

Coaching Chess in a Scholastic Setting



Coaching Club Chess in a Scholastic Setting

A school chess coach has a broad range of challenges and audiences.

How do you teach students the basics of chess?

How do you keep students motivated throughout the year?

What is an appropriate class size? How do you maintain control?

How do you communicate the benefits of chess to parents and educators?



Duration: One Day

Target Audience: Experienced Chess Players and/or Chess Coaches for Optional Club / After-school programs with a primary focus on developing chess proficiency.

Prerequisites: Chess experience.

Course Description: Learn teaching methods that develop early chess skills. Gain proficiency in organizing an after-school chess club and managing club sessions. Discover activities to differentiate for differing skill levels, keep students motivated, and build student participation. Learn how to link the language of educators to your chess instruction to open doors to prospective schools or expand existing programs. Participants and the instructor will share favorite chess exercises.

Participants will:

- Learn how to organize an effective and engaging after-school program.
- Discover new training exercises to add variety to the chess club experience and differentiate for skill levels.
- Learn how to prepare students for tournament play.
- Learn how to explain the benefits of chess to educators.
- Learn the differences between an after-school program and a focus on chess in education.

Lead Instructor: Jerry Nash (first row, center)

Jerry Nash serves as a National Chess in Education Consultant. He is the architect and teacher training leader for the Alabama State Chess in Schools (ACIS) statewide initiative which began in 2014.

A former classroom teacher at both the high school and university levels, Nash understands the challenges of the classroom and offers a fun and engaging path for educators to learn the game of chess and link it to academic and life skills. He is a frequent presenter at education conferences where he links chess skills to education standards. He was recognized by the University of Texas at Dallas as its 2015 Chess Educator of the Year.



Nash holds a Bachelor of Arts in English and French from The University of Tennessee at Martin. He holds a Master of Divinity degree from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary and a Master of Arts in English from Tennessee Technological University.

Cost: \$250* per person

- See our course catalog for offerings in various locations at chessinschools.us/register.

* Prices vary by location and are subject to change.

Legend



Focus: Developing student proficiency in chess


Educational Premise: Student develops important thinking skills (executive functions) by simply learning and playing chess.



Focus: Teach Chess and Chess Variants taught using a SMART methodology that is based on educational research and proven best practices. Priority is given to aspects of chess that develop executive functions and promote far transfer learning.

Educational Premise: The selective use of chess training by teachers or outside chess coaches focused on developing executive functions and critical thinking, engages more students and yields greater educational benefits (than standard chess training).



Focus: Same as  plus connections to classroom curriculum. Teachers draw connections to curriculum while teaching chess. Teachers utilize chess examples while teaching to curriculum.

Educational Premise: Connecting chess to the classroom yields the greatest benefit.