

Description of Chess Club

Our Chess Club is designed to teach and reinforce these skills.

- Use creativity within a set of parameters that restrict your options.
- Improve your visual memory and use that to help solve challenges.
- Focus—the ability to keep your mind on the task at hand even when there are distractions around you and within your own mind.
- Impulse control—the ability to stop reflex like responses so that you can make reasoned responses in situations. I.E. Think before you speak.
- Tenacity—the ability to stick with a task even when it takes a long time, when the obstacles to success change, success looks unpromising, or that becomes unpleasant.
- Identify and choose appropriate goals.
- Find and evaluate multiple options.
- Develop and execute a plan to meet a goal.
- Adapt your plan when there are changes in your environment that affect your ability to reach your goal.
- Identify errors and learn from them to become better as a problem solver.

We also teach/reinforce these related social skills.

- Sharing responsibility for the care of the club's equipment and our meeting space.
- Resolving disputes about rules and appropriate behavior.
- Win with grace and lose with dignity.
- See losses as opportunities to learn, grow, and get to be a better player.
- Enjoy winning without gloating or becoming a braggart.
- Recognize that you do not always choose your opponent, but you do choose how you respond to them.
- Learn social norms for a friendly competitive environment and develop appropriate social skills for that environment.
- Learn to use competition for self-improvement rather than defeating others;

Our School Chess Club meets on Tuesday after school from 3:30 until 4:30 starting September 13th. Students are not required to stay the whole time and therefore parents may choose the appropriate length of time for their participation. B & G Club members will report to Boys and Girls Club First. Special arrangements will be made for students that are not in B & G Club.

We may also have limited opportunities for short, small group lessons after school on Mondays. A donation of \$10 is asked of parents who want to fund the purchase of chess equipment for club and classrooms and chess books for the school library. Check should be made out to New York Elementary PTA with chess in the memo line.

Club T-shirts are available for students while supplies last for \$20.

The Chess Club participates in tournaments sponsored by the Kansas Scholastic Chess Association and is a voting member of the organization. Any student who chooses to and has behavior that will represent our school well is welcome to attend KSCA Tournaments. Team scores for team placement at the tournaments consist of the top 4 scores in each section. No student's performance can ever hurt the team. Therefore, no one should avoid tournaments for fear of not doing well enough. Most students who go to tournament see a big improvement in their chess play. Please note that tournament play is optional.

Parents are responsible for the tournament fee, usually \$10 to \$15. Three of the twelve local tournaments in our area will be held in Lawrence this year. Tournaments are held on Saturdays starting with registration between 8:00 and 9:00 am and play starting around 9:15. K-3 and K-5 sections are usually finished by 3:30, K-8 and K-12 last until 5:30 or 6:00.

Note that if a student wants to attend a tournament, but has conflicts part of the day, you are allowed to attend partial tournaments. Please talk to a coach about how to arrange for partial tournaments.

To attend the State Tournament, a student must have been to at least two KSCA tournaments during that school year in which they have played at least 4 games.