



## SUBMISSION FORM

All submission forms must include the following information. Separate submission forms must be turned in for each eligible program. **Deadline: July 1, 2023.** Please include this submission form with the electronic entry. If you do not receive an email confirming receipt of your entry within 3 days of submission, please contact [Gage Harter](#).


### PROGRAM INFORMATION

County: County of Henrico  
Program Title: First Tee Golf  
Program Category: Parks and Recreation

### CONTACT INFORMATION

Name: Victoria Davis  
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### SIGNATURE OF COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR OR DEPUTY/ASSISTANT COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

Name: Brandon Hinton  
Title: Deputy County Manager for Administration  
Signature: 

### **Program Overview**

Henrico County Public Schools implemented a new program during the 2022-23 school year: “The First Tee School Program at Belmont Golf Course.” The program has been made possible through a partnership among Henrico County Public Schools, Belmont Golf Course and nonprofit First Tee-Greater Richmond, as well as volunteer efforts through our local colleges, universities and communities. The goal of the First Tee program is to use golf as a platform for character development. The curriculum includes motor skill development in golf skills of chipping, pitching, putting and driving. Our aim is to build confidence and character while providing access to authentic golf experiences in a safe and friendly environment. The First Tee program has resulted in 100% of our students improving upon benchmark psychomotor skills and learning outcomes.

### **Problem/Challenge/Situation Faced by Locality**

In Henrico County, only one public, county-owned municipal course (Belmont Golf Course) is available to serve more than 330,000 residents; other facilities remain private courses.

Belmont Golf Course had lost money each year since 2000, and for several years, Henrico County sought ideas for the property, to limit the taxpayer dollars that went into maintaining the course. Henrico County found a partner willing to take over the management of the golf operation; The First Tee of Greater Richmond will invest more than \$4 million to transform the golf course and instructional programs over the 20-year lease.

To make golf an activity that everyone can enjoy as a lifetime recreational and fitness activity, it remains incumbent to increase accessibility, relatability and visibility for our community. Because Henrico County Public Schools (HCPS) serves a diverse population with varying degrees of exposure to golf, students have limited organic opportunities for golf instruction. This program is part of a multifaceted approach to skill acquisition that includes in-school and specialized on-course learning opportunities.

### **How Program Fulfilled Awards Criteria**

The HCPS First Tee Schools Program is part of a multifaceted approach by Henrico County to improve students’ health, well-being and fitness. As such, access to the program and the subsequent measured success should be inclusive and equitable across the participating student population. By offering this off-campus, integral physical education curriculum program to every HCPS fifth-grade student during the school day and providing transportation, access and

instruction to all, this unique, cooperative county program meets the criteria for the 2022 VACo award. More importantly, it meets the high level of expectations HCPS parents have for children's inclusive and equitable education. This First Tee Schools Program is unique and worthy of this award because HCPS affords all fifth-grade students the opportunity to participate in free golf instruction that will open doors to a lifetime of fun and fitness, while promoting self-development. Participating in the First Tee Schools Program can open the eyes of participating students to the endless possibilities for other outdoor opportunities such as summer camps and golf, whether recreational or high school. Participation can also introduce students to outdoor parks and recreation opportunities such as disc golf, soccer, pickleball and net sports, as well as backyard fun.

### **How Program Was Carried Out**

Golf is an appropriate lifetime activity to develop motor skills for elementary school students, as expressed in the Virginia Department of Education's fifth-grade Standards of Learning. Section 5.1a states that students should:

- Demonstrate movement forms, create movement patterns and begin to describe movement principles.
- Demonstrate progress toward the use of all critical elements in manipulative skill combinations; lifetime activities, including striking a ball with short- and long-handled implements while stationary ... with the proper force, direction and accuracy.

The First Tee School Program consists of a series of golf lessons supported by First Tee of Greater Richmond, as well as volunteers and donations from the surrounding communities. Through this program, each HCPS fifth grade student will receive in-school lessons on putting, chipping and pitching, embedded within the First Tee Character Development program. The overall goal of the program is to educate the student on motor skill acquisition and development of core values. The objectives are to:

- Teach golf swing fundamentals.
- Provide activities for the purpose of improving range of motion, endurance, muscular strength, gross motor skills, perceptual motor skills and general physical fitness.
- Provide the basics for a lifetime activity.
- Provide character development and social and emotional skills needed to build self-confidence.

- Provide access to community resources through the Henrico Division of Recreation and Parks.

