



102 Founders Court • Orangeburg, SC 29118 Phone:
(803) 534-5454

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Contact: Dr. Erica S. Taylor
Assistant Superintendent for Communications and
Business and Community Partnerships
erica.taylor@ocsdsc.org

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Orangeburg County School District Showcases Student Creativity Through “Veiled in Tradition” Art Gallery

ORANGEBURG, S.C. — The Orangeburg County School District (OCS D) proudly hosted its Student Art Gallery, “Veiled in Tradition,” on April 16, 2026, at the OCS D District Office, 102 Founders Court, celebrating the creativity and artistic talent of students across the district.

The gallery featured a vibrant collection of student artwork inspired by cultural masks from around the world, offering attendees a visual journey through global traditions and artistic expression. Each piece reflected students’ exploration of identity, heritage, and storytelling through the lens of art.

Families, community members, and district leaders gathered to experience the exhibit, engaging with students and viewing the diverse interpretations of cultural symbolism. The event highlighted the importance of arts education as a critical component of student development and global awareness.

“This gallery represents more than just student artwork, it reflects the voices, perspectives, and creativity of our students,” said Superintendent Dr. Shawn D. Foster. “Through experiences like this, we are ensuring that every student has the opportunity to discover their person, purpose, and platform while gaining a deeper appreciation for cultures around the world.”

Johnnie Smith, OCSD Coordinator of Arts, emphasized the deeper impact of the experience. "Our goal is to expose students to the richness of cultures across the globe while allowing them to express their own stories through art," said Smith. "When students engage in this level of creative exploration, they are not only building artistic skills, but they are also developing confidence, cultural awareness, and a stronger sense of identity."

For students, the gallery provided a meaningful opportunity to connect their creativity with culture. "Creating my mask helped me learn about a culture I didn't know much about before, and it made me proud to share my work with my family and community," said one participating OCSD student.

The "Veiled in Tradition" gallery aligns with OCSD's commitment to the four A's: arts, athletics, academics, and activities, demonstrating how the arts serve as a powerful vehicle for student engagement, expression, and learning.

Students who participated in the gallery not only showcased their artistic skills but also engaged in meaningful learning experiences that connected classroom instruction to real-world cultural exploration. The exhibit also provided an opportunity for families to celebrate student achievement and for the community to witness the impact of arts education firsthand.

The event is part of OCSD's ongoing efforts to elevate student voice, highlight achievement, and create opportunities for students to shine beyond the classroom.

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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