



## **FLAGHOUSE CONGRATULATES TURKEY CREEK MIDDLE SCHOOL ON BECOMING A STARS SCHOOL**

Hasbrouck Heights, NJ – August 29, 2008. FlagHouse, the official physical education equipment sponsor for the STARS Program, is proud to congratulate Turkey Creek Middle School in Plant City, FL on becoming a STARS school. The STARS Program is a national achievement program established by the National Association for Sport & Physical Education (NASPE). The program recognizes outstanding physical education programs K-12 in schools across America.

STARS schools provide meaningful learning opportunities for all students. Their physical education programs serve as models for others to follow and they exemplify excellence in teaching knowledge and skills of motor development and health related fitness. STARS award criteria are based on curriculum, instructional strategies, assessment and evaluation, communications and support resources; such as facilities, equipment, class time and teacher qualifications. Due to the rise in childhood obesity and the diseases associated with a sedentary lifestyle, the need for quality physical education programs and instruction has never been greater.

At Turkey Creek Middle School, six physical education teachers provide a daily 50 minute physical education class for 1,088 students in grades 6 to 8. The teachers describe themselves as diverse and dedicated, sharing the same focus – the love of kids and the belief in the importance of lifelong physical activity. Their physical education department is regularly reviewed and their curriculum is continually expanded and enhanced.

The school plans to add a wellness center and [Xavix](#), interactive gaming equipment, has successfully been implemented into their fitness program. Xavix has motivated students, once considered “couch potatoes,” to become more physically active. Turkey Creek is also one of ten schools in the state of Florida to pilot an archery program and has since helped two other schools obtain training and equipment.

Their physical education department has made considerable advances in educating the community and advocating for physical education and activity. Examples of their outreach include monthly FIT (Families Involved Together) Nights and annual health fairs. The staff organizes an annual Olympic Day in which students try out and compete in track and field, basketball, archery and bocce ball. Community outreach is also reflected during Olympic Day through the involvement of the Hillsborough County Posse and local military personnel, who assist with the opening and closing ceremonies.

Previous successful completion of the NASPE STARS process has allowed Turkey Creek Middle School to advocate for improved physical education at the school level and throughout the Hillsborough County School District. In addition, administrative support is evident in helping to lower class size. By teaching children healthy behaviors early on, their program ensures that students will continue to enjoy physical activity and achieve lifelong fitness.

FlagHouse, a global supplier of physical education equipment for education and recreation professionals, has been the official physical education equipment sponsor for the STARS Program for the last four years. Keith Gold, Senior Brand Manager at FlagHouse remarked, "We are proud that Turkey Creek Middle School and its staff is dedicated to providing a strong physical education program to their students. The number of overweight children ages 6-19 has more than tripled in the United States since 1980. This extra weight puts children at risk for a number of diseases. Quality physical education programs, like the one implemented at Turkey Creek, help to fight obesity and protect the future health of our children."

FlagHouse provides STARS recipients with a gift certificate to purchase new physical education equipment for their school. In addition, the company assists in funding the development of STARS PIPELINE Workshops each year. The workshops, held at the annual convention for the American Alliance for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance, provide schools with the tools needed to successfully prepare their STARS application. Workshop participants have the opportunity to review samples of winning STARS portfolios, discuss strategies for collecting and analyzing documentation and are taught how to effectively communicate program specifics. Each year, FlagHouse awards up to 75 grants that allow teachers to participate in the workshop and obtain the knowledge necessary to build strong STARS portfolios.

**For more information on how your school can apply for a grant to attend the 2009 STARS PIPELINE Workshop, please contact Keith Gold at FlagHouse at 1-800-793-7900, x 7517 or email [Keith.Gold@flaghouse.com](mailto:Keith.Gold@flaghouse.com).**

FlagHouse is a premier global supplier of resources for physical activity, recreation, education and special needs. Headquartered in Hasbrouck Heights, New Jersey, and with operations in the United States and Canada, FlagHouse has over 50 years experience responding to customer's changing needs. Their mission is to enhance the quality of life for people of all ages and abilities. FlagHouse markets its products through catalogs including [Physical Education and Recreation™](#), [Going Strong™](#), [Flying Start™](#) and [Giant Leaps™](#) and through their web site [www.flaghouse.com](http://www.flaghouse.com). In addition to being the North American distributor for [SNOEZELEN®](#) multi-sensory environments, FlagHouse holds the publishing, marketing and distribution rights for [CATCH®](#) (Coordinated Approach to Child Health). FlagHouse serves both the public and private sectors through relationships with schools, parks, community centers, healthcare organizations, day treatment and residential care centers, military bases and individuals.

**Keith Gold, Senior Brand Manager**  
**FlagHouse, Inc.**  
**Phone: 201-329-7517**  
**Email: [Keith.Gold@flaghouse.com](mailto:Keith.Gold@flaghouse.com)**