

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

August 23, 2019

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

The 2019-2020 school year will begin soon and we hope you'll join us for another fun and exciting year of interscholastic competitions. MasterMinds has grown as a valued part of the extra-curricular offerings among schools in the Greater Syracuse area, with two leagues of schools participating last year; part of more than 130 schools and more than a thousand students from across upstate NY. MasterMinds is an academic, quiz bowl-style team competition similar to the old College Bowl program. Played at both the varsity and JV levels, it provides a competitive structure to recognize the strengths of academically talented students. A popular, partner program — Interscholastic Chess League — allows 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 relationship between MasterMinds and Chess has a long and successful history, and the coordinated efforts with regard to registration, scheduling and billing are continuing. With just one form, a school can sign up for both MasterMinds and Interscholastic Chess. This streamlining makes everything easier for all involved parties, saving time, money and effort. **We are also pleased to announce some new, engaging initiatives for both MasterMinds and Chess; please see the enclosed flyer for more information.**

The cost for MasterMinds in the 2019-2020 season will be \$767, and the base cost for the optional JV program is \$340 (varsity sign-up is a prerequisite) although JV discounts are available. The cost for a team in the ICL is \$333. Transportation is the responsibility of a school, although joint scheduling does allow savings on busing.

We are also renewing last year's pricing initiatives to encourage more participation.

Schools that have not previously participated in MasterMinds may choose to field just a JV team. There are some limits on participation, such as no seniors and no playoffs, but it would allow a school a chance to participate at a lower cost as a sort of introductory test drive. Schools that have not played previously but sign up for both Varsity and Junior Varsity may play JV for no charge. Schools that have participated in previous years and are adding JV participation may add a JV squad at half price.

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, October 4, 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.ny chess.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!