



SPARTA  
CHESS  
CLUB

## Parent Handbook 2007-2008

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 27	Sparta Fall Tournament, Sparta NJ
November 18	NJ Grade Level Championship, Lincroft, NJ
January 23	A Night Of Chess- Helen Morgan/Alpine
January 26-27	Greater New York Scholastics, NYC
February 16-18	US Team Championship, Parsippany, NJ
February 24	NJ Elem/Middle School Championship, Lincroft, NJ
March 1-2	NJ High School, Rutgers
March 29	Sparta Spring Tournament, Sparta, NJ
April 3-6	Middle School Nationals, Dallas, Texas!!! *
April 17-20	High School Nationals, Atlanta, Georgia!!! *
May 2	Sussex County Middle School Championship
May 8-11	K-6 Nationals, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania!!! *

Detailed Tournament Information on [www.uschess.org](http://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 \$25-30 range. The club carpools to events (except Big D, Atlanta and Pittsburgh!) 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. All of the Sparta school clubs will have a Swiss System championship in the fall and a round robin tournament in the spring. The fall tournament winners are crowned as school champions. The top finishers in the Mohawk and Middle School spring events earn positions on the team that will defend the Sussex County Middle School Championship. The Sparta school tournaments will be nationally rated.

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 from each school would be most helpful!! Come and learn with the kids...our parent players group grows every year!

## Sparta Chess Team \*\*\*\*\*BRAND NEW!

Beginning this fall, 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. Required events:

Elementary : NJ Grade Level, Greater NY Scholastic, NJ Elementary, plus one other outside event.

Middle School : NJ Grade Level, Greater NY Scholastic, NJ Middle School, plus two outside events

High School : Greater NY Scholastic, US Team, NJ High School plus three outside 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. A simultaneous exhibition with a master is being arranged.

## 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. Frequently, the Sparta Board of Education will help us in this cause. **As a result, if you have prevented the Bd of Ed from using your child's picture, you may be hindering our publicity efforts.** 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 2007-2008 school year we are asking for a fee of **\$50** per child. All monies collected are applied to chess club expenses and programs. Dues must be paid by September 30, 2007. Please make checks payable to **Sparta Chess Club**. In addition to the dues, we are asking all rated players to include an additional **\$19** for their USCF renewal (\$25 if over 14). This will save the club time and money.

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

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Chess Club \_\_\_\_\_ Chess Team \_\_\_\_\_ (see above requirements)

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

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

Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

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

Shirt size \_\_\_\_\_ S \_\_\_\_\_ M \_\_\_\_\_ L \_\_\_\_\_ XL  
(adult)