

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

August 23, 2019

TO: Rochester 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 several dozen schools around the Greater Rochester 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 League 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 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!