



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



August, 2025

TO: Rochester Area Public High School Principals  
FROM: Scott Kroner, MasterMinds Commissioner  
Shelby Lohrman, Interscholastic Chess League Executive Director  
RE: Sign-up/registration for the 2025-2026 school year

Planning is now underway for the newest season of the MasterMinds and the Interscholastic Chess League (ICL) programs; **an exciting season which looks forward to a continued expansion of participating schools.** 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 two ways to sign up for the programs: as a service of the Wayne-Finger Lakes BOCES or through the non-profit CYPRAS (which directs both programs). On the enclosed registration form, there are boxes to indicate the vendor for billing. There are no other forms that must be submitted although non-component districts that opt to register with BOCES will need to submit a cross-contract form (which can be provided by their home BOCES).

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 Rochester 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 set-up buzzers and chess boards so your students can see 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 2025-2026 season will be at **\$822/team** and the cost for the optional JV program is **\$377** (with varsity participation as a prerequisite). The cost for a team in the Interscholastic Chess League stands at **\$381**. 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!** That is not a requirement; teams from the same school may choose to participate in different leagues.

To register and participate in MasterMinds and/or Chess for the 2025-2026 season, the enclosed registration forms should be completed and returned, with a requested deadline of **Friday, September 19, 2025**. 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 enclosed pre-scheduling form to the coach/advisor for submission.

**If your school is planning to participate in MasterMinds and Chess, and you are planning on having the teams play in separate leagues, separate pre-scheduling forms for each team should be submitted.**

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 Shelby Lohrman of the Rochester Chess Center at 585-442-2430 or [chessleague@chessset.com](mailto:chessleague@chessset.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!