

Blackwell PTSA Chess Club, Sammamish, WA presents...

Chess Tournament Blackwell State Qualifier

Saturday, November 2nd, 2013

**Blackwell Elementary
3225 205th Place NE, Sammamish, WA**

Sections include:

K-1 U800, 2-3 U800, 1-3 Open, 4-6 U900, 4-6 Open

Register at <http://nwchess.com/OnlineRegistration>

Registration fee: \$20 until Oct. 26th, \$25 until Nov. 1st at 5:00pm.
No at-the-door registration allowed.

Check in at 8:00am to 8:45am

5 State Qualifying Rounds beginning at 9:00am.
Trophies for all sections concluding at the end of Round 5.

Concessions:

Coffee, pizza and snacks available for purchase.

Questions:

David Hendricks, Tournament Director
DavidCHendricks@comcast.net or 425-868-3881

Michelle Franz, Blackwell Chess Parent Director
michellefranz@msn.com or 425-213-6256



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BLACKWELL PTSA CHESS CLUB TOURNAMENT

Chess Tournament Details – Saturday, November 2nd, 2013

Scholastic chess tournament at Blackwell in a State Qualifier tournament, which will take place on Saturday, November 2nd from 8:30am to about 4:00pm. Each kid plays 5 games, each game lasts at most one hour long. You play all 5 games, win or lose, there are no eliminations. For beginners, Kindergarten and 1st grade under 800 are a separate section, then 2nd and 3rd grade under 800 are another section, then 4th through 6th grade under 900 are another section. For advanced players, 1st through 3rd grade for kids 800 or higher are in a separate section, and 4th through 6th grade for kids 900 or higher are in another section. The under sections are easier, and the open sections are harder. So the beginner kids don't have to play the advanced kids. We will use a Swiss pairing system where winners are paired against other winners, and losers against other losers.

You must register in advance, there are no registrations allowed at the door. The Blackwell tournament usually fills up, so if you delay registration, many times you will not get in. Cost for early registration, before October 26th is \$20, then \$25 until November 1st, at 5:00pm. There is no registration allowed on the day of the tournament. Tournament fees go towards the site, janitor, and the trophies. Check in time is from 8:00am to 8:45am. Pairings are posted on the wall telling you what board number to sit at and what color to play. Round 1 starts about 9:00am, round 2 about 10:15am, break for lunch (you can buy pizza and hot dogs on site or bring your own). Round 3 starts about 12:00noon, round 4 about 1:15pm, and round 5 about 2:30pm. These times are approximate and may vary. If you have a sports conflict you can request a bye for one or two rounds, and still play the other rounds. You score 1.0 point for a win, 0.5 points for a draw, and 0.0 points for a loss, so a perfect score would be 5.0. If you have a score at the end of 3.0 or higher, you should stay for the trophy presentation at about 3:45pm. We will be awarding team trophies by merging together all the sections, then take the top 4 players overall from the same school and add together their scores, so the schools with the most players have an advantage in getting the team trophies.

Parents are not allowed to watch the games or communicate with their kids during the games. There is some down time for parents, so bring a folding chair, and a book or laptop. When the kids are done, they will come find you and you get to wipe away the tears or congratulate them on a win. Sometimes they are back in only a few minutes (Scholars mate!). Most kids really enjoy tournaments and make new friends and like the competition. In between rounds, if they wrote down their moves, they can have their game reviewed to learn about where they made mistakes. We don't ask first timers or kids in K or 1st grade to record their moves as it can be too distracting, but the older experienced kids should.

Is your kid ready for a tournament? Your kid should know how all the pieces move, their point values, how to castle, the opening guidelines, how to stop a scholar's mate, and how to defend pieces when attacked as a minimum. It has been our experience that even the kids that don't seem ready really benefit from tournaments. There are lots of beginners in our annual tournament, and with the Swiss pairing system, everyone finds their proper level eventually. It does take a little emotional maturity to be able to take a loss without it being devastated, but most kids shrug it off in a few minutes, and the best kids learn from their mistakes and vow never to repeat that one again. Remember: no pouting when you lose, and no gloating when you win!

Tournament ratings also called NWSRS ratings (NorthWest Scholastic Rating System) start at 400. A tournament rating of 800 is about average for most kids, and anything above 1200 is quite strong. But you only get an official rating after you complete your first tournament. You can look up NWSRS ratings at <http://chess.ratingsnw.com>. There is another USCF (United States Chess Federation) national rating (not to confuse you) which starts at 100 and is used by adults and kids alike for national and WCF (Washington Chess Federation) sponsored tournaments. National ratings are usually about 200 points lower than NWSRS ratings on average. To get a national rating, you need to join the USCF and play in a nationally rated tournament, and usually only the stronger kids get these.

Kids that play tournaments get extra motivated to work on improving, as there is real fame and glory for those that score well. It is a real eye opener to see what is possible in chess and how fun and social it is. I am amazed at what chess competition has done for kids with learning problems or with lack of confidence. It's also one of the few activities where elementary kids can compete against other schools, and it's great for those kids that may not be into sports (it's also great for those that ARE into sports!). It teaches many of the lessons needed in life – don't give up, consider all your options, think before you act, be aggressive, mistakes have consequences, sometimes you get a second chance, take advantage of opportunities before they disappear, etc.

Washington State Elementary Chess Tournament, for those who score 3.0 or higher in the Blackwell tournament. This year the state tournament will be held in April 2014, in Seattle, WA at the Cruise Ship terminal in Magnolia! The location moves around the state every 3 years.