



Tooele Education
FOUNDATION
 SERVING TOOEELE COUNTY SCHOOLS

Chalk Talk

TEF and The First Tee of Utah

By: Ed Dalton

In this issue of Chalk Talk, we'd like to ring the bell for Tooele City, Mayor Pat Dunlavy, the Oquirrh Hills Golf Course, and a special partner, The First Tee of Utah. For the past 5 years, Tooele Education Foundation has worked with these organizations to raise funds and establish First Tee programs in twelve TCSD elementary schools.

Each year Mayor Dunlavy sponsors the Mayor's Golf Tournament (June 24, 2016), donating tournament proceeds to TEF. TEF then uses these funds to oversee First Tee program implementation in TCSD elementary schools. First Tee programs are carried out by P.E. Specialists with special support and coordination provided by TEF's First Tee Coordinator, Wendy Kress. From the mayor, to TEF, to P.E. specialists and community members, many people work hard to ensure that the First Tee program is a success in our schools.

So what exactly is the First Tee program and why is it so important for TCSD students? According to The First Tee of Utah:

"At The First Tee of Utah we teach kids golf, but we know that golf can be so much more than a game. Golf is unique among sports as a teaching platform because it is self-refereeing. We use golf to teach kids specific skills and to reinforce specific values they need to grow and succeed in all aspects of their lives."



TEF Executive Director, Ed Dalton presents a check to The First Tee of Utah Director, Paul Pugmire.

Through TEF's First Tee programs, students learn the game of golf as well as Nine Core Values and Nine Healthy Habits. The Nine Core Values include honesty, integrity, sportsmanship, respect, confidence, responsibility, perseverance, courtesy, and judgment. The Nine Healthy Habits include energy, play, safety, vision, mind, family, friends, school, and community.

So far, TEF's First Tee programs have met with great success. In fact, TEF's First Tee program is known as the premier program in the state of Utah. Students love the chance to use the specially designed children's golf equipment, and learn how to apply the core values and healthy habits life in their lives. In reviewing the program's success, Dr. Dalton, TEF Executive Director said,

"The First Tee program fills a unique niche in our education system. It creates and provides an opportunity for children to enrich and enhance their education. Applying the life skills and healthy living habits fortifies and strengthens learning and improves academic achievement in core instruction. Thanks for everyone who is helping make this possible."

If you are interested in supporting First Tee programs for TCSD students by participating in the Mayor's Golf Tournament, please contact TEF at 833-1900 or at tef@tooeleschools.org. For more information about The First Tee of Utah, please visit thefirstteeutah.org.



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