

# SOMERSET CHESS CLUB 2017-2018

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. Kindergartners should know simple math and some reading and writing. 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 a portable classroom, and the **beginning class** (kids new to chess or still working on the basics) will meet in the staff room. 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. If your students are in the school aftercare program, their teachers will pick them up after class.

**Enrollment:** We need a **minimum of 20 kids** to run the club – if we can't get the minimum, chess club may be cancelled. If enrollment number is low, we may combine two classes into one. **Maximum is 50** (25 each class), first-come, first-serve. We may keep a short waiting list. We can accept all levels, beginner to advanced.

**Dates:** 1<sup>st</sup> meeting is October 2nd. Last meeting is April 16<sup>th</sup>. We have **20 sessions**. No classes on 12/11, 12/18, 12/25, 1/1, 1/15, 2/19, 3/19, 4/2.

Coach Hendricks has chosen to step down after many successful years of teaching and enjoy a quieter life. **Coach Tim Campbell** will return and teach the advanced class. **Coach Brad Stensland** will join us and teach the beginner class. Both Tim and Brad were coaches at Chess4Life before they co-founded **All About Chess**. 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.

**Homework 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 (it's fun!) from home or from any computer connected to the internet.

**Cost: The tuition rate is \$320.** The tuition includes: 20 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. There is a small chance that this needs to be adjusted if the enrollment number is lower than expected. Not included: tournament registration fees (about \$20 per tournament). No refunds after registration.

**Volunteers:** Parents 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. Signup for volunteer will be emailed before the first club meeting.

Advanced Chess Coach  
**Tim Campbell**  
425-777-6035 cell  
xvegietim@comcast.net

Beginning Chess Coach  
**Brad Stensland**  
425-429-2289  
theallaboutschooll@gmail.com

Chess Club Cochairs  
**Youyi Fong, Krutayi Valluru**  
206-849-8414 cell  
youyifong@gmail.com  
krutayi@hotmail.com