



The First Tee of Western New York to introduce The First Tee National School Program to the Niagara Falls City School District

Niagara Falls, New York (February 6, 2019) – The First Tee of Western New York, a nonprofit whose mission is to teach children core values, wellness and life skills through the game of golf, announces the addition of the Niagara Falls City Schools District in its National School Program (NSP) beginning in 2019.

Since 1999, the The First Tee of Western New York has been providing educational programs that build character. The First Tee enables students to develop skills including sportsmanship, respect and confidence while learning the game of golf. Programs take place onsite at schools as well as seven green grass facilities including Brighton Golf Course/Paddock Golf Dome, Elma Meadows, Glen Oak, Grover Cleveland, Harvest Hill, Spruce Ridge, and Niagara County.

The First Tee of Western New York will now serve close to 13,000 youth through its National School Program. Current school districts already represented in the program include: Amherst Central Schools, Holland Central Schools, Ken-Ton School District, Lockport City Schools, DeSales, Tapestry Charter and Niagara Charter.

“The opportunity to teach students, at a very young age, the wonderful art of golf is something that many will benefit from for the rest of their lives. The Niagara Falls City School District is proud to join this growing organization and bring new skills to a large inner city public school.” – Mark Laurrie, Superintendent of Schools, Niagara Falls City School District

With this expansion the chapter will serve to impact almost 5,000 youth throughout the Niagara Falls area. The program will be introduced into all 8 Elementary Schools and 2 Middle Schools.

“On behalf of the members of the Niagara Falls Board of Education, it is exciting to partner with First Tee of WNY and become part of the National School Program. We are pleased to offer this character building and value-based program in an entertaining and fun way, and hopefully, training the next generation of golfers to enjoy our Hyde Park golf course.” – Robert Restaino, President, Niagara Falls City School District Board of Education.

"The Niagara Falls School Districts' Physical Education Department is excited to partner with The First Tee of WNY. The ability to include the National School program in our Physical Education Program will provide a new and exciting experience for our students and teachers. The program will expose our students to a lifetime sport and activity that they may not have the opportunity to experience on their own while the Core Values imbedded within the program will provide us another vehicle to assist in the development of a well-rounded

individual. The potential of a partnership with the First Tee and Hyde Park Golf Course would allow us to be part of a year-round program that can be of great benefit the children of Niagara Falls." – *James Spanbauer, Principal, LaSalle Preparatory School*

"It has been a pleasure to work with Mark Laurrie and James Spanbauer and the fantastic Physical Education staff at the Niagara Falls City School District to bring our National School Program to 10 locations," *said Tim Frank, Executive Director of The First Tee of Western New York.* "We believe we have a tremendous opportunity to work with the district to introduce our wellness and character development through the game of golf and start to build a strong program throughout the entire Niagara Falls community."

About the First Tee of Western New York

Since its inception in 1999, The First Tee of Western New York has grown to deliver programs throughout Western New York at participating schools and golf courses.

The First Tee of Western New York is one of 150 chapters around the country and world. The First Tee of Western New York is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit youth development organization in Western New York whose mission 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. The organization is positively impacting millions of kids along the way through The First Tee Nine Core Values™: honesty, integrity, sportsmanship, respect, confidence, responsibility, perseverance, courtesy and judgment.

The First Tee's Founding Partners are LPGA, the Masters Tournament, PGA of America, PGA TOUR and the USGA. Shell Oil Company is The First Tee's Founding Corporate Partner and Johnson & Johnson is its Legacy Partner. Former President George W. Bush serves as honorary chair.

To learn more about The First Tee of Western New Your, visit <https://www.thefirstteewesternny.org>