

The Golf in Schools Program – Our Facility’s Success - Submitted by John Piascik, Head Golf Professional at the University of Louisville Golf Club

The experience with our golf in schools program at Stopher Elementary has been beyond rewarding. We teach about 2,000 students twice a year. The PGA of America and the KY section make it very easy for golf professionals to get involved in local schools. The PGA of America provides very easy access to the necessary insurance policies the school district requires us to hold and the section office allows us access to their multiple sets of SNAG golf equipment and inflatable targets including, the kids’ favorite, Golfzilla. Additionally, the KY Section helps with writing lesson plans and promotional materials. These materials go a long way in making PGA professionals look good by being organized and ready to implement the program.

Our in-school program runs the entire school day for 1 week in the spring and fall. We set up three stations and rotate classes of 20-30 kids during each 50 minute class period. We cover all facets of the game including putting, chipping, pitching, full swing and rules and etiquette. The gym teacher loves our program as well because that’s one week he doesn’t have to try to find something for the kids to do. In fact, we are able to handle all of the classes which freed him up to work on planning, coaching, catching up on paper work or a long lunch!

Our in-school program was such a success that it was not hard to fill up our after school program with 15-20 kids. We charge \$100/student for the after school program so it allowed us to make a little extra money as well. Our after school program covers many of the same techniques but since we are outside in the schools green space we can put real golf clubs in the kids hands and give them a glimpse into what hitting a golf ball is really like.

There is no doubt that these programs were a win for everyone involved. This in addition to the resources offered to us by the PGA of America and the KY Section make it easy to see why there is no downside to partnering with a local school and introducing kids to the game of golf.