



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



October, 2025

TO: Syracuse Area Public High School Principals
FROM: Scott Kroner, MasterMinds Commissioner
RE: Sign-up/registration for the 2025-2026 school year

Planning is now underway for the newest season of the MasterMinds; a season which promises expanded growth in participation. 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.

We are pleased to announce that schools will have two ways to sign up for MasterMinds: as a service of the Cayuga-Onondaga BOCES or through the non-profit CYPRAS (which directs the program). 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 just underway, we hope that your school will make plans to join us for another fun and engaging year of interscholastic competitions. MasterMinds has been an important piece of the extracurricular offerings at many schools around the Greater Syracuse 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). Transportation remains the responsibility of each individual school.

To register and participate in MasterMinds for the 2025-2026 season, the enclosed registration forms should be completed and returned, with a requested deadline of **Friday, October 17, 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.

As schools continue to restore or even expand programming beyond 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. You can also check out www.nymasterminds.com 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!