

There may be a NEW CLUB for 5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> graders at SJA....

## The Chess Club

All students in Grades 5-8 (and staff) are welcome.

All Levels of experience are welcome.

Chess?!!

Isn't that for grown-ups? Isn't it boring??! Why should your child sign up?

Boys and girls really like chess. And not just a little bit. A lot. Most kids like chess because it is both fun and challenging. It's easy to learn, and there is always room for growth. Teachers know it helps kids learn to think and be patient -- but the kids -- they like it because it's a fun game.

If there's enough interest, St. Joan of Arc will be offering a one-day-a-week afterschool Chess Club beginning **Thursday, October 2<sup>nd</sup> for 8 weeks from 2:30-3:30p.m.** The group will be divided in half based upon skill level; for ½ of the time, one group will get a lesson from the coach while the other ½ practices their skills by playing against each other; then they will switch. If this is successful, another 8 weeks will be scheduled after the holidays.

The Club will be coached by Glenbard South assistant chess coach, Jim Egerton. Coach Jim has fifteen years of experience teaching kids of all ages to play chess; he has coached many SJA students including Doug Jennings, Mitchell Kinn, Nick Carballo and Danny Sobolewski. Check out his website at [www.chess-now.com](http://www.chess-now.com). Parents will also be asked to help supervise.

All interested 5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> graders should fill out the attached form and return it to SJA by September 26<sup>th</sup> (this Friday). Assuming we have enough participation, the plan is to continue to meet every Thursday for 8 weeks. Coach Jim will bring the chess boards — just bring yourself. To cover the costs of coaching, the fee per student for the Club will be approximately \$55 (exact cost to be determined after we determine the number of students interested).

Why not give it a try? Questions?? Contact parents Julie Carballo or Suzanne Kinn

"The game of Chess is not merely an idle amusement. Several very valuable qualities of the mind are acquired and strengthened by it and become habit ready on all occasions. Foresight, circumspection, caution. Not getting discouraged. For life is a kind of chess"

Benjamin Franklin



"According to research, Test scores improved by 17.3% for students regularly engaged in chess classes,



compared with only 4.6% for children participating in other forms of enriched activities," states 4-time World Champion Susan Polgar in a recent interview. In approximately 30 nations across the globe, including Brazil, China, Venezuela, Italy, Israel, Russia and Greece, etc., chess is incorporated into the country's scholastic curriculum. Just as athletics are a part of the required agenda at schools in the United States, Chess has been that way in the European Nations abroad.



Chess has long been regarded as a game that can have beneficial effects on learning on development, especially when it is played from a young age. below are some of the most critical benefits that chess can provide to a child:

- Develop analytical, synthetic and decision-making skills, which they can transfer to real life.
- Learn to engage in deep and thorough chess research which will help them build their confidence in their ability to do academic research.
- Help children gain insights into the nature of competition which will help them in any competitive endeavor.
- When youngsters play chess they must call upon higher-order thinking skills, analyze actions and consequences, and visualize future possibilities.
- In countries where chess is offered widely in schools, students exhibit excellence in the ability to recognize complex patterns and consequently excel in math and science. [www.susanpolgar.com](http://www.susanpolgar.com)

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Please detach form below at return it to St. Joan by Friday, September 26<sup>th</sup> to secure your spot.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Grade : 5 6 7 8

Parent E-mail address \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Phone # (where you can be reached between 2:30-3:30) \_\_\_\_\_

Child's skill level at the game of chess:

Novice          Advanced Beginner          Intermediate

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes, my child is definitely interested in participating in the 8 week chess program that may begin on Oct. 2<sup>nd</sup> and run for 8 consecutive Thursdays. I am aware the fee will be approximately \$55 and I will receive an e-mail with the final details by Oct. 1<sup>st</sup>.

\_\_\_\_\_ My child MAY be interested in joining, but not for sure. Please send me the information if the club is formed and if there are available spots.

\_\_\_\_\_ I am willing to serve as a parent helper/chaperone once or twice during the 8 week session. (no knowledge of chess necessary).

**SJA CHESS CLUB**