

CYPRAS, Inc. and Rochester Chess Center
221 Norris Dr.
Rochester, NY 14610

August 23, 2019

TO: Buffalo Area High School Principals
FROM: Scott Kroner, MasterMinds Commissioner
Ron Lohrman, Interscholastic Chess League Executive Director
RE: Sign-up/registration for the 2019-2020 school year

MasterMinds and the Interscholastic Chess League (ICL) programs are now preparing for another season and with the start of classes not far away, we ask that your school consider joining us for another fun and exciting year of interscholastic competitions. Both MasterMinds and the (ICL) are important parts of the extra-curricular offerings at over two dozen schools around the Greater Buffalo area; part of the more than 150 schools across upstate NY that participated last year. MasterMinds is a team-based, academic quiz bowl-style competition similar to the old College Bowl program. It provides a competitive structure to recognize the strengths of academically talented students. The Interscholastic Chess Leagues allow students to test their analytical skills in the classic game of logic and strategy against the talents of students from other schools.

If you are uncertain about the level of interest among your students, you can schedule a demonstration where we come to your school -- either during lunch or after school -- and run a demonstration for your students to show them what the programs are like. If you are interested, please check the appropriate box on the enclosed form and return it or call 585-473-0864 or e-mail nymasterminds@gmail.com to schedule a demonstration. A presentation to faculty/staff can also be arranged.

The long-standing partnership between MasterMinds and Chess continues with regard to scheduling, registration, and billing. With just one form, a school can sign-up for both MasterMinds and Chess. This streamlining makes everything easier for all involved parties, saving time, money and labor. We are also continuing the recent initiatives about discount pricing: schools can save money by requesting early billing, participating in all programs, and participating at the middle school level in chess or the middle school version of MasterMinds: Academic Challenge Bowl. **We are also pleased to announced some new, engaging initiatives for both MasterMinds and Chess; please see the enclosed flyer for more information.**

The cost for MasterMinds for the 2019-2020 season will be **\$767/team** and the cost for the optional JV program is **\$340** (varsity participation is a prerequisite). These MasterMinds fees represent increases of less than 1% and are only one-third of the increase at BOCES. The cost for a team in the ICL is **\$333**. Chess fee increases are also nominal and less than that of BOCES. Busing remains the responsibility of each individual school although coordinated MasterMinds and Chess scheduling does allow schools to save on transportation.

NOTE: Both MasterMinds and Chess remain available as BOCES services, through the Monroe #2-Orleans BOCES, if desired. Public schools have the option of registering with BOCES by downloading the registration form from www.nymasterminds.com/general/downloads/BR2019MMregform.pdf

To register and participate in MasterMinds and/or Interscholastic Chess for the 2019-2020 season, the enclosed registration form should be completed and returned as soon as possible, with a requested deadline of **Friday, September 20, 2019**. To assist with planning, a prescheduling form has been enclosed for your coach. If you are considering working with another school to field a joint team -- something that is permitted -- we encourage you to contact us to help with coordination.

With so many schools already participating and more interested in joining, this is a great time to become involved! If you have any questions about MasterMinds, contact Scott Kroner at 585-473-0864 or by e-mail at nymasterminds@gmail.com. For the ICL, contact Ron Lohrman of the Rochester Chess Center at 585-442-2430 or by e-mail at chesscenter@rochester.rr.com. You can also check out www.nymasterminds.com and www.nychess.org for additional information.

We hope to see your school become a part of these popular programs, and we look forward to receiving your registration for this season!

MasterMinds / Chess — 2019-2020 — Confirmation/Registration Form

[NOTE: **THIS IS NOT A BILL**; invoices will be generated separately once discounts are processed.]

Check all appropriate boxes below:

- Yes, our high school will be participating in the 2019-2020 MasterMinds program. We understand the cost to be \$767/high school.**
- Yes, our high school wishes to participate in the 2019-2020 junior varsity MasterMinds program. We realize the cost to be \$340/team. We understand varsity participation is a prerequisite and understand we will not be billed if JV is somehow not available.
- Yes, our high school wishes to participate in a 2019-2020 holiday tournament. We understand the cost to be \$104/team for a one-day, two-game event. If no workable tournament dates are available, we understand we will not be billed.
- Yes, our high school wishes to participate in the 2020 ACRONYM pop culture quiz bowl event in March. We understand the cost to be \$12/player, with a limit of 8 players. We understand we will be billed separately for this event. If we don't field any players, we will not be billed.
- Yes, our high school will be participating in the 2019-2020 Interscholastic Chess League. We understand the cost to be \$333/high school.**
- Yes, our school wishes to sign up for an in-season tutorial session. We understand the cost to be \$88.
- Yes, our school wishes to sign up for the pre-playoff practice scrimmage to be held in the weeks prior to Interscholastic League playoffs. The cost is \$15/player or \$55/team.

Check one following (if applicable):

- We participate in MasterMinds and Chess and want our teams scheduled in the same league.
- We participate in both but wish to be scheduled in separate leagues and will submit separate prescheduling forms for each sport.
- We are unsure about our participation and would like to schedule a demonstration to assess possible student interest. [Return ASAP if checked] For: Chess MasterMinds**

School _____ MasterMinds coach (if known) _____

MasterMinds coach's e-mail: _____

Chess coach (if known) _____

Chess coach's e-mail: _____

If you have not yet identified any coaches/advisors, please provide the name of a contact below.

