



CHESS *for*
SUCCESS

JULY NEWSLETTER

Dear CFS Community,

As we come to the end of another memorable school year, we would like to express our deepest gratitude for your continued support of Chess for Success. Together, we have made a lasting impact on the lives of K-12 students across Oregon and Southwest Washington, providing them with the invaluable opportunity to build community, connection, and confidence through the game of chess. Let's take a moment to celebrate the accomplishments and highlights of this past year.

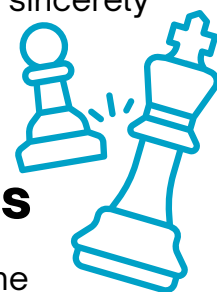


Game Changer 2023

On April 12 we held our annual Game Changer event in Portland. More than 50 of you showed up and made it our best Game Changer to date, raising over \$60,000 to support our programming across Oregon and Southwest Washington! Attendees enjoyed wonderful food provided by Opal 28 and Melanie Nelson, bid on some great silent auction items from our generous donors, and heard from several of our long-time coaches and staff, who shared their stories about why Chess for Success matters to kids and their families. Thank you so much to all who attended, as well as those who were supporting us from afar! You made this event a success, and we are sincerely grateful for your continued support.



CFS Coaches and Staff: The Pillars of Our Success



Our coaches and program staff have been the backbone of our organization, dedicating their time, skills, and passion to support our mission. Their commitment to providing high-quality chess education and guidance to our students has been truly remarkable. We extend our deepest appreciation to these individuals who have given their expertise and support to empower the next generation of strategic thinkers.

THANKS FOR MAKING 2022-23 A GREAT YEAR!



Looking for a Chess Filled Summer?

Discover the power of critical thinking and strategic decision-making at our Chess Summer Camp! Our instructors will guide participants through immersive lessons, tactical exercises, and exciting tournaments. Portland Public School students, North Clackamas School District middle schoolers, and kids age 6-14 in Gresham and Troutdale can sign up now for CFS Play-Grow-Learn Summer Camps. We'll unravel the complexities of chess, ignite a lifelong passion for intellectual pursuits, and most importantly - have lots of fun! Sign up with this link: <https://linktr.ee/chessforsuccess>

Join Us in Making a Difference!

Chess for Success thrives because of the unwavering support from individuals like you. Your involvement as donors, partners, and advocates is instrumental in our ability to provide chess education to students across Oregon.

As we approach the summer break and prepare for the next school year, we invite you to consider how you can continue to support CFS. Together, let's inspire a love for chess, promote critical thinking, and foster a spirit of camaraderie among our young learners.

Thank you for being a part of the Chess for Success community. We wish you a restful summer filled with joy and relaxation, and we look forward to embarking on another exciting chapter together in the upcoming school year.

Inspiring State and Regional Tournaments

This year, Chess for Success organized several exciting tournaments providing our youth with the platform to showcase their skills and compete with their peers.

The level of strategic thinking, concentration, and determination displayed by our participants was truly impressive. We congratulate all the students who participated and commend them for their outstanding achievements.



State Tournament Champions!

State K-4: Isaiah Fattal

State 5th: Declan Larrabee & Beatrix Khan

State 6th: Neil Natarajan & Hayul Lim

State 7th: Kev Thao

State 8th: Banyan Girroir & Danny Mamchik

State 9-12: Roshen Nair & Ian Voe



A word from our Executive Director

Eric Polgar



When I started in October I had no idea what I was getting into...As I think about the last 7 months, what stands out is the passion our staff and coaches have for youth development and teaching the game of chess.

The impact of their hard work and dedication really hit me at this year's State Tournament. I watched as a young student broke down at their chess board... they had just lost their first round match. They got up and walked off crying, but after taking a few steps, they turned around, walked back to their board, reached out their hand and said "well played." They helped reset the board before running away to fall into their father's arms. I watched as Dad provided comfort, support and praise and I moved away and gave them space. As we began round 2, I noticed the same player - still visibly upset - starting their next game. After a couple moves they broke down again and it hurt my heart. I didn't think they'd finish the game, but I circled the room and eventually worked my way back to them. In that time, this kid had rebounded and flipped the script. You could see the change... their confidence and joy... they went on to win the game and I caught the moment they ran into Dad's arms and saw the smiles on both faces.

The grit and perseverance this kid showed, the emotional control they demonstrated and the dad's reaction was my "aha moment." We impart so much more than Chess... we really do help these youth develop skills that will make them better people. When I stopped by to congratulate the player and their father I learned this was their first Chess Tournament. Through our program, this player has developed chess skills and better social and emotional skills. I also learned that dad had never been prouder of their kid than the moment they turned around and shook hands.

As we plan the 2023-2024 program year, I think about that moment at the tournament and I want to make sure every youth we work with develops both their chess skills and their social/emotional skills... that will be our focus this year. We are a unique organization and I feel blessed to be working with a dedicated and talented staff, strong community partners and funders. It takes a community to better the world and we are developing a really strong, open and accepting community. If you are interested in supporting our organization you can get involved by donating money, volunteering time, joining our Board or coaching a program. Visit www.chessforsuccess.org for more information.

Thank you for being part of the Chess for Success Community!