



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE | THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2019**

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## **PUTNAM COUNTY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL STUDENTS LEARN TO LINK GOLF SKILLS WITH LIFE LESSONS**



PICTURED: Putnam County School Administrators, Elementary School Principals & Physical Education Teachers along with the sponsors who participated in the Adopt-A-School Program that provided funding for The First Tee National School Program.

(Teays Valley, WV) – Starting this fall students at all (14) elementary schools in Putnam County will be introduced to the basic skills of golf along with character development and healthy habits in their physical education program. It will be taught by physical educators using safe, fun lesson plans provided in The First Tee National School Program curriculum. The health activities were recently added for students to learn about physical, social and emotional wellness.

The program is being funded with the monies raised thru several fundraisers and campaigns which took place in April 2019. One campaign was an “Adopt-a-School” initiative where community members and businesses could donate and cover costs for a school of their choice. Those who participated in this specific initiative are listed below:

- Buffalo Elementary School - LOC Investment Advisers
- Conner Street Elementary - Farmers Bank & Savings Company
- Eastbrook Elementary - Mr. and Mrs. Ryan & Melissa Stewart and Mr. and Mrs. Harold & Phyllis Payne
- George Washington Elementary - Big Sandy Superstore
- Hurricane Town Elementary - Mr. Edward Harless
- Lakeside Elementary - Blizz Biz - Dairy Queen (Rt. 60 Hurricane)
- Mountain View Elementary - WoodmenLife
- Poca Elementary - Appalachian Power
- Scott Teays Elementary - Calvin Broyles Jeweler & Henderson Insurance
- West Teays Elementary - Creative Pediatric Dentistry & Crout & O’Dell Orthodontics
- Winfield Elementary - Generations PT, SNAP Fitness, Fusion Heating & Cooling, General Hardware & Lumber, Tarr Family Businesses

Nationwide, more than 10,000 schools in 1,400 school districts have been introduced to The First Tee National School Program. There are currently a total of 27 counties and 133 schools offering the program in West Virginia.

“The benevolent and spirit minded folks of Putnam County have financially made this possible” said Brad Ullman, Executive Director of the West Virginia Golf Association. “Additionally, we sincerely appreciate Superintendent Hudson’s support of this initiative in addition to all of the principals and physical education teachers who will execute the programming in their classes.”

Launched in 2004, The First Tee National School Program helps students develop an appreciation for the positive personal and social values associated with golf. Students engage in safe, fun lesson activities that lead to motor skill development all while gaining an introduction to a lifelong recreation and health-enhancing activity.

“We are incredibly excited to welcome and introduce Putnam County’s 4,600+ elementary aged students to The First Tee of West Virginia.” added Ullman. “Through The First Tee of West Virginia, we are positively impacting our youth with the Nine Core Values and Nine Healthy Habits in addition to growing interest in the game of golf.”

The curriculum was developed by The First Tee along with leading experts in physical education and positive youth development. It is aligned with and meets national standards developed by the Society of Health and Physical Educators (SHAPE). Physical educators delivering the program are formally trained and certified by The First Tee and use safe, developmentally-appropriate lesson plans and equipment in their classes.

The lesson plans include The First Tee Nine Healthy Habits, which were developed in partnership with the ANNIKA Foundation and Florida Hospital for Children.

According to a survey among 860 physical educators using The First Tee National School Program curriculum, 66 percent reported using The First Tee Nine Core Values—character education seamlessly delivered as part of the program—in other sports and activities they teach beyond golf. A third-party case study conducted in one Midwestern school district in 2011 further validated the program where administrators and physical educators reported finding great value in the program.

For more information about The First Tee National School Program, visit [www.thefirsttee.org](http://www.thefirsttee.org) or about The First Tee of West Virginia, visit [www.thefirstteewestvirginia.org](http://www.thefirstteewestvirginia.org).

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**ABOUT THE FIRST TEE OF WEST VIRGINIA:** The First Tee of West Virginia is a state-wide youth development organization operated by the West Virginia Golf Association, focused on introducing the game of golf and its inherent values to young people. On golf courses, in elementary schools and on military installations, The First Tee has helped shape the lives of young people from all walks of life by teaching values like integrity, respect and perseverance. Our mission, supported in part by Smith Land Surveying Inc., Little General Stores and Tri-State Roofing & Sheet Metal Company is to impact the lives of young people by providing educational programs that build character, instill life-enhancing values and promote healthy choices through the game of golf. Through our programs young people discover how skills essential to success on a golf course can also help them flourish in life.