ORANGEBURG COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT
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Thursday, October 17, 2024

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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STEAM School of Excellence

HOLLY HILL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL SELECTED AS PALMETTO STATE ARTS EDUCATION 2024 STEAM SCHOOL OF EXCELLENCE

ORANGEBURG, S.C. – Holly Hill Elementary School has been named the 2024 STEAM School of Excellence by the Palmetto State Arts Education (PSAE). This prestigious award recognizes the school's dedication to arts integration and its success in utilizing partnerships and resources to implement a true STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics) curriculum.

Holly Hill Elementary's commitment to providing a comprehensive STEAM program aligns with the South Carolina Department of Education's STEAM Implementation Continuum, setting the school apart as a leader in promoting collaboration across multiple disciplines. The school's efforts in integrating the arts within its STEAM programs have not only enhanced student learning but also created innovative educational opportunities through cross-disciplinary partnerships.

The Bulldog STEAM Academy at Holly Hill Elementary is one of Orangeburg County School District's elementary magnet academies, serving as a model for innovative STEAM education. The program targets a cluster of 3rd-5th grade students, offering a STEM-based curriculum that complements their core content classes. Students not only engage in traditional core subjects but also participate in additional STEAM classes embedded in their schedules. This year, students created, explored, and experienced science, technology, engineering, art, and math through a variety of hands-on activities.

"We are proud to see Holly Hill Elementary recognized for their commitment to STEAM education," said Dr. Bernard E. Frost, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction. "This award speaks to the school's vision and its effective collaboration in bringing the arts to the forefront of student learning."

The academy utilizes Project Lead the Way's (PLTW) curriculum, which ties the updated South Carolina Science standards to real-world, hands-on learning opportunities. Through PLTW Launch, students become hands-on problem solvers and collaborate with their peers. Each module begins with an engaging story that introduces a challenge for students to solve together. For example, 3rd graders explored the Life Cycle and Survival unit, 4th graders delved into Weather: Factors and Hazards, and 5th graders tackled Robotics and Automation. These units are enriched with field experiences, such as visits to BeeCity, EdVenture, and the Governor's School for Science and Mathematics in Hartsville, SC.

"Receiving the STEAM School of Excellence award is a true reflection of our collective efforts to enrich our students' education through arts integration," said Johnnie Smith, Principal of Holly Hill Elementary. "We are excited to continue creating meaningful learning experiences that connect science, technology, engineering, arts, and mathematics."

Holly Hill Elementary will be honored at the PSAE Annual Arts Integration Conference Awards Luncheon on Tuesday, October 22, 2024, at the Lowcountry Conference Center in Summerville, SC.

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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