

Fellows Chess Club

2019-2020



What is Fellows Chess Club? FCC is a group of children, parent volunteers, and coaches who meet to play chess once a week after school (see schedule). Chess lessons are provided from highly ranked and experienced coach, Anthony Swindell, along with his assistant coaches. Please sign up by Thursday, September 5, 2019. Chess club is limited to 20 students per class, with priority given based on grade level from the highest grade to the lowest. Late registrations will not be accepted unless there are still spaces available. A waiting list will be kept if all spaces are filled and in the event that any become available.

When/Where is Fellows Chess Club? FCC meets in the Media Center at Fellows Elementary from 3:45-4:45 pm on Monday (Advanced class) or Thursday (Beginner and Intermediate classes). Students will meet in the cafeteria before chess club at 3:30 for a snack (provided by chess club). Tournaments will be announced throughout the year. The first FCC meeting will be Monday, September 9th or Thursday, September 12th. Please sign up for either Monday or Thursday, not both. Chess club will be offered for 2 semesters, you may sign up for one or both semesters. There will not be a separate sign up later for the winter semester.

Who should join Fellows Chess Club? No prior chess knowledge is necessary. We will have lessons for grades K-5 and for youth at all levels of play with targeted lessons for new/inexperienced players.

What are the expectations of Parents? Parents are **expected to volunteer** for ONE class per semester, 3:00-5:00 p.m. No prior chess experience is necessary to volunteer. Please watch for the sign up genius, which will be sent to you via email on September 6th. The parent volunteer is responsible for checking students into chess club after school, distributing snack (provided by chess club), cleaning up snack, and checking kids out.

Volunteering is Required!? Chess club is *only* possible thanks to parent volunteers. Our expectation is that all parents volunteer *at least* one class session per semester (we plan for one parent per ten students/two parent volunteers per class for 10 weeks per semester). We understand that not all parents may be able to volunteer though, so those parents are asked to pay the volunteer “opt-out” fee of \$20 per semester. Ames Community School District requires all volunteers to first complete a background check, which can be done online at:
<https://www.ames.k12.ia.us/district/departments/administration/volunteering/>.

How do I sign my child up for chess club? Please go to the following google form and complete the chess club registration form: **[fellowspto.org/chessclub](https://forms.gle/fellowspto.org/chessclub)**

What is the cost of Fellows Chess Club? Fees pay for our coaches and assistant coaches to educate the students on the fundamentals of chess as well as chess club supplies, and FCC T-shirts. The semester fee is \$80 (or \$150 for both semesters). Please pay for your child’s registration online at: <https://squareup.com/store/fellowspto-inc> or make a check payable to “Fellows PTO” with “Chess Club” in the memo line and bring it to the Fellows office by September 5th. Your child’s registration is not complete until we have received your payment. *Scholarships are available; please email chessclubfellows@gmail.com to request scholarship.

Can I get an FCC T-Shirt? A T-shirt is included for each child with their registration fee. Parents or siblings who would also like their own FCC t-shirt (great for showing support and school spirit at area tournaments), are able to sign up for an extra T-shirt on the registration page at a cost of \$10 per T-shirt.

Program/Club Questions? Please contact Amanda Winters: chessclubfellows@gmail.com; 859-444-2221
Coach Questions? Anthony Swindell: swindell@iastate.edu; 847-668-1069

Fellows Chess Club

2019-2020



Before Signing Up, Be Sure to Read the Following!

Late Pick Up Policy: Chess Club is only possible through the time commitments made by our parent volunteers. We must respect each other's time. If you are consistently late to pick up, we will sadly have to penalize your child by ceasing their participation in Chess Club. Chess Club ends promptly at 4:45 p.m. If your child is picked up more than 5 minutes late two times (TWICE), your child will no longer be able to participate; and no refunds will be given on your registration. If for any reason, you are not there to pick up your child by 4:45 pm, please call the coach, Anthony Swindell, on his cell phone at 847-668-1069. Please put Anthony's cell phone number in your phone and answer your phone if he calls (Anthony will be the one to call parents; our parent volunteers will not make these calls). This way, all chess club parents have and will recognize Anthony's phone number.

Behavior Policy: Chess is a concentration/thinking game. While we want Fellows Chess Club members to have fun playing the game, part of the instruction includes building their focus on the game. Students may only talk at a low volume. Please ask your child to be respectful to the coaches and to fellow students. Quiet attention is required when the coach is teaching. FCC members are expected to follow the same rules of behavior that they would in the classroom and in the media center or art room during school. Library books, art supplies and other school equipment are off-limits during chess club. Appropriate classroom behavior is expected, including: one person talks at a time, students raise their hand with questions or answers to questions posed by the coaches, no side conversations or "poking" of other students no matter how friendly the claimed intention, no feet on the chairs or tables, no rocking in the chairs, no food or beverages in class, no outside distractions of any kind in class including toys, playing cards, phones, game players, etc. If a child does not cooperate with FCC rules, parents will be called for early pick up, because our assumption will be that he/she is ready to go home. Repeated disruption will lead to being asked not to return to Chess Club. There will be no refund if your child is uninvited for behavior issues. Parents, please review these rules with your child.

Inclement Weather: If school is cancelled, there will be no chess club. If school is released early due to inclement weather, there will be no chess club. When possible, an email will be sent notifying parents of chess club cancellation; however, if you are ever in doubt, you may call the school to check on the status of after-school activities: 515-239-3765. Every attempt will be made to make up missed classes at the end of each semester.

Schedule

Fall Semester - 10 Weeks		Winter Semester - 10 Weeks	
Mondays - Advanced	Thursdays - Beg & Inter	Mondays - Advanced	Thursdays - Beg & Inter
Sept. 9	Sept. 12	No chess club: Jan. 20	Jan. 23
Sept. 16	Sept. 19	Jan. 27	Jan. 30
Sept. 23	Sept. 26	Feb. 3	Feb. 6
Sept. 30	Oct. 3	Feb. 10	Feb. 13
No chess club: Oct. 7	Oct. 10	Feb. 17	Feb. 20
Oct. 14	Oct. 17	Feb. 24	Feb. 27
Oct. 21	Oct. 24	Mar. 2	No chess club: Mar. 5
No chess club: Oct. 28	No chess club: Oct. 31	No chess club: Mar. 9	No chess club: Mar. 12
No chess club: Nov. 4	No chess club: Nov. 7	No chess club: Mar. 16	No chess club: Mar. 19
Nov. 11	Nov. 14	Mar. 23	Mar. 26
Nov. 18	Nov. 21	Mar. 30	Apr. 2
Nov. 25	No chess club: Nov. 28	Apr. 6	Apr. 9
Dec. 2	Dec. 5	Apr. 13	Apr. 16

Program/Club Questions? Please contact Amanda Winters: chessclubfellows@gmail.com; 859-444-2221
Coach Questions? Anthony Swindell: swindell@iastate.edu; 847-668-1069