

Coaches Meeting

We'll be starting our presentation in just a few moments—thank you for joining us!

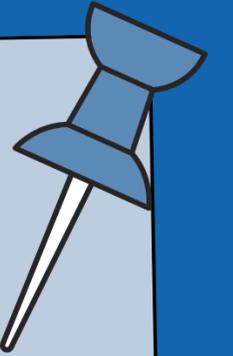
BUILDING THINKERS, LEADERS, & CHAMPIONS ACROSS THE CITY

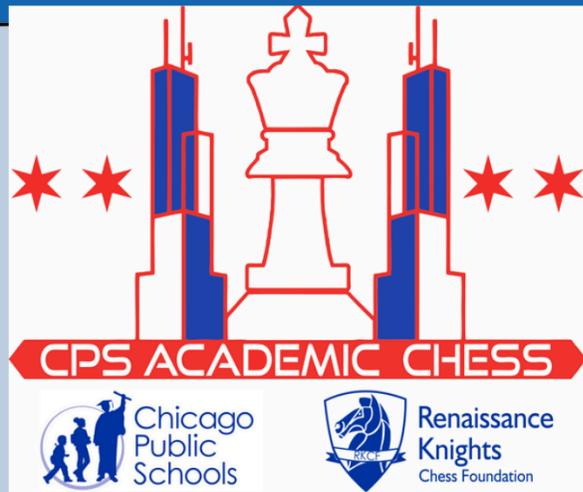




ACTION

Start recording now





Academic Chess Program 2025-2026

Annual Coaches Meeting

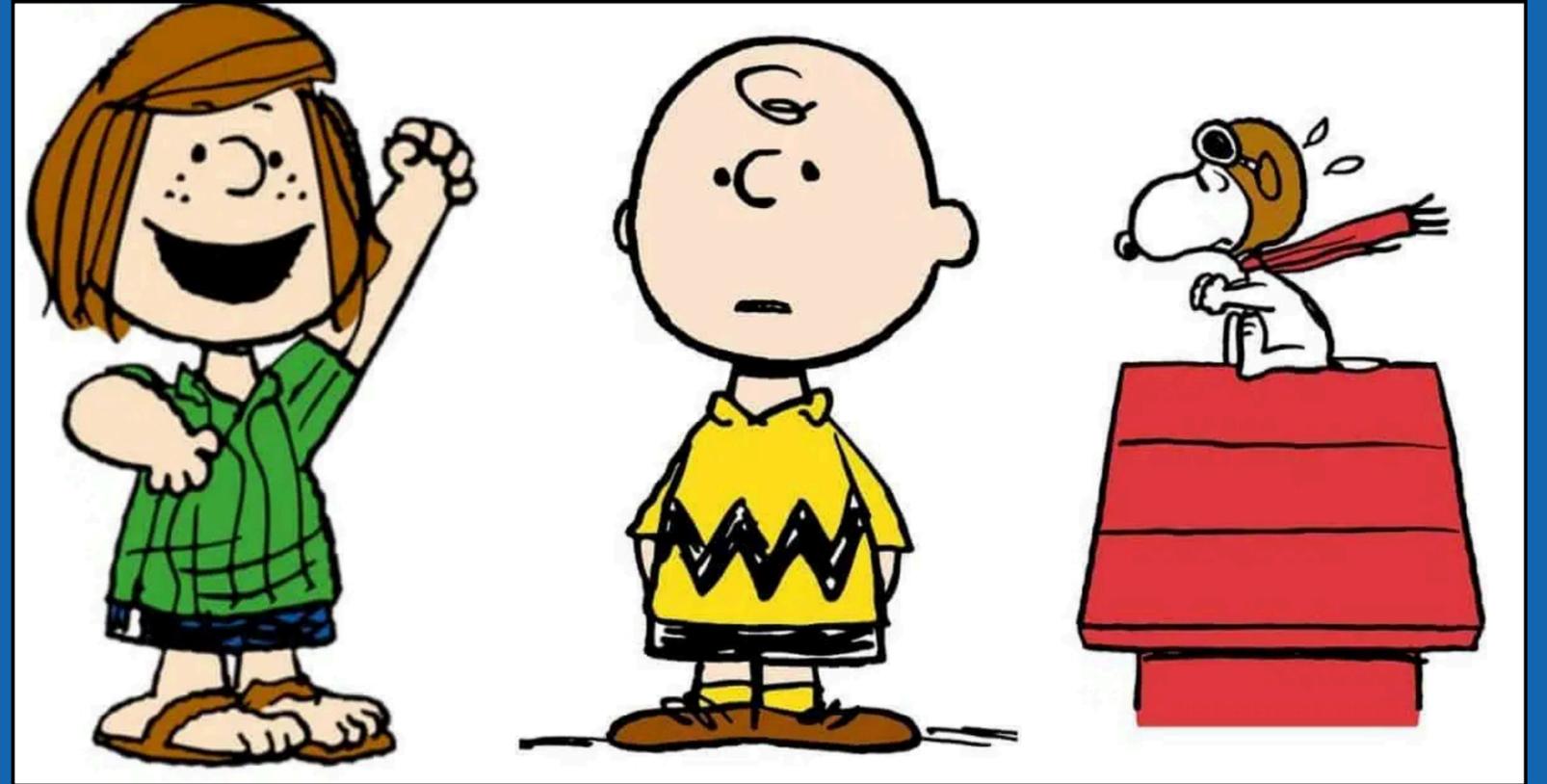
BUILDING THINKERS, LEADERS, & CHAMPIONS ACROSS THE CITY

