



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



August 31, 2023

TO: Buffalo Area High School Principals  
FROM: Scott Kroner, MasterMinds Commissioner  
Ron Lohrman, Interscholastic Chess League Executive Director  
RE: Sign-up/registration for the 2023-2024 school year

Planning is now underway for the newest season of the MasterMinds and the Interscholastic Chess League (ICL) programs; **a season which looks forward to a continued expansion of participants**. 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 allows students to test their analytical skills in the classic game of logic and strategy against the talents of the brightest students from other schools.

We are pleased to announce that schools will again have the option to sign up for MasterMinds and/or Chess in a couple of ways: as a service of the Erie1 BOCES (by cross-contract if you are not a component district) or through the non-profit CYPRAS. Registration forms for both options are enclosed but **only one registration form should be submitted**. For those registering through BOCES, an additional Arts-In-Education form will need to be submitted, but that can be sent in after the scheduling meeting.

With the start of classes not far away, we hope that your school will make plans to join us for another fun and engaging year of interscholastic competitions. Both MasterMinds and Chess have been important parts of the extracurricular offerings at dozens of schools around the Greater Buffalo area for years; all part of the more than 100 schools across upstate NY that participated last year.

**If you are unsure of interest among your students, you can schedule a demonstration where we come to your school -- either during lunch or after school -- and show your students what the programs are like. If you are interested, please contact Scott Kroner as soon as possible to schedule a demonstration.**

The fee for MasterMinds for the 2023-2024 season will be at **\$794/team** and the cost for the optional JV program is **\$360** (with varsity participation as a prerequisite). The cost for a team in the Interscholastic Chess League stands at **\$363**. Non-component Erie1 schools that sign up through BOCES may be responsible for cross-contract fees. Schools signing up through CYPRAS may be eligible for some discounts in addition to avoiding cross-contract fees. Transportation remains the responsibility of each individual school although coordinated scheduling — having MasterMinds and Chess in the same league — does allow schools to save on transportation. **One bus; two teams!**

To register and participate in MasterMinds and/or Chess for the 2023-2024 season, just one of the enclosed registration forms should be completed and returned, with a requested deadline of **Friday, October 6, 2023**. If you are considering working with another school to field a joint/shared team -- something that is permitted -- let us know. Previous non-participants in MasterMinds will still receive a new school orientation. Participating schools should forward the pre-scheduling form to the coach/advisor for submission.

As schools continue to restore or even expand programming to pre-COVID levels, now a great time to become involved! For any questions about MasterMinds, contact Scott Kroner at 585-473-0864 or by e-mail at [masterminds@nymasterminds.com](mailto:masterminds@nymasterminds.com). For Chess, contact Ron Lohrman of the Rochester Chess Center at 585-442-2430 or [chesscenter@rochester.rr.com](mailto:chesscenter@rochester.rr.com). You can also check out [www.nymasterminds.com](http://www.nymasterminds.com) and [www.nychess.org](http://www.nychess.org) for additional information.

We hope to see your school offer your students the opportunity to participate in these popular programs, and we look forward to hearing back from you!