ORANGEBURG COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT
We Are One
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Orangeburg County School District Kicks Off High School Football Season This Friday Night

Orangeburg, S.C. – The lights will shine bright across Orangeburg County this Friday evening as the Orangeburg County School District (OCSD) officially kicks off the 2025 high school football season. Friday night lights are back, and with it comes the excitement, pride, and community spirit that sports have long brought to thie county.

High school athletics have always played a central role in Orangeburg County, bringing together families, alumni, and neighbors under the same lights to cheer on their teams. The season represents more than competition, it embodies the legacy of excellence, unity, and resilience that defines this community. A tradition rooted in the rich history of Orangeburg County comes alive on Friday nights, as storefronts close their doors early so employees can make kickoff, families gather around smoking grills with the smell of barbecue and hot fish in the air, and long lines form at the gates for entry. It's when alumni return home to reconnect with classmates, share stories, and cheer alongside the next generation.

By the time the band takes the field, the stands are already filled with fans dressed head-to-toe in school colors, waiting for that first whistle to blow.

"Orangeburg County School District Football is one of the four ways our district gives scholar-athletes a platform to share their sportsmanship and athletic prowess," said OCSD Athletic Director Hayward Jean. "Sports is a great way to bring the community together for students. I look forward to seeing the community come out in the spirit of unity to cheer on all our teams!"

OCSD Superintendent Dr. Shawn D. Foster echoed that excitement, emphasizing the impact athletics have on shaping students: *"*Football season is about more than wins and losses, it's about teaching our young people to strive for excellence in every area of life. We're proud of the champions they already are, and we can't wait to see them shine this season*."*

Today, each of OCSD's high schools will take the field, ready to represent their schools and communities with pride:

- **Bethune-Bowman High School** @ Hardeeville High School — *Away, 7:00 PM*
- **Branchville High School** @ Whitmire High School — *Away, 7:30 PM*
- **Edisto High School** vs. Bamberg-Ehrhardt — *Home, 7:30 PM*
- **Hunter-Kinard-Tyler High School** @ Allendale-Fairfax High School — *Away, 7:30 PM*
- **Lake Marion High School** @ Marlboro County High School — *Away, 7:00 PM*
- **Orangeburg-Wilkinson High School** vs. Anderson Cavaliers — *Home, 7:30 PM*

As Orangeburg County looks forward to an exciting football season, the district emphasizes that the "student" comes before "athlete", supporting students throughout their high school careers. Some will continue their athletic journeys beyond high school, while others will pursue college academics or enter the workforce. Friday nights bring families, alumni, and community members together to celebrate students' achievements and cheer on their teams, showcasing the pride, dedication, and spirit that define Orangeburg County schools.

For additional information, please contact Taylor R. Johnson, Communications and Multi-Media Specialist, at taylor.johnson@ocsdsc.org or 839-253-2070.

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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