

# Chess Club

## Spring Session Class Details

Thanks to the incredible guidance of our dedicated coaches, our young chess players made outstanding progress last year. Samantha Smith finished **first in the Premier Team section of the State Championships!** To continue nurturing their growth, we're excited to offer six chess classes during the 2025–2026 school year. 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)

### How do I know my kids will go to which level class?

When registering, please include the following:

- Your preferred day: **Wednesday, Thursday, or Either**
- Your child's chess experience level:
  - No prior experience
  - Knows basic rules but unfamiliar with tactics
  - Has played on **Chess.com** or **Kids.com** (please include rating)
  - Has participated in formal tournaments (please include **USCF** or **NW** rating)

Chess chairs and coaches will be based on kids' skill to arrange the class and inform you 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:** 8:00-9:00am

Wednesday 2/4- 5/20 (15 classes, no class on 4/15)

Thursday 2/5-5/28 (15 classes, no class on 2/12, 4/16)

(When sign up, you may choose Wed or Thursday or either is ok, to let us know your availability.  
If you want to sign up 2 days, please must pay 2 days tuition fee)

**Location:** School small gym and P159

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

**Material:** Chess club will provide all materials in class.

**Cost:** \$340

(If we do not have enough volunteers and cannot open the class successfully, we will inform you and refund the full amount.)

**No Volunteer, No Club:** If no volunteer signs up at least 7 days before the class starts, we will announce that the class will not open and refund your tuition.

"We encourage each family sign in 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. Sign Up Here!

If you need financial support, please contact with school counselor,

Mrs. Muhlestein <[jmuhlestein@lwsd.org](mailto:jmuhlestein@lwsd.org)>

Sign up deadline: 1/28 at 9pm

Any question? email to [clubs@smithptsa.org](mailto:clubs@smithptsa.org)