

Chess Club

Spring Session

Class Details

Classes are held on Wednesdays and Thursdays, with Beginner, Intermediate, and Advanced levels available each day, led by highly experienced coaches:

- Beginner Level: Coach Lane (Wed) & Coach Thomas (Thurs)
- Intermediate Level: Coach Chouchan (Wed) and Coach Tim (Thurs)
- Advanced Level: Coach Slava (Wed) & Coach Orlov (Thurs)

Chess chairs and coaches will be based on kids' skills to arrange the class and inform you of the level and class date. Students may be moved to a higher level during the classes if coaches determine they qualify.

Coach's introduction:

Coach Lane (Beginner – Wed)

- Coach Lane has been teaching chess full-time for 15 years and has coached at over 100 clubs. He's a certified Tournament Director and holds a USCF rating of 1918. His lessons focus on building confidence, problem-solving, and learning from mistakes— all in a respectful and encouraging environment.

Coach Chouchan (Intermediate – Wed)

- With 23 years of coaching experience, Coach Chouchan brings joy and passion to every lesson. Her students regularly win awards at local and national tournaments, and she's especially committed to helping each child grow at their own pace. Her motto: "Learning chess should be fun!"

Coach Slava (Advanced – Wed)

- Coach Slava is a five-time WA State Champion and former US Championship participant. He's been coaching since 2004 in schools across the Seattle area and currently teaches at four schools while offering private lessons.

Coach Thomas (Beginner – Thurs)

- Coach Thomas specializes in teaching beginners, helping students build strong fundamentals and prepare for their first tournaments. His patient and encouraging style keeps young players engaged and excited to learn.

Coach Tim (Intermediate – Thurs)

- With 17+ years of coaching experience, Coach Tim is a founding member of All About Chess and helped develop the curriculum used in our classes. He's worked with hundreds of students and brings a structured, supportive approach to intermediate players.

Coach Georgi Orlov (Advanced – Thurs)

International Master with a USCF rating of 2500, Coach Orlov has been teaching chess since 1985 and co-founded the Orlov Chess Academy. He's a former US Open and Canadian Open champion, and his students have earned national titles and master-level rankings. He's also a published author and a multi-time WA State Champion.

Who: K-5 Graders

When: 8:10-9:10 am Wednesday 10/14- 12/16 (no class on 11/11). Thursday 10/15-12/17 (no class on 11/26).

* When signing up, you may choose Wed or Thursday, or it is ok, to let us know your availability. If you want to sign up for 2 days, you must pay 2 days' tuition fee.

Location: School small gym and P159

Total chess class spots: Wednesday 60 spots/ Thursday 60 spots

Materials: Chess club will provide all materials in class.

Cost:

No Volunteer, No Club: If no PTSA member volunteer signs up, the club session will not run. Once a volunteer is secured, PTSA will email parents to announce that the class is open and provide a payment link.

"We encourage each family to sign up for at least one spot volunteer if possible; volunteering is simple and flexible! You'll just help with sign-in and sign-out, and you're welcome to bring your laptop and work while you're there."

If you need financial support, please get in touch with the school counselor, Mrs. Muhlestein, at jmuhlestein@lwsd.org

To join PTSA, please [visit this link](#)

Any questions? Email clubs@smithptsa.org