Welcome back to a brand-new chess season! We're excited to kick off another year of growing minds, building community, and helping students make their best moves—on and off the board.

Thank you for all the time and energy you dedicate to your school's chess program.

Let's work together to make this year the best yet for chess in Chicago!

OUR TEAM



Arlecia Taylor
Manager, CPS
Academic Competitions

David Heiser
Co-Founder & CEO,
Renaissance Knights
Chess Foundation

Darrell Ivy
Program Manager, CPS
Academic Competitions

AGENDA

1. **New Website**
2. **Changes to Cops & Kids Program**
3. **The Chess Season**
4. **Participation Requirements**
5. **Student Behavior at Tournaments**
6. **Chaperone & Coaches Roles**
7. **Online Workshops for Coaches**
8. **Tournament Calendar Updates**
9. **Busing to Tournaments**
10. **New Compensation Process**
11. **ASPEN Requirements & Process**
12. **Chess Equipment for Schools**
13. **Closing / Q&A**



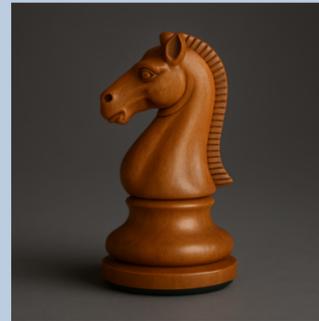
UPDATED WEBSITE

WWW.CPSCHESS.ORG



Fresh New Look

A cleaner, modern design that's easier to navigate



Improved Resources

Now includes direct links to past email updates for quick reference & a lot more



Central Hub

One place to access calendars, forms, results, and key program information



COPS & KIDS INTEGRATION

Due to budget reductions, the Cops & Kids program will be rolled into the regular Academic Chess Program this year.

There will be no separate compensation provided for schools that have a CPD officer participate in their chess class

CHESS SEASON

The chess season begins in October and will encompass the following activities:

- **Conditioning and Practice - School based chess classes**
- **Online workshops for coaches & chaperones**

- **Weekly Tuesday night rapid and monthly Online Tournaments**
- **Monthly City-Wide In-Person Competitions**
- **K-8 Conference Playoffs (K-8)**
- **K-8 & HS City-Wide Championship**
- **Additional tournaments sanctioned by CPS including the All-Girls Nationals and the High School National Championships**

elle

PARTICIPATION REQUIREMENTS

Schools must

Hold regularly classes between
HS: October - January
K-8: October - March

Cover any additional costs
associated with their chess
program

Participation in 2 CPS
tournaments* & the HS
Championship or K-8 Playoffs

- Complete & return the MOU
- Receive parental permission & media release forms
- Enter attendance in ASPEN

