



CYPRAS, Inc. and Rochester Chess Center
221 Norris Dr.
Rochester, NY 14610



August 2022

TO: Buffalo/Western NY Area Private and Charter High School Principals
FROM: Scott Kroner, MasterMinds Commissioner
Ron Lohrman, Interscholastic Chess League Executive Director
RE: Sign-up/registration for the 2022-2023 school year

Planning is now underway for the newest season of the MasterMinds and the Interscholastic Chess League (ICL) programs; **a season which promises expanded growth in participation as schools continue to recover from COVID concerns.** MasterMinds is a team-based, academic quiz bowl-style competition similar to the old College Bowl program. It provides a competitive structure to recognize the strengths of academically talented students. The Interscholastic Chess League allows students to test their analytical skills in the classic game of logic and strategy against the talents of the brightest students from other schools.

With the start of classes not far away, we hope that your school will make plans to join us for another fun and engaging year of interscholastic competitions. Both MasterMinds and Chess have been important parts of the extracurricular offerings at dozens of schools around the Greater Rochester area for years; all part of the more than 100 schools across upstate NY that participated last year.

If you are unsure of interest among your students, you can schedule a demonstration where we come to your school -- either during lunch or after school -- and show your students what the programs are like. If you are interested, please check the appropriate box on the enclosed form and return it as soon as possible or call or e-mail us to schedule a demonstration.

After having to compete remotely during the 2020-2021 school year, last year saw a return to in-person competition for both the Chess and MasterMinds programs. Coming off a year when so many extracurricular activities were dramatically scaled back or just outright cancelled, our programs continued to give students an opportunity to participate and be involved.

In-person play remains the gold standard for both chess and quiz bowl. But recognizing that COVID and its variants could be a concern, we want to assure you that we have plans to make our programs as vibrant and safe as we can. If circumstances make in-person play for either program an unacceptable risk, we will suspend play until conditions improve. If conditions warrant, we can even convert to remote play until such time as health officials deem it reasonable to resume in-person play. Having completed a full season of remote play, we know how to do it, and do it effectively. Mask-wearing is always permitted but is not mandatory.

After several years of frozen program fees, and facing inflationary pressures, there are increases in this year's rates. However, we are pleased to announce that those increases are being kept under the two-percent limits that the state sets for budgetary increases. The fee for MasterMinds for the 2022-2023 season will be at **\$779/team** and the cost for the optional JV program is **\$346** (with varsity participation as a prerequisite). The cost for a team in the Interscholastic Chess League stands at **\$349**.

To register and participate in MasterMinds and/or Chess for the 2022-2023 season, the enclosed registration form should be completed and returned, with a requested deadline of **Friday, September 23, 2021**. If you are considering working with another school to field a joint/shared team -- something that **is** permitted -- let us know. Previous non-participants in MasterMinds will still receive a new school orientation.

With a return to normal programming, this is a sensible time to become involved! For any questions about MasterMinds, contact Scott Kroner at 585-473-0864 or nymasterminds@gmail.com. For Chess, contact Ron Lohrman of the Rochester Chess Center at 585-442-2430 or chesscenter@rochester.rr.com. You can also check out www.nymasterminds.com and www.nychess.org for additional information.

We hope to see your school offer your students the opportunity to participate in these popular programs, and we look forward to hearing back from you!