Checkmate Newsletter
Chemawa at the State Tournament

Students from across the state participated in the Chess for Success State Chess Tournament March 9 and 10 at the Oregon Convention Center. On Friday, 245 students competed in the K-5 and 6-8 team divisions and on Saturday, 256 students competed in the K-5 and 6-8 individual divisions. On Friday and Saturday 26 students competed in the high school division.

This year was particularly special for the Chess for Success program. Not only have high school clubs been added, but two students from a new club at Chemawa Indian School qualified for and played in the high school division. Jayden, a senior, and Kaiden, a sophomore, came from Salem to participate in the tournament.

Chemawa Indian School is a boarding school that serves American Indians and Alaskan Natives. The school is over 125 years old and the oldest continuously operated boarding school for Native American students in the United States. Students come from all over the nation to attend. While Chemawa has had a Chess for Success program for two years, this is the first year that any participants qualified for the state tournament. Coach Steve Crane also coaches basketball and football. Many of his students play football or basketball and chess.

Senior Jayden is from Cibeque, Arizona, and he is a basketball player. When asked why he likes chess Jayden said, “I can learn skills, statistics, and strategies. My mind is always running and thinking so [chess] is a positive thing to think about.” Jayden’s mother even came from Arizona to watch him play in the tournament.

Kaiden is from Salt Lake City, Utah. His favorite piece is the knight because it is useful. He won two games and said that he felt good about his wins and is glad to learn from his losses.

Coach Steve said it took a lot of work to bring Kaiden and Jayden to Portland, but he was proud of his students’ success at the tournament. Thank you to all who participated. See you next March!

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Chess For Success by the numbers 2017-2018

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Schools and sites</th>
<th>Of the students in our clubs are girls</th>
<th>Of our students live in poverty</th>
<th>Of the students in clubs are children of color</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>78</td>
<td>31%</td>
<td>65%</td>
<td>48%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elementary School</td>
<td>Middle School</td>
<td>High School</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>76%</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>2%</td>
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A word from the Executive Director

Chess for Success is celebrating 25 years of providing youth from all backgrounds and abilities a powerful framework for success in school and life. The program started in nine high-poverty schools in 1992 which served 200 K-5th grade students. This year we have over 3,000 K-12 students in 78 chess clubs, 24 school districts, 13 counties, and two states. There are programs in therapeutic schools for students who struggle in a standard school setting, and clubs for incarcerated youth.

This year, we added schools in rural Oregon communities including elementary schools in Molalla, Heppner, Amity, Garibaldi, and Tillamook. We also added Jefferson Middle School and a middle school and two high schools in Tillamook. When club permission slips were sent home with the Tillamook Elementary students, 119 signed up to join the club!

We are continuing our partnership with St. Mary’s Home for Boys. They offer residential treatment and services to at-risk boys between the ages of 10 and 17 who are emotionally disturbed and behaviorally delinquent. In the summer we present four chess classes per week for eight weeks, with a tournament on the last day. We also partner with the Oregon Youth Authority (OYA), the agency responsible for youth corrections, to provide lesson plans, equipment, and a state-wide tournament. One of the OYA teachers said, “I have seen a big difference in behavior and attitude in the students and I see students calming down and being able to focus for longer periods of time.”

Looking ahead, we are energized about our five-year strategic plan goals:

- To administrate data-informed programming to improve high-school graduation rates and college/workplace readiness. Chess for Success will strive to increase participation in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) programs and careers.
- Increase infrastructure to support program and operational stability and sustainability.
- Expand resource capacity to support program expansion.

Thanks to the generous support of our donors, we have provided chess programs for 45,600 students with 1.8 million hours of after-school chess lessons in our first 25 years. I look forward to a future that provides even more opportunities to children through chess.

Visit [chessforsuccess.org](http://chessforsuccess.org) to make a tax-deductible contribution.

Chess Open Play!

This summer Chess for Success will host chess at Director Park and Gateway Discovery Park. All dates are from 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m.

**Gateway Discovery Park**
NE Halsey and 106th, Portland

- June 18
- July 16
- August 20

**Director Park**
815 SW Park Ave, Portland

- June 28
- July 19
- August 23
Over 220 business and community leaders gathered at the Portland Hilton on April 26th for the Game Changer Luncheon. Shemia Fagan shared her powerful story about how chess gave her the confidence and drive to succeed. Chess for Success guests and sponsors gave over $120,000 to support children in the program. It was the most successful luncheon ever! Thank you to everyone who attended.
Helping children succeed, one move at a time.

More State Tournament Pictures!

Connect with us!  
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