[VIEW MOU STATUS AS OF 9/17/25](#)



2025 - 2026 ACADEMIC CHESS PARENT PERMISSION FORM, MEDIA RELEASE, and BEHAVIOR AGREEMENT

I give my child (student name) _____

attending (school name) _____ permission to participate in the CPS Academic Chess program during 2025-2026 school year and to attend Academic Chess sanctioned tournaments and events that are held at various locations in the city of Chicago, state championship competitions held in Illinois, and national championships held in the United States.

The Chicago Public Schools Office of Student Support and Engagement (OSSE) and the Department of Academic Competitions have high expectations for students participating in each of the Academic Chess Competitions. We expect students to be respectful of peers, coaches, volunteers, and administrators. We also expect students to be mindful of all rules and adhere to them. All students are expected to comply with the Chicago Public Schools' Student Code Conduct at school and during every chess competition.

I understand that participation in the online and over the board tournaments requires that my child's personal data be used for registration, and I hereby give consent for my child's chess coach and/or administrator, and Academic Competition staff to share my child's name, grade, date of birth, school, and any necessary medical condition that the tournament organizer needs to make accommodations for with Renaissance Knights. Furthermore, I authorize Academic Competition staff and Renaissance Knights to use this information as necessary to create ChessKid.com, US Chess, and FIDE memberships for my child as needed, and to register my child for State, National, and other tournaments my child may attend.

I understand that the team coach is the official chaperone and that he/she has full responsibility to make medical or other necessary decisions and that as the child's parent and/or legal guardian, and that I will be held responsible for any damages resulting from the student's behavior.

I, hereby release the Chicago Public Schools, the Office of Student Support and Engagement (OSSE), Renaissance Knights, and the Department of Academic Competitions from all liability and responsibility and hold each of them harmless for any damage or injury which may be incurred or caused by my child before, during or following any such competition, including during travel. I further consent to the release of information about or relative to my participation activities, including scores, photographs, sound video recordings and any other data. The Academic Chess Program shall have full rights to reproduction and use of all such materials as will outside tournament organizers.

By signing this form, the parent/legal guardian and student hereby agree to follow the competition rules, adhere to the student behavior agreement, and accept interpretation and decisions made by the Academic Competition's team.

Signature of student _____ Date: _____

Signature of Parent/Guardian _____ Date: _____

Please complete and return this form to your school's chess coach **ASAP**
Coaches are to retain this form and have a copy of it to all tournaments



2025 - 2026 ACADEMIC CHESS STUDENT DATA SHEET

LAST NAME _____ FIRST NAME _____ MI _____

DATE OF BIRTH _____ GRADE _____

SCHOOL NAME _____ GENDER IDENTITY _____

US CHESS ID # _____ ID look-up at <https://new.uschess.org/player-search>
ENTER NONE IF YOU DON'T HAVE ONE

CHESSKID USERNAME _____
ENTER NONE IF YOU DON'T HAVE ONE

PARENT NAME _____

CELL PHONE NUMBER _____

PARENT EMAIL _____

HOME ADDRESS _____ ZIP CODE _____

Does your child have any medical conditions/allergies of which we should be aware? Yes No

If yes, please specify also include any medication your child is currently taking (prescription and over-the-counter):

Please complete and return this form to your school's chess coach **ASAP**
Coaches are to retain this form and have a copy of it to all tournaments



Must have an original signature; an electronic signature is not acceptable.

Media Consent Form and Release

Consent/Release

I hereby consent to have my child photographed, digitally recorded, video taped, audio taped and/or interviewed by the Board of Education of the City of Chicago (the "Board") or the news media when school is in session, either in person or hosted remotely, or when my child is under the supervision of the Board. Further, I consent for these photos, digital recordings, video tapes, audio tapes and/or interviews to be shared with third parties who have received written approval from the Office of Communications. I understand in the course of the above described activities that the Board might like to celebrate my child's accomplishments and work. Therefore, I further consent for the Board's release of information on my child's name, academic/non-academic awards and information concerning my child's participation in school-sponsored activities, organizations and athletics.

