

SOMERSET CHESS CLUB 2016-2017

<https://sites.google.com/site/somersetchessclub/>

We are offering a school chess club, running from October through April, which will allow kids to experience the learning and competition of chess. Students in grades K through 5 are invited to join the club. Chess is excellent at teaching kids mental discipline, to focus, to look at all their options, to compete under time pressure, to play fair, to learn that mistakes have consequences, to not give up when behind, and to learn many more important life lessons.

Meeting Times: Mondays from 3:30pm to 5:00pm (1 hour 30 minutes). We will divide into 2 classes – the advanced class (kids that have played tournaments and are playing at a strong level) will meet in the staff room, and the beginning class (kids new to chess or still working on the basics) will meet in a portable classroom. Please send a snack with your child, they can eat it in the first 15 minutes. Please pick up and sign out your kids promptly at 5:00pm in their room.

Enrollment: We need a **minimum of 30 kids** to run the club – if we can't get the minimum, chess club may be cancelled or cost may be increased. **Maximum is 50**, if we get more than 50 we will take kids by first come, first served. We can accept all levels, beginner to advanced.

Dates: 1st meeting is October 24th. Last meeting is the last week of April. We follow the Bellevue School District calendar - no club during days when there is no Monday afternoon school. We have **16 sessions** – Oct 24, (not 31: Halloween), Nov 7, 14, 21, 28, Dec 5, 12, Jan 9, (not 23), Feb 6, 13, 27, Mar 6, (not 13), 27, Apr 3, 17, 24.

David Hendricks is returning as the advanced class coach. Coach Hendricks has been coaching elementary chess clubs for 16 years. He has coached up to 10 elementary school chess clubs each year, including a team that took **1st in the nation** 5 times and 1st in Washington State. He is the Scholastic Director for the Washington Chess Federation, and was the Director of the Microsoft Chess Club. He plays regularly in Washington and National Chess tournaments, coaches many private chess students, and runs summer chess and sports camps. He is an electrical and software engineer and designed computer hardware and software for Microsoft and Hewlett Packard companies.

Tim Campbell will be the beginning class coach. Tim has coached with Chess4Life for 4 years, and has been an independent coach for 2 years, and loves the game. He plays in many Washington and national chess tournaments.

Both coaches teach openings, middle game strategies, end game principles, tactics such as pins, forks, skewers, distraction, X-rays, decoys damming, blockades, and many others. We will cover checkmates, stalemates, how to determine when a piece is in trouble, how to escape trouble, how to attack and defend, how to look at all your options, preserve your material, improve your position, and how to compete. The advanced class will practice with chess clocks and will be required to write chess notation. We use a very interactive teaching style with lots of hands-on involved learning and feedback.

Tournaments: Tournament participation is optional, but encouraged for those that are ready. We will target one weekend tournament per month Nov - Apr in the greater Seattle area. Tournaments usually run from 8:30am to 4:00pm – there are 5 games, each 1 hour long – kids play all 5 games win or lose. The State Championship is April 16th in Tacoma, WA this year - players need 3 out of 5 wins in any tournament to qualify for state.

Website: We will be using the **ChessMagnetSchool.com** website this year. This provides homework drills and tracks individual results. ChessMagnetSchool now supports iPhones, iPads, and Android devices (that were previously not supported). Students should plan to do 1 hour of chess homework per week (its fun!) from home or from any computer connected to the internet.

Cost: Historically the tuition rate stays between \$250 and \$300 in most years. The registration system will show \$270, but that is only an estimate. The actual cost will be communicated by email as soon as it is available. This includes: 16 chess club sessions, a full year license fee for the chess website, all the chess equipment and supplies needed, handouts, in-class rewards, and year end party. Kindergartners should know some basic math – if you are not sure if they are ready you may sign up for a 4-week trial for \$67.50. At the end of the 4 weeks we will decide together whether to continue, and you will pay the difference between the full cost and the trial cost. Not included: tournament registration fees (about \$20 per tournament).

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REGISTRATION PROCEDURE

Online registration is new for chess club this year! Follow these directions:

1. Use your browser and navigate to:
<http://nwchess.com/OnlineRegistration/member.php?mode=search&tournamentid=206>
2. Enter your student's last name and click Search.
 - o If your child has played before in a Northwest tournament, their name should appear in the list. Select it and click Edit and make any updates needed, then Save Changes.
 - o If your child has never played in a Northwest tournament, you will need to create a new database record for them. Click the New button; enter name, postal address, email address, phone, birthdate, etc. Create your own password you can remember to protect your data. Enter grade (K, 1-5) and select SOM Somerset Elementary School from the pull-down list of schools, then click Get Rating Data. It will say "Found 0 matching names in the NWSRS database". Choose "I intend to play in a NW scholastic tournament, and this will be my first time" and click Submit, then click Save Changes.
3. Now click the Register button, enter your password, and choose a section (Full year, or Kindergarten trial). Then click Submit, and Submit again.
4. It should say Congratulations; you are now registered (when payment is received). No email confirmation will be sent, but you can look at
<http://nwchess.com/OnlineRegistration/roster.php?tournamentid=206> to see if your student is in the list. Remember that the "fees owed" shown on the web page are only estimates.
5. All payments must go through the Somerset PTSA, so no online payments are allowed. We will email you about the actual tuition rate as soon as possible. After receiving the email please write out a check to Somerset PTSA and note Chess Club on the check. Either (1) mail it to Somerset PTSA, 14100 Somerset Blvd SE, Bellevue, WA 98006, (2) drop it off at the school office PTSA mailbox, or (3) give it to the parent help when you pick up your student on the 1st day of chess club (Oct 24).
6. About the time we email you with the actual tuition rate, we will also email you with information on how to sign up for classroom help. You must be available to volunteer once during the year for each enrolled student. No chess knowledge needed – you will be monitoring kids, helping to run the club, helping with checkout, and, perhaps most importantly, teachers and staff who lend us the rooms expect us to return the room to a clean condition for next day's school. Families that neglect their classroom help duty will not be welcomed back to the chess club next year. If due to unforeseen reasons you absolutely cannot make it, it is your responsibility to find a proper replacement.

Registering for chess club automatically authorizes the following:

- Your child(ren) have your permission to access the <http://ChessMagnetSchool.com> web site.
- You understand there is no refund after class begins.

Advanced Chess Coach

David Hendricks

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Beginning Chess Coach

Tim Campbell

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Chess Club Parent Coordinator

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