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OCSD Student Hanika Faith DeGracia Named Winner of 2026 Sixth Congressional District Art Competition

Award-Winning Artist to Represent District in Washington, D.C.; Artwork to Be Displayed in the U.S. Capitol Complex

ORANGEBURG, SC – The Orangeburg County School District (OCSD) proudly announces that Hanika Faith DeGracia has been named the winner of the 2026 Sixth Congressional District Art Competition for the Office of James E. Clyburn.

As the top honoree, Hanika will travel to Washington, D.C. this June, where her artwork will be displayed for one year in the Cannon House Office Building Tunnel, an esteemed corridor connecting the U.S. House Office Buildings to the United States Capitol. This national recognition places her work among the most talented young artists across the country.

Hanika's latest achievement builds upon a growing list of artistic accomplishments. She was previously named the Orangeburg County School District's 2025 Holiday Card Showcase Winner for the second consecutive year, with her artwork selected to represent the district on its official holiday cards. Her creative journey began at a young age and was further cultivated after relocating from the Philippines to the United States, where she discovered expanded opportunities to develop her talent.

Her passion for art deepened during her time at William J. Clark Middle School under the mentorship of art educator Malissa Wright, who helped nurture her creativity and refine her artistic voice. Now a ninth-grade student at Orangeburg-Wilkinson High School, Hanika continues to grow as an artist, with aspirations to pursue art at the collegiate level.

"This is an extraordinary accomplishment for Hanika and a proud moment for Orangeburg County School District," said Superintendent Dr. Shawn D. Foster. "She represents the very best of our students, creative, disciplined, and full of promise. Her success reflects not only her talent, but also the impact of educators who help students discover and develop their person, purpose, and platform. We are incredibly proud to see her recognized on a national stage, he shared."

The Congressional Art Competition is a nationwide initiative that celebrates high school artists from across the United States. Each year, Members of Congress select one winning piece from their district to be displayed in the U.S. Capitol complex, offering students an unparalleled platform for recognition.

"Winning this competition means so much to me because art has always been a way for me to imagine and express things I haven't experienced yet," shared Hanika. "When I created my piece, I thought about new opportunities, new places, and what it feels like to dream beyond what you can see. I'm grateful for my teachers and my family for encouraging me to keep going, and I'm excited to represent my school and community in Washington, D.C., she continued."

OCSA Fine Arts Coordinator Johnnie Smith added, "Each year, our students continue to raise the bar with their creativity. Hanika's work reflects both technical excellence and imagination, and we are thrilled to see her talent recognized at this level, Smith said."

The Orangeburg County School District extends its heartfelt congratulations to Hanika Faith DeGracia, her family, and her teachers for this remarkable accomplishment. Her success serves as an inspiration to students across the district and a testament to the transformative power of the arts.

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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