I also consent to the Board's use of my child's name, photograph or likeness, voice or creative work(s) on the Internet or on a CD or any other electronic/digital media or print media electronic which may include honorary banners/signs displayed in, near, or around the school building or community. I understand and agree that the Board and/or its authorized representatives retain the right to use any digital or print capture (including video, audio, photographs or likeness) for any purposes stated or related to the above and may be used by the District in subsequent years.

As the child's parent or legal guardian, I agree to release, indemnify and hold harmless the Board, its members, trustees, agents, officers, contractors, volunteers and employees from and against any and all claims, demands, actions, complaints, suits or other forms of liability that shall arise out of or by reason of, or be caused by the use of my child's name, photograph or likeness, voice or creative work(s), on television, radio or motion pictures, or on the Internet, or any digital file, or any other electronic/digital media or print media or in connection with my child's participation in virtual school events and/or celebratory activities.

It is further understood and I do agree that no monies or other consideration in any form, including reimbursement for any expenses incurred by me or my child, will become due to me, my child, our heirs, agents, or assigns at any time because of my child's participation in any of the above activities or the above-described use of my child's name, photograph or likeness, voice or creative work(s).

I understand that I may cancel this consent by providing written notice to the principal. I also understand that my consent is valid for one school year, including the following summer.

Instructions: Check Box #1 or Box #2

- I consent as outlined in the above consent/release section.
- I **DO NOT** consent as outlined in the above consent/release section.

Signature of Parent/Guardian/Student if age 18 or older Printed Name of Parent/Guardian/Student if age 18 or older

Student's Name Student ID #

Date School

I understand that I have the right to inspect and copy my student's records, challenge the contents of such records, and limit my consent to the designated records or designated portions of information within the records. Department of Education Policy and Procedures 06.01.20

Update 5/24

Before coming to a tournament, schools are required to have received signed Academic Chess Parental Permission & Media Consent forms from each student signed by the student and a parent agreeing that "All students are expected to comply with the Chicago Public Schools' Student Code Conduct at school and during every chess competition."



STUDENT BEHAVIOR AT TOURNAMENTS

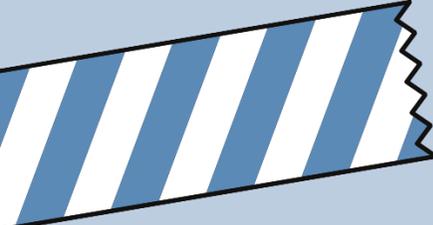
Last year there were issues with the unacceptable conduct of students at chess tournaments, mainly outside the tournament playing hall.

Misconduct may result in the students and/or schools removal from the event and ban from future events

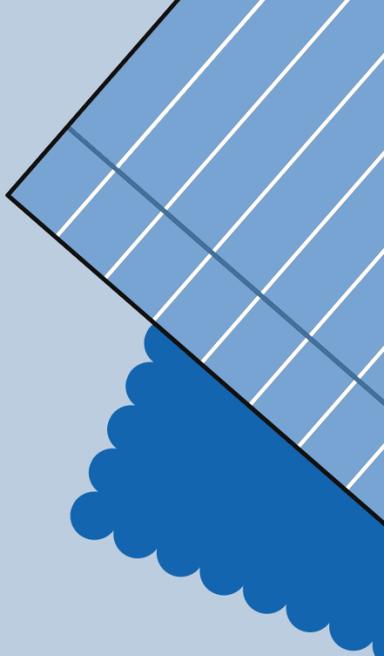
The below behavior are not appropriate, and are in violation of the Chicago Public Schools' Student Code Conduct.

