



The Indian Trail - Elm Place Chess Club

Scholastic chess has enjoyed explosive growth in recent years and has shed its reputation as a game only for intellectuals. Beyond the sheer pleasure of playing, studies have shown that chess improves academic performance, concentration, logical thinking, and social skills.

The Indian Trail/Elm Place Chess Club will re-open on **September 13th** with a continued focus on instruction. The club director is Jerry Neugarten, a retired attorney. During its first three years, the club won numerous trophies in competition, including three 3rd place team trophies at state championships. Before moving to Highland Park, Jerry ran an award-winning scholastic club in upstate New York which produced a national champion. He also spearheads the district-wide chess program (www.hpchess.org) and serves as chair of the Youth Committee of the Illinois Chess Association.

The club is open to those in grades K-8 and will meet on **Monday and Wednesday afternoons in the Indian Trail multi-purpose room from 3:20 to 5:20 pm**. Elm Place students will be permitted to attend the Elm Place homework club between 2:40 and 3:20 pm and can then either walk on their own or be picked up and driven to Indian Trail. They may also leave Elm Place at 2:40 as they normally would and come to Indian Trail by their own means at 3:20. (They will not be supervised in the period between their leaving Elm Place and arriving at Indian Trail.)

The club will run through May. Members are not required to attend all year or to attend every session and may leave early. Attendance will be taken and parents will be asked to specify in writing any variations from full-time attendance. (Additional security procedures are spelled out in the club Handbook.) Although members may join the club at any time, beginners are encouraged to attend regularly during the first two months when introductory lessons are offered at each club session. Intermediate and advanced lessons will be conducted once a week. Lessons will run 45 minutes, and members are expected to attend lessons when they are offered. The second half of each session will be devoted to play. Sets and boards will be provided. Parents and caregivers are welcome, and members should bring snacks. Those who wish may visit the club before deciding whether to join.

Members are divided into groups based on experience. The club ranks members according to their wins and losses, and the club maintains an incentive system rewarding our members for teaching, participating in lessons, using the club's instructional software, and helping the club in other ways. The club plays matches against other schools and will encourage club members who feel ready to attend local and statewide tournaments.

Attendance is free for Indian Trail students, thanks to generous support from the Indian Trail PTO. Elm Place students are asked to pay \$80 for the entire year, but scholarships are available. Indian Trail parents may have already signed up for the club on the PTO web site. If you have not, or attend Elm Place, please complete the registration form and return it to the Indian Trail office or bring it to a club meeting. For information, call Jerry Neugarten at 847-831-2435 or e-mail him at jerryn@statetel.com.

Registration Form 2010-2011

Name of member: _____

Grade: _____

Parents' names: _____

Phone numbers (incl. cell): _____

E-mail address for club notices: _____

Experience Level (check one):

- Beginner (does not know how to move the pieces)
 Intermediate (knows the moves, including en passant and castling, and some strategy)
 Advanced (comfortable with notation, knows basic principles of strategy, understands idea of positional chess, has played competitively)

I, _____, the parent/guardian of the above student, give my permission for him/her to attend meetings of the Indian Trail/Elm Place Chess Club. I agree to follow the attendance and security procedures spelled out in the club Handbook.

I am interested in a scholarship.

Parental involvement is encouraged. We benefit especially when parents are able to attend club meetings whether or not they play chess. Please indicate below how you can help the club.

- By attending club meetings
 By helping at club or district-wide tournaments
 By serving as a club photographer
 Some other way: _____

Anything you would like us to know about your child?

Date

Signature of parent/guardian