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Junior Police Academy Graduates First Class

(Paulding County, GA) Earlier this school year Deputy Don Apperson, who is the School Resource Officer at Dobbins Middle School, saw the need and desire from several of the students at his school to learn more about law enforcement. Deputy Apperson, who came to the Paulding County Sheriff's Office after completing a career with the Flagler County Sheriff's Office in Florida, helped with a similar program there. Deputy Apperson began the Dobbins Middle School Junior Police Academy where he taught the students different aspects of law enforcement after school throughout the school year. The students learned everything from criminal law and procedure to defensive tactics techniques.

Deputy Apperson also solicited the assistance of the Hiram High School JROTC cadets to help him with this project. Overall, 17 students completed the program and graduated on May 22, 2017 at a ceremony held at Dobbins Middle School. Sheriff Gary Gullede noted, "Having Deputies come in and implement programs like this help bridge the gap between law enforcement and our community. The more lives we can touch in a positive way, the more "good" we can do in our community. This program has been phenomenal and we look forward to its future."

Congratulations to Deputy Apperson and the 17 graduates of the Dobbins Middle School Junior Police Academy Class of 2017.