



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



August, 2026

TO: Buffalo Area Private and Charter High School Principals

FROM: Scott Kroner, MasterMinds Commissioner
Shelby Lohrman, Interscholastic Chess League Executive Director

RE: Sign-up/registration for the 2026-2027 school year

The newest seasons of the MasterMinds and the Interscholastic Chess League (ICL) programs are right around the corner; **an exciting time 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.

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 Western New York 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 about. If you are interested, please check the appropriate box on the enclosed form and return it as soon as possible or call or e-mail us to schedule a demonstration.

The fee for MasterMinds for the 2026-2027 season will be at **\$846/team** and the cost for the optional JV program is **\$390** (with varsity participation as a prerequisite). The cost for a team in the Interscholastic Chess League stands at **\$393**. 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 2026-2027 season, the enclosed registration form should be completed and returned, with a requested deadline of **Friday, September 25, 2026**. 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.

As schools continue to restore or even expand programming to pre-COVID levels, now a great time to become involved! For more information about MasterMinds, contact Scott Kroner at 585-473-0864 or by e-mail at masterminds@nymasterminds.com. For Chess, contact the Rochester Chess Center at 585-442-2430 or league@nychess.org. For additional information you can also check out the websites www.nymasterminds.com and www.nychess.org.

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!