- Running in the hallway
- Kicking balls inside the building
- Throwing items to each other across the room
- Smashing food on the tables and floors
- Climbing on furniture and windowsills
- Throwing wet wadded up paper towels against the walls in the bathroom
- Joy riding on the elevator
- Going outside without being escorted by a chaperone
- Not cleaning up after themselves



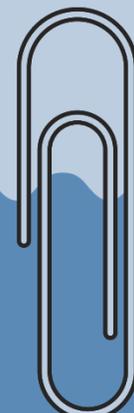


COACH/CHAPERONE REQUIREMENTS FOR TOURNAMENTS



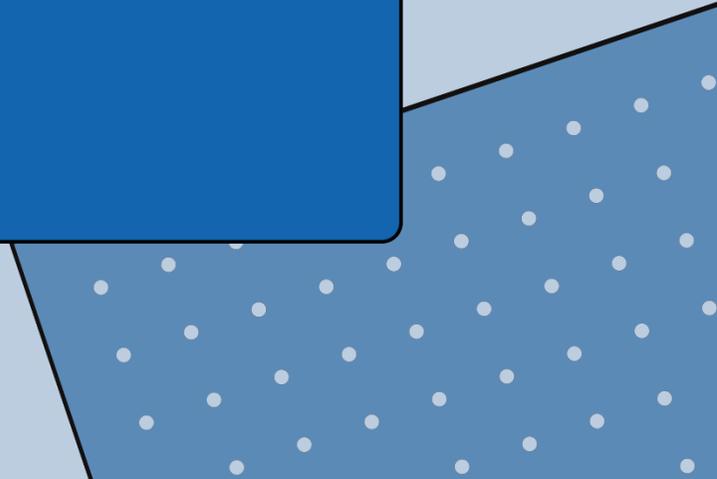
Each school must provide at least 2 coaches/chaperones

Must have pass background check



Ratio of 1 per 6 students

Approved by the school administration



CHAPERONE & COACHES ROLE AT TOURNAMENTS

Coaches are expected to:

- Assist their students in preparing for the next round
- Keep track of their students' score and the overall team score
- Advocate on behalf of their players regarding any rule violations

In addition, a coach has the same responsibilities as a chaperone

Chaperones are responsible for:

- Watching over and correcting student behavior outside the tournament hall
- Ensuring students conduct themselves appropriately in accordance with CPS expectations and the Student Code of Conduct

ONLINE WORKSHOPS

Offered on Wednesday via Zoom starting at 5:30 PM

Oct 1 - Tournament 101:
Chess Tournament Basics &
Registration Process

Oct 8 - Coaching &
Chaperoning at
Tournaments 101: What to
Expect & How to Prepare

Oct 15 - Aspen 101:
Navigating Student Data &
Attendance

Oct 22 - ChessKid 101:
Getting Started with the
Online Platform

Oct 29 - Beyond the Board
101: Social-Emotional
Learning through Chess

Nov 5 - Coaching 101:
Foundations for a
Successful Chess Club

Nov 12 - Coaching 101:
Building a Strong Chess
Culture at Your School

Nov 19 - Coaching 101:
Lesson Planning for Chess
Coaches



TOURNAMENT CALENDAR

CHESSKID ONLINE TOURNAMENTS

Tuesday Knights Rapid

- Weekly between Oct -Apr
- Round 1 Begins: 6:00 PM
- 5 Rounds | G/10 time control
- One Open Section for all grades

Monthly on non-attendance day

- Round 1 Begins: 10:00 AM
- K-6 section: 5-round G/15; +5
- 7-12 section: 4-round G/40; +5

