ORANGEBURG COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT
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Dr. Irene Myers

Orangeburg County School District Awards More Than $24K in Innovative Teaching Grants

ORANGEBURG, S.C. — Orangeburg County School District (OCSD) has announced more than $24,000 in grant funding through the 2026 Dr. Irene H. Myers Education Grant Program, supporting innovative classroom projects designed to strengthen academic achievement, encourage creativity, and provide meaningful, hands-on learning opportunities for students throughout the district. The Dr. Irene H. Myers Education Grant honors Dr. Myers' 46 years of dedicated service to public education. Supported by the Orangeburg County School District Education Foundation, the initiative empowers teachers to bring innovative ideas to life while expanding educational opportunities beyond traditional classroom resources.

This year's program received 54 applications, including 39 from elementary schools and 15 from middle and high schools. Of those submissions, 52 were evaluated, with each eligible application independently reviewed by three individuals. Following the review process, 48

applications were identified for funding, including several approved with revisions. The approved requests total $24,402.26**,** with $18,053.10 designated for elementary schools and $6,349.16 for middle and high schools.

The projects encompass literacy, STEM education, mathematics, creative arts, student leadership, digital storytelling, cultural awareness, and career exploration. From student-produced podcasts and hands-on engineering activities to innovative reading initiatives and interactive learning environments, the grants reflect OCSD educators' commitment to creating engaging experiences that inspire students to discover their potential.The 2026 grant review process was supported by Judy Harrold, Georgia Montgomery, Gloria Kirkland, Merriell Smith, Beverly Jamison, Janie Dease, Linda Payne, and Belinda Johnson, who helped evaluate the submitted proposals.

2026 Dr. Irene H. Myers Education Grant Recipients

Elementary Schools

- **Patricia Young-Williams**, Mellichamp Elementary – *Every Child Every Opportunity*
- **Maya Webb**, Mellichamp Elementary – *Operation Read and Write*
- **Janice Samuels**, Mellichamp Elementary – *Aiming for Impact Math*
- **Audrey Bonnette**, Mellichamp Elementary – *GIRL: Glamorous, Innovative, Resilient Leaders*
- **Kimberly Jennings**, Marshall Elementary – *Sugar, Spice & STEM: Building Gingerbread Dreams*
- **Kinyatta Seward**, Mellichamp Elementary – *Melli-champions Lil Chefs' Aiming for Impact*
- **Jacqueline Sanders**, Marshall Elementary – *Voices from the Hive: A Student Podcast & Digital Storytelling*
- **Phinnola Rookwood-Edwards**, Mellichamp Elementary – *Lady CHAMPS Young Leaders Club*
- **Lindsey Goodwin**, Marshall Elementary – *Ready, Set, Read: Tools for Reading Success*
- **Jacqueline Shafer**, Marshall Elementary – *Building Better Writers Through Mentor Texts*
- **Kemyriah Haynes**, Mellichamp Elementary – *Bulldog Bucks Reward System*
- **Ashley Thurman**, Marshall Elementary – *Hive of Math Minds*
- **Esther Danquah**, Mellichamp Elementary – *Leader Up! Team Building for Student Success*
- **Veronica Lawrence**, Sheridan Elementary – *Discovering Our World: Social Studies Weekly Readers*
- **Lacole Raysor**, Mellichamp Elementary – *Building Strong Foundations Through Reading & Math Innovation*
- **D'Majah Gaters**, Sheridan Elementary – *Math in Action: Small Group Big Gains*
- **Delorise Smith**, Mellichamp Elementary – *Positive Behavior Incentive Store*
- **Lara Reyes**, Sheridan Elementary – *Where Touch Becomes Language*
- **Sophia Smith**, Sheridan Elementary – *Level Up in Math*

- **Sharon Boatwright**, Sheridan Elementary – *Library Up, With 3D Printing!*
- **Tiffany Sanders**, Brookdale Elementary – *Read It, Measure It, Make It!*
- **Jeanetta Williams**, Brookdale Elementary – *It Begins With Me: Empowering Students to Lead*
- **Michelle Frazer**, Brookdale Elementary – *Grow Your Claim*
- **Heather Haughton**, Elloree Elementary – *Growing Readers: A Butterfly Garden Literacy Project*
- **Beverly Parler-Rice,** Elloree Elementary – *Melodies, Melodies*
- **Mary Fogle**, Elloree Elementary – *A Traveling Museum Through Art Timelines*
- **Tameice Vassell**, Elloree Elementary – *Together We Grow: Growing Our Garden, Growing Our Future*
- **Lillie Dunning**, Lockett Elementary – *Recycle-Reuse-Reimagine: Cardboard Sculptures*
- **Jennifer Moorer**, Edisto Primary – *Nifty Non-Fiction*
- **Sharetha Dorch**, Edisto Primary – *Cub Scientists: Where Wonder Becomes Discovery*
- **Shannon Williams**, Edisto Primary – *Environmental Print: Learning the Words Around Us*
- **Sherine Valentine-Kerr**, Edisto Elementary – *Math in Motion... Write, Solve, Show, & Grow*
- **Yolanda Felder**, Edisto Elementary – *Project Oasis: The Living Ag Lab from Fin to Flora*
- **Tanisha Thomas-Ormsby**, Edisto Elementary – *Fluency Quest: Level Up Your Math!*
- **Delorise Childs**, HKT Elementary – *Putting the Pieces Together in Math*
- **Tawana Howell**, HKT Elementary – *The Divide to Multiply: A 50/50 Model for Math Success*
- **Tenesha Kerr**, East Lake Elementary – *Creating to Learn: Transforming Curriculum*
- **Maxine Rice**, Dover Elementary – *Hands-On Math, Minds-On Learning*
- **Kristina Kittrell,** Brookdale Elementary – *Reading A-Z*

Middle and High Schools

- **Tommy Brown**, Edisto High School – *Beyond the Game*
- **Tunisha Summers**, Edisto High School – *The Beauty of Her Heritage: A Multicultural Portrait & Storytelling*
- **Derrick James,** Bethune Bowman High School – *Not Just Another TV but Another Monitor*
- **Mihaela Span**, Branchville High School – *Math in Motion: Rolling Whiteboards for Collaborative Problem Solving*
- **Annette Grimes**, Orangeburg-Wilkinson High School – *Improving English 2 EOCE Achievement*
- **Bailey McAlhany**, Branchville High School – *Move, Measure, and Mindfulness*
- **Tracey Scoville**, Orangeburg Technology Center – *Safe Steps for a Neighbor in Need*
- **Michael Horoski**, Branchville High School – *Visible Data-Driven Instruction from PLC Analysis to Instruction*
- **Colton Scoville**, Orangeburg Technology Center – *Engineering Design Through 3D Printing*

- **Crystal Myers-Sullivan**, Lake Marion Technology Center – *Lake Marion Technology Community Reality Bank*
- **Peggy Moore**, Carver-Edisto Middle School – *The Cougar Smoothie Shop*
- **Latasha Smart**, HKT Middle School – *Future Teacher Academy*
- **Malissa Wright**, W.J. Clark Middle School – *The STEM of Agamograph*
- **Robert Nickell Bligen IV**, HKT Middle/High School – *The Story Studio: Write, Perform, Publish*
- **Joan Farlow,** W.J. Clark Middle School – *iPad Buddy*

These grants reflect OCSD's continued dedication to nurturing teacher creativity and student engagement through meaningful, project-based learning experiences. By investing in innovative instructional ideas, the district and its Education Foundation are helping educators create opportunities that strengthen student achievement and inspire lifelong learning.

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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