Developing the First Tee School Program was a yearlong process. Developmental activities have included:

- Meetings with the First Tee directors from each facility to set the scope and goals for the program.
- Coordinating the scheduling requirements between the specific golfing centers and each elementary school (number of fifth grade classes, student totals).
- Transportation logistics (schedule and application process).
- Informational meetings with school administrators and fifth grade educators.
- Design and deliver program overview and organizational process.
- HCPS representation and guidance at the golf centers during the lessons.
- Collection and summary of the rubrics.

In the school year 2022-23, we are in Phase 2 of our First Tee School Program, with 20 Title I schools participating. Next year, in Phase 3, fifth grade classes at all 47 HCPS elementary schools will participate.

The First Tee School Program in Henrico County Public Schools is a collaborative effort among HCPS, the Henrico Department of Recreation and Parks, Belmont Golf Course and the First Tee-Greater Richmond. The table below provides an overview of each partner’s contributions to the program.

Partner	Main Contact	Cost	Courses Available	Notes
<a href="#">First Tee</a>	Brent Scheider CEO Mark Lynch, VP Operations Kelly Brown <kelly@firstteerv a.org>, VP Impact	\$6 per student	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Belmont GC (Henrico County), 12+6 hole</li> <li>● Tattersall YDC (Chesterfield), 18 + 3 hole</li> <li>● Elson</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Transportation - HCPS</li> <li>● Staffing difficulties may seek assistance from Henrico County or HCPS.</li> </ul>

	Brittany Woo <brittany@firstte erva.org>, Senior Director		Redmond Memorial Driving Range (Richmond), 6 hole	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Curriculum support will be provided by First Tee-Greater</li> </ul>
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In addition to the community partners listed above, the First Tee School Program is a collaborative effort among Henrico County Public Schools departments. This table provides information about the team and specific roles for the 2022-23 school year.

Team Member	Role
<b>Walter Atwell</b> , HPE K-12 teacher	Scheduling, paperwork, orientation preparation, lesson support, site supervision
<b>Dr. Stacey Austin</b> , director of elementary school leadership	Planning and implementation support for elementary, communication with Division of School Leadership and principals
<b>Kourtney Bostain</b> , director of teaching, learning and innovation	Planning and implementation support for elementary, communication with the Division of Learning
<b>Mark Brandenburger</b> , education specialist for health and physical education	Implementation coordination and support (Mr. Atwell and Ms. Reynolds), communication with school principals (with Dr. Austin)
<b>Dr. Lesley Hughes</b> , chief of learning	Communication and cooperation of community partners, MOU support and redevelopment
<b>Michelle Reynolds</b> , HPE K-12 teacher	Scheduling, paperwork, orientation preparation, lesson support, site supervision

*Classroom teachers, grade 5	Instruction of lead-up lessons, field trip lead teacher, evaluator of motor skills
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## Financing and Staffing

As a part of an MOU between Henrico County and First Tee-Greater Richmond, teachers are trained in the First Tee curriculum and provided with bundles of equipment from SNAG Golf at no cost to schools. Additionally, field trips will be provided to fifth graders at no cost to students. The school system will provide transportation for 46+ trips in a school calendar year and absorb the \$6 per student cost for programming at the First Tee facility.

## Program Results

A rubric was developed to help determine the success and effectiveness of our golf instruction. The rubric is designed to assess the skill progression of each student throughout the golf unit. The data is categorized into three areas:

- Safety
- Pre-swing
- Chipping swing

At the culmination of each session, the rubrics are collected from each teacher via Google Sheets. The data is analyzed, and a summary of findings is created. When we studied the data from our pilot school, we concluded that 100% of the students who participated in the three-week unit showed growth at the culminating activity (field trip to First Tee) in one or more of the three benchmark skills. Students improved from average pre-test raw scores of 2.33/4.00 to post-test raw scores of 3.45/4.00, or a 48% increase in skill performance.

Students showing exceptional skill development are invited to participate and compete in the First Tee Champions Day event in the spring.

Below is an example of the rubric used in our program, modified from PE metrics high school golf unit.





**Standard 1:**

Demonstrates competency in motor skills and movement patterns needed to perform a variety of physical activities.

**Performance Indicator:**

Demonstrate competency in individual/dual competitive sports.

**Assessment Task:**

Demonstrate a pre-swing stance and **chipping swing** in golf.

**Criteria for Competence (Level 3):**

1. Demonstrates all safety protocols and swing procedures.
2. Demonstrates 5 of the 7 essential elements of appropriate pre-swing stance for chip (grip, set-up).
3. Displays 4 of the 5 essential elements of a chipping swing for the best of 3 trials.

