

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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A Day of Firsts, Lasts and New Beginnings Across Orangeburg County School District

Orangeburg, SC – Hallways once quiet throughout the summer quickly came alive Monday morning as thousands of students filled Orangeburg County School District (OCSD) campuses for the first day of the 2026-2027 school year. From tearful hugs at kindergarten drop-off to proud smiles beneath senior crowns and customized pants and T-shirts, the day marked far more than the start of another school year, it marked the beginning of new chapters. To ensure every campus felt the support of district leadership, OCSD's assistant superintendents spread out across the district, visiting schools throughout the day to personally greet students and employees while celebrating the beginning of another year dedicated to helping every child find their person, purpose and platform.

Yesterday's eighth graders confidently walked through high school doors as freshmen, taking their first steps toward graduation and the future they are beginning to build. Fifth graders traded elementary hallways for middle school campuses, embracing new classrooms, new teachers and greater independence. Our youngest learners, once tiny pre-K students learning their ABCs and making new friends, proudly entered kindergarten ready to begin the next stage of their educational journey. But, for many students, however, this first day carries even greater significance.

Every first day is more than a date on the calendar. It is a reminder that time moves quickly, childhood changes with every passing school year, and every hallway walked today is preparing students for the next one they'll enter tomorrow. This year, Orangeburg County School District remains committed to helping every student discover not only academic success, but who they are called to become, all with higher intentionality, integrity and impact.

"Our mission extends beyond the classroom," said Superintendent Dr. Shawn D. Foster. "Every child deserves the opportunity to find their person, discover their purpose and build their platform. Whether they're entering Pre-K or beginning their senior year, we want every student to know they are seen, they are valued and they have unlimited potential." That vision was evident throughout every campus as teachers welcomed students with high-fives, encouraging words and decorated classrooms designed to inspire confidence from day one. Parents captured milestone photos on front porches and school sidewalks, preserving memories they know will one day become treasured keepsakes.

Backpacks will grow heavier with assignments and calendars will soon fill with athletic events, student performances, field trips and exams, the first day remains a moment unlike any other, a fresh beginning filled with hope, possibility and promise. As another school year officially begins, Orangeburg County School District looks forward to empowering every learner, celebrating every milestone and ensuring each student discovers their person, purpose and platform along the way.

Welcome back, OCSD. Here's to a year of learning, leadership and limitless possibilities.

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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