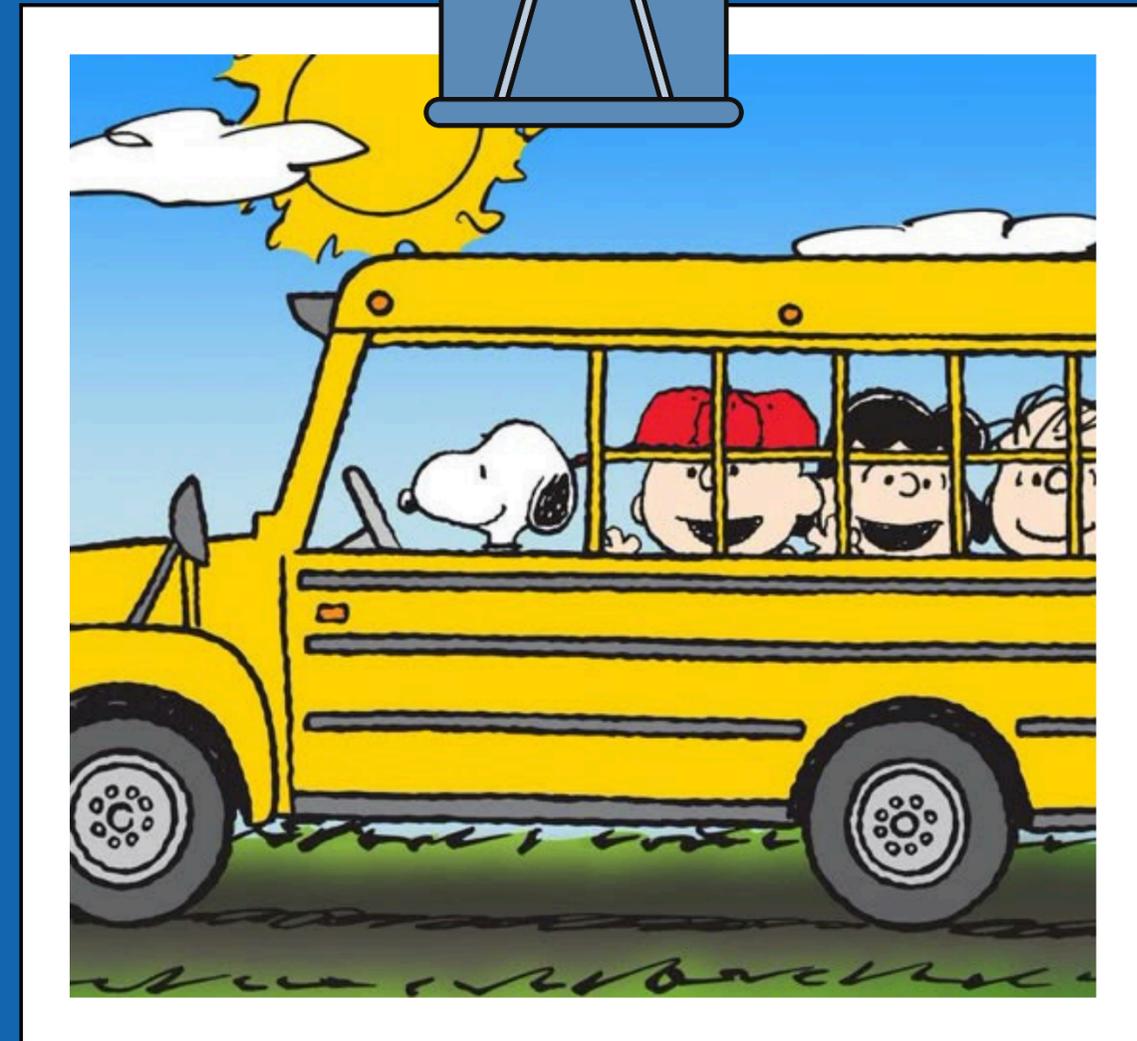
IN-PERSON TOURNAMENTS

- Oct 25: All-Stars Tournament (TBD)
- Nov 15: Knights Quest (TBD)
- Dec 6: Kings & Queens (TBD)
- Jan 24: HS Champ (Hubbard HS)
- Feb 21: Greater Chicago K-12 (McCormick Place)
- Feb 28: K-8 Playoffs (Senn HS)
- Mar 14: K-8 Championship (Westinghouse)
- Mar 27 - 29: High School Nationals (Sheraton Grand Chicago)
- Apr 10-12: All-Girls Nationals (Hyatt McCormick Place)

BUSING TO TOURNAMENTS

At this time we are able to provide busing to all our tournaments.

- Busing must be requested by the set deadline using the link on the event page
- Routes with pick-up/drop off times will be sent ASAP



Together, we can change student's lives through chess.



