







# 2024 VFMS Winter Chess Club

The Valley Forge Middle School Winter **Chess Club** will start on **Wed, January 3** and is open to grades 5-8. We will meet once a week on **Wednesday** after school until **4:00** in room 817 with **Mr. Prothero** (6<sup>th</sup> grade science teacher). There are a limited number of spaces available. There are **NO** official chess competitions.

Check **ONE** game piece that best describes your level of chess experience:

<input type="radio"/>		<b>Checker</b>	I have never played. Unsure about how the pieces move.
<input type="radio"/>		<b>Pawn</b>	I know how most of the pieces move, and I am familiar with how to set up the board. I just don't play often.
<input type="radio"/>		<b>Knight or Bishop</b>	I know all the pieces and can easily set up the board. I play often but could use a few more strategies.
<input type="radio"/>		<b>Rook</b>	I like to control the center of the board. I fork and castle often.
<input type="radio"/>		<b>King</b>	I play in chess tourneys and have an official chess FIDE rating. <i>En passant</i> is one of my favorite moves.
<input type="radio"/>		<b>Queen</b>	I could beat Bobby Fisher, Viswanathan Anand, Magnus Carlsen, Deep Blue, & Gary Kasparov while blind folded with just a pawn and a king.

My child, \_\_\_\_\_, in grade \_\_\_\_, has permission to participate in the **VFMS Winter Chess Club** until 4 with Mr. Prothero in room 817 on **Wednesdays** during January, February, and March.

**Please check/complete each of these tasks:**

- We understand that we are responsible for appropriate **transportation plans** when students are dismissed at 4. (**No** shuttle bus)
- We read the information about the **TESD Activity Fee**.

*"The Tredyffrin/Easttown School District charges an activity participation fee to offset some of the expenses of extra-curricular programs. The established fee is \$50, which covers participation in one **or more** sports or activities. Any student who participates in one or more of these activities must pay the \$50 fee. Students participating in the free or reduced price lunch program will not be required to pay this fee. The fee may be paid online or by mail. Do not pay this fee at the schools, and do not submit payment to club advisors."*

- We submitted **contact info** on the form on the **VFMS Chess Club Schoology Group** (look under group menu or link below).  
Space is limited, so it is important to complete these forms right away. <https://schoolology.tesd.net/group/1395914415>

Parent/Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Return completed form to Mr. Prothero in Room 817  
**Chess Club Questions?** Please contact Mr. Prothero at [protherok@tesd.net](mailto:protherok@tesd.net)  
**Activity Fee questions?** Contact Mr. Rooney at [rooneyh@tesd.net](mailto:rooneyh@tesd.net)

# TOPICS

## I. Basics

- The Story of Chess
- How pieces move, capture, and their point value.
- Pawn promotion
- Players will be forced to play with just a king, pawns, and one other piece to focus on the strengths and weaknesses of each one.
- Check & Checkmate
- Stalemate
- Castling
- En passant

## II. Intro to chess strategy

- Controlling the center of the board.
- Stalemate
- Exchange

## III. Combination Play

- Forks
- Skewers
- Pins
- Discovered attack



## III. Finishing

Players will compete with:

Only a king and a few other pieces **VS** just a king to focus on the end game.

Example: how quickly can you checkmate your opponent's lone king with 2 rooks + king?

## IV. Chess Games

- Bunkhouse
- Speed Chess
- 5 by 5 boards

## Other:

- Basic chess etiquette
- Chess Strategies for openings, middle game, and end game
- Fools and scholar mate
- Chess clocks

*There are no official tournaments.*