



SEWARD MONTESSORI SHARKS

Seward Chess Club Meets Tuesdays and Fridays

The Seward Chess Club will be meeting in the Seward Cafeteria after school from 2:00 – 3:00pm on Tuesdays and Fridays when school is in session. **The first day will be Friday, October 6.** This drop-in session is open to K-8 and all levels of players including those with little to no experience playing chess. Parent pick-up is required and parents are encouraged to arrive early and join us.

The Seward Chess Club will have an **Open House on Thursday, September 21**, 6:00 - 7:30pm in the Art Room of Matthews Park Recreation Center. Students can play chess and parents will meet from 6:15 – 6:45pm to discuss the upcoming scholastic chess year. Old and new chess parents are encouraged to attend this parent meeting to review the scholastic tournament calendar and goals for the year.

We consider everyone who plays chess at Seward as being part of the Seward Sharks Chess Club. We have three types of participants:

- **Beginners** – are just learning and play casually
- **Intermediates** – have a good understanding of the chess pieces and may attend a scholastic chess tournament occasionally
- **Advanced** – participate regularly in local, state and national scholastic chess tournaments and attend specialized chess instruction



Seward Sharks competed at 2017 Supernationals – US Scholastic Chess Championship in Nashville, TN. The team finished in 9th place in the K-6 U1000 section with Noah Weiser coming in 1st place in the country.

Intermediate and Advanced players will represent Seward Montessori and compete in scholastic chess tournaments and competitions throughout the year. They are also likely to participate at State Chess Championships and Nationals, the US Chess Scholastic Championships.

Intermediate and Advanced players are expected to participate in additional training and preparation with the Club and on their own. These players and their families will also be asked to assist with fundraising and logistics for the Seward Chess Club. Please contact me soon if your player would like to participate in tournaments.

The Chess Club helps coordinate a **Community Drop-in Chess program through Minneapolis Parks and Rec at Matthews Park Rec Center Thursdays** from 6:00-8:00pm. This program may or may not be staffed by Seward chess coach. A number of our families do attend this somewhat regularly. Because this program is open to the community we require parental supervision for new or younger players.



Minneapolis Public Schools has also contracted with ChessKid.com to offer GOLD accounts to our students across the district. ChessKid.com is a child-safe online resource that offers excellent chess tutorials, lessons and live online play for students. It's highly recommended that all Seward Chess Club players register for their free MPS account at www.mpschess.org

The Seward Chess Club is run by parent and community volunteers with strong support from Principal Tammy Goetz and the main office as well as player's parents and teachers. **For the 2017-2018 school year, the Chess Club will be asking parents to contribute an activity fee of \$40** for the 40-50 drop-in chess sessions during the school year.

These fees will support T-shirts, chess equipment and fees and expenses related to tournaments. Parents are asked to contribute what they can afford and players are always welcome to after-school chess regardless of ability to pay. The Chess Club will make an effort to support students with additional tournament fees and expenses. Chess fees can be left at the Seward office Attn: Seward Chess Club.



Seward Sharks are K-3 1st Place Team at 2017 MSCA State Championship. (Seward was also K-5 Team Champion!)

The Seward Sharks Chess Club is growing and I'm anticipating another successful year. I look forward to seeing everyone on Tuesdays and Fridays.

Pete Munene

Seward Montessori Chess Club
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