ORANGEBURG COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE **Friday, April 4, 2025**

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Orangeburg County Middle School Honor Band Earns Top Distinction at State Performance Assessment

Orangeburg, S.C. – The Orangeburg County School District is proud to celebrate the incredible achievement of the Middle School Honor Band, which received the highest possible rating—Superior with Distinction—at the South Carolina Band Directors Association (SCBDA) Concert Performance Assessment, held on April 3, 2025.

Demonstrating outstanding musical excellence, these talented young performers earned straight "Superior" ratings in both stage performance and sight-reading, marking a milestone that reflects not only their exceptional skill but also their unwavering dedication and hard work.

The journey to success began with competitive auditions held at Bethune-Bowman Middle High School, followed by an intensive two-day clinic at Claflin University, where students refined their craft under expert guidance. Their accomplishments underscore the importance of the arts in education and the power of perseverance, teamwork, and community support.

"We are incredibly proud of our Middle School Honor Band students for their outstanding performance," said Dr. Shawn D. Foster, superintendent of Orangeburg County School District. "Their success is a shining example of what happens when talent, discipline, and opportunity come together. This achievement not only highlights the strength of our fine arts programs but also

reaffirms our commitment to providing students with enriching, high-quality educational experiences, he shared."

Music education plays a critical role in developing students' creativity, discipline, and emotional intelligence. Studies consistently show that students involved in music perform better academically, build stronger social connections, and demonstrate enhanced problem-solving and critical-thinking skills. The success of the Middle School Honor Band is a powerful reminder that investing in the arts is an investment in the whole child.

This achievement would not have been possible without the commitment and expertise of the following directors:

- Mr. James Stroman
- Mr. Herman Marsh
- Ms. Kendrea Hodges
- Mrs. Brittany Jones
- Mr. Charles Outen
- Mr. John Moorer, II

Their passion and leadership played a pivotal role in guiding these students toward excellence.

Orangeburg County School District extends its heartfelt congratulations to the Middle School Honor Band and its supporters. This victory is not only theirs—it is a shared celebration for our entire community.

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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