



Department for
Exceptional
Children

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TO: Rochester Area Middle School Principals

FROM: Nichole Outhouse – Supervisor, Gifted & Talented Education
Damon Piletz – Resource Teacher, Gifted & Talented Education

RE: **2017-2018 Academic Challenge Bowl and Middle School Interscholastic Chess**

Academic Challenge Bowl (ACB) is ready to begin its 17th season and plans are underway for another exciting year of competition. This program is offered as a service through the Gifted & Talented CoSer at Monroe 2-Orleans BOCES; and in partnership with CYPRAS and the Rochester Chess Center. ACB is an academic team competition for students in grades 6 through 8, and is an excellent way to nurture, recognize, and celebrate the academic strengths of students. Like sports programs for the athletically talented, ACB provides a competitive structure for those students who are academically talented. ACB is structured similarly to MasterMinds, the high school quiz bowl program. There are toss-up questions and bonus questions on a wide variety of subject areas. Matches take place after school at the designated host school. The season consists of eight games plus play-offs leading to a championship match.

In addition, we are pleased to offer the opportunity for middle school students to play chess interscholastically. Interscholastic Chess provides an opportunity for students to test their skills in this game of logic and strategy against the skills of students from other schools. Once again, there are two different options for participation in chess. Schools can opt to play in one of our high school chess leagues. These leagues play a 12-game season scheduled concurrently with MasterMinds. Schools may also opt to play a shorter, 8-game regular season in matches scheduled concurrently with the ACB program. Schools playing in either type of league are all eligible for the post-season playoffs.

The cost for ACB is **\$483/team**. The cost for playing chess in a high school league is **\$327/team**. The cost for playing in a middle school chess league is **\$193/team**. Schools are responsible for their own transportation to and from matches. Schools can opt to play chess independently of any participation in ACB, but playing concurrently – with either ACB or a high school MasterMinds team – allows a school to field teams in both ‘sports’ without having to add extra busing.

In order for your school to participate in ACB and/or Interscholastic Chess, please do the following:

1. Complete the enclosed **ACB/Interscholastic Chess Registration Form** and **mail, scan/email, or fax it to Damon Piletz at Monroe 2-Orleans BOCES no later than Friday, October 13, 2017.**

Please Note: Schools also have the option to sign up for these programs directly through CYPRAS. If choosing this option, schools will work directly with CYPRAS rather than Monroe 2-Orleans BOCES for **registration and payment**. These registration materials can be downloaded at **www.nymasterminds.com/acb/signup.html**.

2. Give the enclosed **Coach’s Pre-Scheduling Form** to your ACB and/or Chess Coach as soon as you know who it is. This information assists greatly in the formation and scheduling of the leagues. **Please note that this form needs to be returned to Scott Kroner (CYPRAS) via mail, scan/email, or fax. All information is on the form.**

The Registration Form, the Coach’s Pre-Scheduling Form, and this letter are posted on the following websites: www.monroe2boces.org/gte.cfm?subpage=2304, www.nychess.org/league/, and www.nymasterminds.com/acb/signup.html.

3. If your school will be participating in ACB and/or Chess, **and** registering through Monroe 2-Orleans BOCES, please check with your central office and follow the appropriate procedure for requesting a service from Monroe 2-Orleans BOCES.

Please note: A cross contract, purchase order, or request for additional service must be submitted with the completed registration form (signed by the school principal). In addition, all charges are subject to a 5.2% administrative fee for non-component districts of Monroe 2-Orleans BOCES.

- * Public schools outside of Monroe 2-Orleans BOCES must complete a cross contract service request and submit it to your BOCES. Your BOCES will then send the service request to Monroe 2-Orleans BOCES.
- * Rochester City Schools must submit a purchase order to Monroe 2-Orleans BOCES that requests the service(s).
- * Component districts of Monroe 2-Orleans BOCES need to submit a “Request for Additional Service” **only if ACB was not on your April Service Request.**

Your district will be billed after the request for service is received with the registration.

After the registration deadline, your coach/advisor will be contacted about a coaches’ meeting. If your school is new to either ACB or Chess, you will be contacted to schedule an orientation prior to the start of the season.

We encourage you to join these outstanding programs. If you have questions or need further information, please call Damon Piletz at (585) 617-2458 for Monroe 2-Orleans BOCES registration and payment questions, Scott Kroner from CYPRAS at (585) 473-0864 (www.nymasterminds.com/acb/) for ACB questions, and Ron Lohrman from the Rochester Chess Center (585) 442-2430 (www.nychess.org) for Chess questions. **If you are considering ACB or Chess for the first time, and would like to inquire about starting a club, or schedule a demonstration at your school to gauge student interest, please contact Scott Kroner at (585) 473-0864.**

Best wishes for a successful school year!

Enclosures