■ **Assessment Rubric:**

Level	1. Safety	2. Pre-Swing	3. Chipping Swing
4	Participant follows all safety protocols.	Demonstrates all of the essential elements of appropriate pre-swing stance (grip, set-up).	Displays all of the essential elements for the best of 3 trials.
3		Demonstrates most of the essential elements of appropriate pre-swing stance (grip, set-up).	Displays most of the essential elements for the best of 3 trials.
2		Demonstrates some of the essential elements of appropriate pre-swing stance (grip, set-up).	Displays some of the essential elements of a full swing for the best of 3 trials.
1		Demonstrates few/none of the essential elements of appropriate pre-swing stance (grip, set-up).	Displays few/none of the essential elements of a full swing for the best of 3 trials.
0	Violates safety procedures and/or does not complete the assessment task.		



■ **Essential Elements:**

**Pre-Swing (7 points maximum):**

- A. Set Up & Grip:
  - 1. Feet set up shoulder-width apart.
  - 2. Ball position between center of stance.
  - 3. Uses both hands on club for grip.
  - 4. Hands in neutral position & close together on golf grip.
  - 5. Uses 10-finger grip.
- B. Aim & Alignment:
  - 1. Face of golf club is aimed at target.
  - 2. Body is parallel to target.

**Chipping Swing (5 points maximum):**

- 1. Club swings in a Y-Chip-Y motion.
- 2. Hold the Y at end of swing.
- 3. Hits ball first, ground second.
- 4. Weight balanced back to front and side to side.
- 5. Low ball trajectory (ball is up in the air 20% of the time and rolls towards target 80% of the time).





■ **Assessment Protocols:**

**Directions for Students (Read aloud, verbatim):**

- You will be asked to demonstrate a pre-swing stance, and a chip shot.
- You will hit three balls for each shot.
- You will be given 5 minutes to warm up using each shot before you are assessed.
- Choose an iron to hit a ball less than 20 meters, demonstrating a shot with a chipping swing.

**1 . Pre-Swing Stance**

You will be assessed on:

- a) **Set-Up & Grip.**
  - Overlap, interlocking, or 10-finger grip.
  - Club more in fingers than palm.
  - Hands in neutral position.
- b) **Aim & Alignment.**
  - Feet approximately shoulder-width apart.
  - Knees bent slightly.
  - Hands even or slightly ahead of ball.
  - Ball position between center and inside front heel.

**2 . Chipping Swing**

You will be assessed on:

- Club swings in a Y-Chip-Y motion.
- Hold the Y at end of swing.
- Hits ball first, ground second.
- Weight balanced back to front and side to side.
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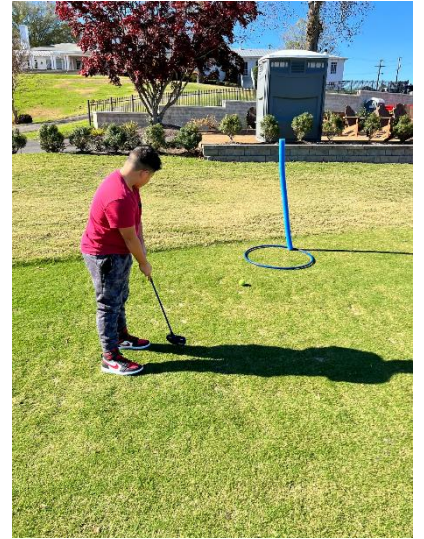
**Brief Summary**

The First Tee School Program at Belmont Golf Course was able to take an existing public resource and turn it into a productive way to benefit the health and well-being of students. While Belmont Golf Course is publicly available to play on, many students may not have access to learn and play golf while growing up, but this program fills in all of the gaps that would otherwise prevent a student from trying the sport. This is an important achievement when considering the concepts of equity and inclusion within schools, and providing access to a variety of experiences and opportunities to all students that seek them. The logistics of the program required tremendous

collaboration between all parties involved, and it resulted in visible skill development in all participating students, while building the social connection that makes a sport like golf valuable at all ages.

**First Tee Golf  
Supplemental Material**

**Henrico County Public Schools  
Fifth Grade  
First Tee Schools Program**



Partner	Main Contact	Cost	Courses Available	Notes
<a href="#"><u>First Tee</u></a>	<p>Brent Scheider CEO</p> <p>Mark Lynch, VP Operations</p> <p>Kelly Brown &lt;kelly@firstteeva.org&gt;, VP Impact</p> <p>Brittany Woo &lt;brittany@firstteeva.org&gt;, Senior Director</p>	\$6 per student	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Belmont GC (Henrico County), 12+6 hole</li> <li>Tattersall YDC (Chesterfield), 18 + 3 hole</li> <li>Elson Redmond Memorial Driving Range (Richmond), 6 hole</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Transportation - HCPS</li> <li>Staffing difficulties may seek assistance from Henrico County or HCPS.</li> <li>Curriculum support will be provided by First Tee - Greater</li> </ul>

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