

Parent Handbook 2017-2018

Who are we? [**www.spartachessclub.org**](http://www.spartachessclub.org)

The Sparta Chess Club is a non- profit organization with an ongoing goal to provide chess for the children of Sparta. While the club promotes casual play, tournament chess is the lifeblood of the club. The US Chess Federation runs sanctioned tournaments where a player becomes nationally ranked.

The club maintains an active tournament schedule and plans to participate in the following events:

October 14 National Chess Day LM Boardwalk

October 28 Sparta Fall Tournament

November 4 Philadelphia (Montgomery County)

November 11 Pocono PMEHS

November 19 NJ Grade Level Lincroft

December 7-11 National Grade Level Disney/Orlando

February 3 Mid Atlantic Regionals Baltimore

February 18-20 US Amateur Team Parsippany

February 25 NJ Primary/Elementary/Middle School Lincroft

March 10-11 NJ High School Scotch Plains

March 31 Sparta Spring Tournament

April 5-9 K-8 Nationals - Atlanta Georgia

April 26-30 High School Nationals - Columbus Ohio

Detailed Tournament Information on **www.uschess.org**

\* = club stipend provided for attendance. Sparta Chess Team members have priority.

What Is A Chess Tournament?

A chess tournament is a wonderful opportunity to test your brain power and chess talent against others in your age/grade or ability level. Games are played with chess clocks and players are required to write down their moves. You might be playing as an individual and/or as part of a team depending on the event. The entry fees for most tournaments are in the $25-35 range. The club carpools to events (except Nationals) and volunteer drivers are always welcome. To accommodate overworked parents, the club has the tradition of making a pit stop at the local Dunkin Donuts for an eye opener.

Each of the five schools has its own club. The club season runs from late September through the end of April. During the meetings, your child will receive instruction, and have time to play against other students. Tom Murray is in charge of the programs at all Sparta schools, and Pope John and is assisted by board members and members of the SHS Varsity Team. Tom has a US Chess Federation rating. Tom has also completed the World Chess Federation’s 36 hour chess coach program. All instructors are volunteers.

The weekly in-school club meetings are helpful, but individual instruction is encouraged to develop opening play and strategies necessary for tournament competition. Your child may receive individual or small group instruction by appointment. Please call Tom Murray at his office 973-726-9405 to schedule individual time during the week from 4-6 p.m.

VOLUNTEERS ARE ALWAYS NEEDED TO MAKE THIS PROGRAM SUCCESSFUL!!! An elementary school parent/s from each school would be most helpful!! Come and learn with the kids…our parent players group grows every year!

Sparta Chess Team

We are providing a structured enrichment program for the more serious players. Membership on the Chess Team requires a commitment from students and parents. There will be weekly assignments and required tournament play. Team members have priority for national events. Participation in National Events will be determined by readiness, and ability. Tom has the final decision on the stipend.

Required events:

Elementary : NJ Grade Level, NJ Elementary,

plus two other rated events.

Middle School : NJ Grade Level, NJ Middle School plus three other rated events.

High School : NJ Grade Level, US Team, NJ High School plus three other rated events.

The ongoing assignments will include developing opening strategies, middle and endgame tactics and problem solving. Master games will be reviewed to enhance the logical thinking of the assignments.

Sparta and Pope John HS Varsity- A Varsity letter may be earned if the following requirements are met...USCF rating over 1200 and one of the top five players on the team. In addition, you must play in 70% of your interscholastic matches. Respect for your teammates is also a requirement. The above high school team requirements must also be met.

Code of Conduct

All members of the Sparta Chess Club are expected to conduct themselves in a respectful manner at all events. Everyone **must** be considerate of others abilities and exhibit good sportsmanship at **all** times. **Parents are responsible for the behavior of their children.**

Communications

The club’s preferred method of communication is through e-mail. The subject line will always include **Sparta Chess Club** making the e-mail easy to identify. Please retain the front page of this handbook for tournament dates.

Publicity

The Sparta Chess Club throughout the season, will send stories and pictures to local newspapers**.** If you have any concerns, please call Tom at 973-726-9405.

Club Dues

The Sparta Chess Club relies on the support of its members to bring our outstanding program to the children of Sparta. As the club grows, it is necessary to assess the parents an activity fee. For the 2017-2018 school year we are asking for a fee of **$150** per child.\* All monies collected are applied to chess club expenses and programs. Dues must be paid by October 30, 2017. Please make checks payable to **Sparta Chess Club**. In addition to the dues, we are asking all rated players to include the following additional fee for their USCF renewal **($35 if over 15, $30 if over 12, $25 for 12 and under)**. This will save the club time and money.

\* Pope John students are exempt from club dues, as PJHS fully funds their team.

SPARTA CHESS CLUB REGISTRATION

Please fill out and return the form as soon as possible.

Child: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Birthdate: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Grade and School: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent(s):\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Address:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Parent: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Child: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Checks made payable to Sparta Chess Club.

PLEASE SIGN TRANSPORTATION WAIVER

I/We as the parent(s) of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ participating in the Sparta Chess Club waive our rights to sue the Sparta Board of Education as a result of using non-school provided private transportation going to and from Sparta Chess Club events.

Name\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Date\_\_\_