



## Office of Public Information

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### For Media Release

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## Future Focused: Reaching Our Students through Golf

As all the schools in the Jasper County School District are “Student-Centered...Future-Focused;” this district is offering new programs to students. Likewise, providing students with various educational programs is a continuous goal at Ridgeland-Hardeeville High School. In addition to the iFly Drone Certification Program and many more innovative courses, Ridgeland-Hardeeville High School recently added a well-structured Golf Program to the list of electives for students.

The Golf Program is incremental and well-structured. The curriculum consists of a four-week introductory course that teaches the basics of the golf game, using a temporary four-hole course. Students who participate in the program are receptive and very disciplined, willing to learn new athletic and social skills.

The program grew through conversations between Dr. Jim Gault and Rev. Renty Kitty, along with several other Jasper County Clergymen interested in offering students a broader involvement in the life of the community, including a variety of potential employment and career opportunities. The partnership that has now developed with the neighboring Congaree Golf Club has enabled the project to expand to a community-wide scope involving the Sergeant Jasper Golf Club, the Academy for Career Excellence and almost 30 volunteers who teach in the program.

Since its inception, the program has grown to involve almost 200 students, including a high school special needs class and a group from the Polaris Tech Charter School. Almost all are being exposed to the game for the first time. The level of enthusiasm and skill development has surprised all involved.

Dr. Gault, Congaree, sponsors and volunteers are hopeful that this program will enable students to find avenues for interaction among their peers and with the golf community at large as they learn how to respect themselves and their surroundings while also keeping a positive, yet competitive, attitude. The district is hopeful that this project will assist with improving academic performance, as well.

Sponsors would like to invite the community to take part in the golf program. This initiative will allow the community members to use the golf course at their leisure. Thanks to this developing golf opportunity and its many sponsors and volunteers, students, parents and faculty can enjoy this community resource.