COACHES COMPENSATION

- 39 hours per school (split up to 2 coaches)
- 2 hrs – Annual Coaches Meeting
- 21 hrs – for 3 tournaments (7 hrs each)
- 16 hrs – Weekly chess classes
- +7 hrs for IHSA Sectionals or K–8 Championship
- Must be CPS Teacher, ESP, or Misc employee
- 2024–25 hourly rate: \$30.68/hr
- 2025–26 rate: pending CTU contract update

PROCESS

- Stipends are no longer allowed (CTU contract)
- Coaches must clock in/out using CPS timekeeping system
- Complete online Academic Chess timesheet (December & March)
- Verified by Academic Competition staff
- Payments in January & April

COACHES MEETING TIMESHEET

Coaches wishing to be paid for attending this coaches meeting must complete the online timesheet at:

[https://forms.gle/
jooLtZ2MpfVJnK4W9](https://forms.gle/jooLtZ2MpfVJnK4W9)



ASPEN



**Tuesday
Office Hours
10:30 - 11:30 am**



ASPEN CLASSROOM

- **User Guides**
- **How To Videos**
- **Sample Attendance Sheet & More**



**Thursday
Office Hours
3:30 - 4:30 pm**



<https://classroom.google.com/c/NzUxOTQ0NTUyMTkw?cjc=iwgiqhy>

ASPEN

Program Name

The chess program name needs to be:

- Academic Chess
- Tournament: (Tournament Name)

You may need to use a unique designation, such as:

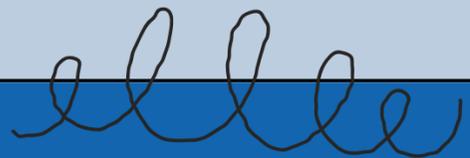
- Academic Chess (grade Levels)
- Academic Chess (Day of Week)

Primary Partner

In the Primary Partner organization field, search for Renaissance Knights. If not listed select Other, then type in Renaissance Knights in the text box

Program Administrator

Add Darrell Ivy as an Administrator with the role of Advisor



CHESS EQUIPMENT

- Priority for new schools joining Academic Chess
- New school package: 5 boards, bags, & pieces, plus a clocks
- Returning schools may request 5 chess sets
- Must complete the online form

Online Request Form

[https://
forms.gle/8QZDiaTzBPpPTms97](https://forms.gle/8QZDiaTzBPpPTms97)



elle

WE ARE LOOKING FOR HIGH SCHOOLS INTERESTED IN TAKING STUDENTS TO THIS EVENT. WE ARE ABLE TO ARRANGE BUSING FOR SCHOOLS.



HBCU College & Career Fair



25+ HBCUs in attendance



FREE EVENT



Friday, October 3, 2025

9:00 AM - 12:30 PM

Soldier Field United Club - Chicago, IL

FEATURING

The BMO Bank Financial Literacy & Empowerment Summit

- Teen Fest
- On-Site Conditional College Acceptance & Scholarships
- Career Partners Hiring

To register visit:

www.ChicagoFootballClassic.org





CHEES PARENTS MEETING



DATES
23 SEPTEMBER 2025
29 SEPTEMBER 2025



TIME
5:30- 6:30PM

ONLINE VIA ZOOM

WWW.CPSCHESS.ORG



THURSDAY KNIGHTS

ONLINE CHESS CLASSES



When: Thursdays, 5:30–6:30 PM
First Session: Thursday, October 2, 2025



Where: Online via Google Meet



Who Can Join:
Open to Chicago Public Schools students in grades 2–8 whose school does not currently offer chess classes.



Class Size:
Space is limited to 25 students. Enrollment is based on interest form submissions.



Instructor:
Classes will be taught by Coach Josh Flores, an experienced chess coach with Renaissance Knights.



Details: <https://cpschess.org/events/thursday-knights-online-chess-classes/>



CLOSING / Q&A

Thank you for being a part of
Academic Chess!

Please take a few minutes to complete our survey — your feedback is essential in helping us improve the Academic Chess Program.

<https://forms.gle/H7uNqKbr2RxCzPby5>

