ORANGEBURG COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT
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ORANGEBURG COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT CROWNS SPELLING BEE CHAMPION

Orangeburg, SC – The Orangeburg County School District (OCSD) proudly hosted its second annual District Spelling Bee at Orangeburg-Calhoun Technical College (OC Tech), showcasing the spelling talents of 23 contestants from grades three through eight. After multiple rounds of intense competition, eighth-grader Dashon Hannon from Robert E. Howard Middle School emerged as the champion by correctly spelling the winning word, "**M-A-R-T-Y-R**."

Allie Fanning, an eighth-grade student from Branchville, secured second place, while Thomas Kent, a fifth-grader from Holly Hill Elementary School, earned third-place honors. The competition was presided over by lead judge Shea C. Patrick, who ensured a fair and challenging contest for all participants.

Dr. Bernard E. Frost, assistant superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction, emphasized the significance of the event by sharing, "the Spelling Bee is a key component of our strategic academic enrichment efforts at OCSD. It not only builds students' vocabulary and comprehension skills but also enhances their confidence and ability to perform under pressure. Our team is deeply committed to ensuring the success of this event because we recognize its impact on literacy and academic achievement across the district, said Dr. Frost."

The OCSD Spelling Bee was made possible through the generous sponsorship of the City of Orangeburg, Empire Beauty, and Farmers Home Furniture. Their support helped provide an enriching experience for students and their families, fostering a love for language and academic excellence.

"The Spelling Bee is an incredible opportunity for our students to showcase their hard work, dedication, and passion for learning," said Dr. Shawn D. Foster, OCSD Superintendent. "We are proud of all our participants and extend our heartfelt congratulations to Dashon, Allie, and Thomas for their outstanding performances, he continued."

OCSD remains committed to providing academic and extracurricular opportunities that challenge and inspire students. The district looks forward to continuing this tradition in future years and encouraging even more students to participate in the Spelling Bee.

Dr. Teresa Jennings, Director of Elementary and the lead coordinator for the Spelling Bee, highlighted the dedication of students and staff in making the event a success: "It is truly inspiring to see our students rise to the challenge and demonstrate their commitment to learning. The Spelling Bee is not just a competition—it is an opportunity to foster a love for words and lifelong learning. I am incredibly proud of our participants, and I appreciate the efforts of our educators and families in supporting them."

For more information about the OCSD Spelling Bee and other student events, please contact Dr. Erica S. Taylor, Assistant Superintendent for Communications and Business and Community Partnerships, at erica.taylor@ocsdsc.org or 839-356-4040.

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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