



August 2022

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

Preparations are now underway for the upcoming 2022-2023 season of Academic Challenge Bowl and the Interscholastic Chess League (ICL) programs; **a season which promises expanded growth in participation as schools continue to recover from COVID concerns.**

As you may know, Academic Challenge Bowl is a quiz bowl-style, academic team competition that effectively serves as a modified-level (grades 6, 7 and 8) version of the high school quiz bowl program MasterMinds. The ACB program gives students with academic strengths the opportunity to extend those talents against some of the brightest from other local schools. ACB's partner — Interscholastic Chess League — allows students a chance to test their analytical skills in the classic game of logic and strategy against the talents of 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 ACB and Chess have been important parts of the extracurricular offerings at dozens of schools for years.

**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 ACB 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 Academic Challenge Bowl for the 2022-2023 season remains at **\$492/team**. The chess fee for schools playing in a middle school league still stands at **\$209**.

To register and participate in ACB or Chess this year, the enclosed registration form should be completed and returned to CYPRAS. Forms should be received by **Friday, October 21, 2022** by mail, fax or e-mail. The annual scheduling meeting for coaches, which sets the dates for competitions, will be held shortly thereafter.

Academic Challenge Bowl and Interscholastic Chess are great programs to offer to your students and the time has never been better to join some of the most popular academic programs around. If you have any questions about ACB, please contact Scott Kroner at 585-473-0864 or at [nyacb1@gmail.com](mailto:nyacb1@gmail.com). For the ICL, contact Ron Lohrman of the Rochester Chess Center at 585-442-2430 or at [chesscenter@rochester.rr.com](mailto:chesscenter@rochester.rr.com). The ACB web site also offers answers to a host of questions: [www.nymasterminds.com/acb](http://www.nymasterminds.com/acb), as does the chess web site: [www.nychess.org/league](http://www.nychess.org/league)

We hope you'll consider joining this year and we look forward to receiving your registration!