven years old, Gabby has been selling barrettes through her online store and has filled orders across the US and in thirteen countries. At 15, Gabby expanded the company by launching her plant-based haircare products and opening a salon for girls, "The Confidence Salon." The company has grown into a global brand with Confidence products carried in retail and beauty supply stores in the US, Canada, and South Africa.

"I want to help young girls feel inspired to follow their dreams and achieve their goals confidently," says Gabby. Under the Confidence brand, Gabby has started a mentorship program, teaching young girls how to be entrepreneurs. As a result, more than 50 girls and their mothers have enrolled in mentoring and have started their own businesses.

"Opportunities for our students to express positive attributes about themselves, and be honored for their gifts, make me proud to serve them as Orangeburg County School District's Superintendent," said Dr. Shawn Foster. "In OCSD, we are instilling in them that their potential is limitless and that a positive character will help them achieve those successes," he continued.

2023 OCSD Character Winners

Bethune-Bowman Elementary	Dilyn Berry (Self-Discipline)
Brookdale Elementary	Kailynn Stokes (Respect)
Dover Elementary	Jenny Wang (Gratitude)
Edisto Elementary	Temperance Dalton (Trustworthy)
Whittaker Elementary	Xavier McGraw (Respect)
Holly Hill Elementary	Faith Young (Faith)
Hunter-Kinard-Tyler Elementary	Jayden Clarke (Trust)
Lockett Elementary	Aiden Hughes (Optimism)
Marshall Elementary	Rashaun Davis (Courage)
Mellichamp Elementary	Zi'yhana Gaines (Respect)
Sheridan Elementary	Kruz Gordon (Determination)
St. James-Gaillard Elementary	Ava Ferguson (Respect)
Vance-Providence Elementary School	Maximilliano Castillo (Creativity)
Elloree Elementary	Roberta Hart (Respect)

Orangeburg County Community of Character

Orangeburg County Community of Character is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to improving our community by promoting excellence in character. The Community of Character initiative began in 2000 and was designed to work with all entities within the County to develop ways of strengthening character. Orangeburg County Community of Character works with all segments in the community including businesses, civic organizations, faith-based organizations, schools, government, social services and health services, law enforcement, the Chamber of Commerce, other groups, and the media. To learn more about Orangeburg County Community of Character, opportunities to work together, and volunteer opportunities, please visit www.orangeburgcharacter.org and follow via social media.

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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