

Chess for Children



Wednesdays September 26, October 3, 10, 17, 24 2018

Hillsdale Elementary PTO STEAM Committee and Mr. Hober are implementing a beginner's chess club for all students. Program cost per student is \$20.

This five week after school program will be held on Wednesdays from 3:40 p.m.-5:00 p.m. in the Hillsdale Elementary Art Room. The program will teach children basic chess moves, strategy, and reasoning skills.

Northwest Washington Scholastic Chess has organized an article entitled "Benefits Chess for Youth" which stresses the importance of chess for children. Some of the facts are listed below.

In a Texas study, regular (non-honors) elementary students who participated in a school chess club showed twice the improvement of non-chessplayers in Reading and Mathematics between third and fifth grades on the Texas Assessment of Academic Skills. (P)

The State of New Jersey passed a bill legitimizing chess as a unit of instruction within the elementary school curriculum. A quote from the bill states "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..." (L)

Chess dramatically improves a child's ability to think rationally

Chess increases cognitive skills

Chess improves children's communication skills and aptitude in recognizing patterns, therefore:

Chess results in higher grades, especially in English and Math studies

Chess builds a sense of team spirit while emphasizing the ability of the individual

Chess teaches the value of hard work, concentration and commitment

Chess instills in young players a sense of self-confidence and self-worth

Chess makes a child realize that he or she is responsible for his or her own actions and must accept their consequences

Chess teaches children to try their best to win, while accepting defeat with grace

Chess provides an intellectual, competitive forum through which children can assert hostility, i.e. "let off steam," in an acceptable way

Chess can become a child's most eagerly awaited school activity, dramatically improving attendance

Chess allows girls to compete with boys on a non-threatening, socially acceptable plane

Chess helps children make friends more easily because it provides an easy, safe forum for gathering and discussion

Chess allows students and teachers to view each other in a more sympathetic way

Chess, through competition, gives kids a palpable sign of their accomplishments

Help support this new program by volunteering your time. No experience needed! For information or details contact Mr. Hober at hober@wcasd.net. Pick up for all students will be at the entrance to the school and parents/guardians must come into the entrance in order to sign out their children.