

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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

Tuesday, April 21, 2026



Orangeburg County School District Scholars Excel at State Odyssey of the Mind Competition

ORANGEBURG, S.C. — The Orangeburg County School District (OCSD) proudly celebrates the exceptional accomplishments of its students at the South Carolina Odyssey of the Mind State Competition, held on March 28, 2026. Demonstrating innovation, collaboration, and academic excellence, OCSD students earned top honors while representing the district with distinction on a statewide stage.

Odyssey of the Mind, an internationally recognized program, challenges students to apply creativity, critical thinking, and teamwork to solve complex problems across disciplines such as engineering, performance, and design. Through both long-term and spontaneous problem-solving challenges, students develop essential skills that prepare them for success in school and beyond.

OCSD students achieved the following results:

- Carver-Edisto Middle School – 1st Place, Division II
- William J. Clark Middle School – 2nd Place, Division II
- Dover Elementary School – 2nd Place, Division I

"These remarkable achievements reflect the power of creativity, collaboration, and student ownership of learning," said Superintendent Dr. Shawn D. Foster. "Our students continue to demonstrate that when given opportunities to think critically and innovate, they rise to the occasion and excel. We are incredibly proud of how they represented Orangeburg County School District on this competitive stage."

Dr. Bernard E. Frost, assistant superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction added, "The success of our students in Odyssey of the Mind is a powerful reflection of what happens when rigorous academics intersect with creativity and innovation. These experiences not only enhance problem-solving skills but also build confidence and leadership capacity in our students, preparing them to compete and succeed on a global stage."

The competition required months of preparation for long-term challenges, where students designed and presented original solutions incorporating technical elements, artistic expression, and engineering concepts. In addition, students participated in spontaneous challenges that tested their ability to think quickly, adapt, and collaborate in real time.

OCSD's success is also a testament to the dedication and leadership of its coaches, Tamu Nilampti and Dr. Amanda Steinmetz, Gifted and Talented itinerant teachers, who guided and supported students throughout the competition process.

As a result of their outstanding performances, all three teams have advanced to the Odyssey of the Mind World Finals, which will take place May 27–30, 2026, in Ames, Iowa. There, they will compete alongside top teams from across the United States and around the world.

"This achievement is a powerful example of what is possible when we invest in opportunities that nurture creativity and critical thinking," Dr. Foster added. "Our students are not only competing, they are discovering their person, purpose, and platform while representing OCSD on a global stage."

OCSD extends its sincere congratulations to all participating students, coaches, and families for their commitment and excellence, and wishes them continued success at the World Finals.

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

###