Contact Person: _____ School Phone(____) _____

Did your school play MasterMinds last year? Yes _____ No _____

Did your school play Chess last year? Yes _____ No _____

We wish to be billed immediately and take the 'early pay' discount. Yes _____ No _____

Signature of principal

Contact for invoicing: _____

Address: _____

Please mail or fax to:
CYPRAS, Inc.
221 Norris Dr., Suite 2
Rochester, NY 14610
Fax Number: (585)-563-6745

Scanned forms may also be submitted as a pdf file. E-mail to: nymasterminds@gmail.com

REQUESTED RETURN DEADLINE: Friday, September 20, 2019

NOTE: THIS IS NOT A BILL. The invoice for any participation fee(s) will be mailed separately.

CYPRAS, Inc.
221 Norris Dr.
Suite 2
Rochester, NY 14610

To return by:
Fax: 585-563-6745
E-mail: nymasterminds@gmail.com
Ph: 585-473-0864

Comprehensive MasterMinds/Chess Prescheduling Form

Please fill out this form after consulting with your players. It will help speed up the scheduling process as we try to fit all the different leagues into a three week rotation.

Please check just one box for each day. If you check 'Very Bad,' briefly describe the conflict. Rank order the five days (1, 2, 3, 4, 5) to indicate preferences. Any day checked as first choice should also be indicated with a rank order of 1.

Monday (rank order _____)

First choice/Best

Not desirable but possible/Fair

No problems/OK

Very bad _____

Tuesday (rank order _____)

First choice/Best

Not desirable but possible/Fair

No problems/OK

Very bad _____

Wednesday (rank order _____)

First choice/Best

Not desirable but possible/Fair

No problems/OK

Very bad _____

Thursday (rank order _____)

First choice/Best

Not desirable but possible/Fair

No problems/OK

Very bad _____

Friday (rank order _____)

First choice/Best

Not desirable but possible/Fair

No problems/OK

Very bad _____

Submitted for: MasterMinds Chess Both

If the Both box is checked, teams will be scheduled in the same league (to travel together).

Schools should otherwise submit separate forms for teams not traveling together.

If possible, we wish to be scheduled in a league that allows us to skip a meet.

School: _____

Coach(es): _____

Coach's e-mail: _____

Special notes (late departure, traveling with others, etc): _____

New Initiatives for 2019-2020

CYPRAS (and the MasterMinds program) and the Rochester Chess Center are pleased to announce a few new program options available for schools this year. For MasterMinds, the new initiatives feature holiday tournaments and ACRONYM, a pop-culture event. For Interscholastic Chess teams, team lessons and special pre-playoff preparations are now available.

Holiday tournaments have been available to MasterMinds teams for several years, but schools have not been able to take advantage of them. Patterned after the two-day basketball tournaments for boys and girls that are usually held around Thanksgiving or more frequently around New Year's, these one-day affairs follow the basketball pattern: two opening round games followed by consolation and championship games. Unlike basketball, the tournament is just one day. The registration form includes a check-off box, authorizing the billing of the fee: \$104, which is a discount off of the normal per-game cost of MasterMinds (due to economies of scale). Wins and losses in these tournaments do not affect the regular season standings for MasterMinds, and if a school ends up being unavailable to attend any holiday tournament, no fees will be billed.

The other MasterMinds initiative this year is a brand new program: ACRONYM. This event, a mirror of an event at the NAQT quiz bowl national championships, is a purely pop culture event. We won't even bother trying to pass this off as academic: it is not. There are certainly aspects of the competition that are meaningful: team-building, sportsmanship, handling winning and losing, and because the game format and the question style are like MasterMinds, there is value in sharpening listening skills and collaborative teamwork on bonus questions. It's just music, movies, TV, sports, video games and general pop culture. Schools can authorize the billing of participation at \$12 a player with a limit of 8 players. The ACRONYM event will be held on a Saturday in mid-March (exact date TBA) and should no students be able to attend, no fees will be billed.

The Rochester Chess Center is offering two new options for Chess schools this year. Schools signing up for this year's Interscholastic Chess League have two new options.

- 1) Schools can request an in-school visit from one of the Chess Center's advanced instructors. At any point in the season, schools can schedule a 90 minute, live instructional session, with the school choosing the topic(s) to cover: clock management, defensive play, end game play, etc. If a school waits until after their first meet, the instructor can even analyze the games if players have kept notation. This option costs \$88 and attendance is not limited; any number of students may attend. Schools may even request the lesson prior to the start of the season.
- 2) Schools can also sign up for pre-playoff practice scrimmages. These mini-events feature the school playing against another school with a live instructor monitoring play. Instructors will, essentially assisting both players, provide guidance — as well as some analysis — for both players as they develop their strategies. Actual play is limited to five players (identical to the playoff format), but any number of students can attend. Pre-playoff practices are held at the Chess Center and will be scheduled during the two week time-span prior to the date of playoffs. Schools will be paired against teams from leagues other than their own. If schedules do not work out and a school that signs up cannot attend, the school will not be billed.