

WEIBEL CHESS TEAM

FALL 2015, ISSUE 1



**Welcome To
Weibel Chess
2015-2016**

**Chess is Forever!
Alan Kirahner, Ph.D.
Director, Weibel Chess**

TEAM PLANS FOR 2015-2016

I know we will have a great year. I know we will have many successes to write about in 2014-2015, after all this is the Weibel Chess Team winner of seven national titles and to many State Championships to name. Our main goal this year is to win another Spring National Championship title. We have not won one since 2012. They will be in Nashville on May 6-8. **ALL VARSITY TEAM PLAYERS HAVE COMMITTED TO GO!** We will be sending teams of our four top players in each grade to the CalChess State Grade Level on December 5 & 6. All Team members will attend CalChess State Scholastics on March 19 and/or March 20. Last year we won more divisions than any other Team, but only 3 of the 4 Championship Divisions. Our Team will be looking forward to winning more than one Championship section this year. As has been the case since its inception about six years ago, we will have all our girls attending the CalChess State Girls Championships in San Rafael at the end of January. I expect our girls to continue their winning ways as they have won at least one division every year since the Championship got underway. We will also have many of our players at the Age Level on January 31 at the Newark Pavilion. The Judit Polgar Boy's & Girl's Championships return on February 27 & 28 in San Mateo. I hope to have our girls once again attend the Girls Nationals in Chicago on April 22-24. **BE PREPARED!**

OUR PLAYERS

For the second time the Weibel Chess Team have more students than the Weibel Chess Club. I am not sure if word of our success has drawn children/parents to the Team or we simply have a very masochistic student population at Weibel. I say this because of the required homework as well as the required number of tournaments Team members must attend. A reminder that the first tournament requirement must be completed by October 19. All tournaments completed after June 1 will count towards this year's total. Our Kindergarten students will not have to attend their first tournament, if they have not done so already, by November 23. Their teacher can excuse a child in Kindergarten if they feel s/he is not ready.

Here is the breakdown of the 2015-2016 team. Hopefully the number of Junior Varsity and Varsity players will increase as our students improve their skills and increase their ratings. I have loads of caps ready to provide those players that make our Honor Roll by obtaining a 1000 USCF rating. I have already order one Elite scarlet and

black sport jacket for a new second grade student, Nikko Lee, who also made the top 100 list in the country this summer. I hope to see a few more Elite players this year. Oliver Wu was our first Ultimate player. We now have a second. Chenyi Zhao has moved to Weibel School with the change in the Warm Springs District. She is in 6th Grade. Last year she maintained a rating over 1800 for consecutive tournaments.

**THE NUMBERS FOR THIS
YEAR'S TEAM: 105** NOVICE
PLAYERS = 46 JUNIOR
VARSITY = 34 VARSITY = 25
PLAY OPTION = 2 Pre-Kindergarten
= 2, Kindergarten = 6 1st Grade = 10
2nd Grade = 12 3rd Grade = 16
4th Grade = 24 5th Grade = 17
6th Grade = 14 7th thru 8th = 4
Girls = 27 Non-Weibel Students = 8



ASSIGNMENTS: If you are curious as to what we will be teaching, the curriculums for each level are available for download at:

www.WeibelChess.org/curriculum.html

For the Novice and Junior Varsity we spend about half the time in instruction on tactics and strategy and the other half playing chess in tournament conditions. The Varsity Team will play longer time controls that end at 5:30 PM. The other two teams will finish chess by 4:30 PM. No child will be permitted to leave the MUR before the end of class without special permission. All children must be picked up on the parking lot side of the MUR.

Starting in two week all players must do homework. Translation—the first homework is due on Friday, October 16. Yes, we have chess at the regular time on half-days unless the school has an activity in the MUR. All players will notate their games next Friday. Novice and Junior Varsity will only need to write 5 moves to start. They will expand to 10 moves in a few weeks. The Varsity players must record their complete game. Varsity players must annotate their games (comment on the moves) this must be placed in a computer and turned in the next Friday or e-mailed to me. Novice & JV players will start this practice in the second semester. In a couple of weeks I will ask them to turn in just their notated sheets.

I plan on e-mailing a list of Nicknames and Passwords for ChessMagnetSchool.com. Players are to do the number of problems appropriate for their status as spelled out in the Online information sheet. If the problems/puzzles are taking more than two hours, let me know & I will consider reducing the number. I will also be providing you with the passwords for Chesshomework.com. Any work done there is extra credit. Our highest skilled players have received a password to ChessLecture.com. They will watch videos & report what they learned as well as to critique the video lectures. Parents will receive a warning if their child has not done their homework. They must make it up. If they do not or there is a second warning the child will be suspended for a minimum of one week.



RATINGS & RANKINGS

For those of you new to Weibel Chess this year, let me try and explain our ranking system. Players get points for playing chess, doing homework, attending tournaments and at the discretion of their teacher. The children get 3 points when they win a game, 2 points for a draw and 1 point for a loss. These points are double when they play in a United States Chess Federation Tournament. When they obtain a specific amount of points they obtain a title. For example, after obtaining 8 points they are a Pawn. At the end of the year we have an awards ceremony/banquet. All players will receive trophies and a certificate with their current title. The top 5 point winners will receive special trophies. Each week, after the first month,—unless my schedule prevents it—I will update the points and the ranking sheets. Please be sure your child brings home a sheet each week. I often post little notes to the parents on these missives. Every few weeks I will send a copy of the point sheet home via e-mail. Please do not confuse the points a player receives or his/her rating with the skill level. Skill levels are based only upon the class the student attends or the rating they receive when entering U.S. Chess Federation tournaments.

MISCELLANEOUS:

The T-shirts have been ordered and they are schedule to arrive on October

22. I only order the number of T-shirts for those who get them gratis as they joined for the year or for those that ordered them extra. Requesting a change in the initial size will, therefore, not be possible unless someone with that size shirt wants the size shirt you want to exchange.

Please be sure to peruse the Weibel Chess website:
<http://www.WeibelChess.org>. We also have a blog that Carl Moy our parent coordinated created. I will be placing all Team parent e-mails on the blog. Please accept your membership when asked. The address is:
<http://weibelchess.blogspot.com/>

We also have a Facebook page:
<https://www.facebook.com/WeibelChess-213022428884018/timeline/>

FIND TOURNAMENTS:

<http://www.CalNorthYouthChess.org/Tournaments.html> the blog site duplicates this listing as well as adding major events out of the Bay Area and carries the open (for adults and top youth players) tournaments in the our area and on the national level by linking to the CalChess Clearinghouse for Northern California Tournaments.

SUGGESTED APPS:

BC Take , Tactic Trainer, Shredder, Coach Jay's Chess Academy, e+Chess Books, Stockfish Chess,



WEIBEL'S FIRST CHESS TEAM FIFTH PLACE K-3 NORCAL STATES 1989



REMEMBER:

- 1) The children start chess promptly at 2:55 in the MUR.
- 2) Novice and Junior Varsity will be dismissed from the MUR at 4:30 PM. No parent nor anyone designated on our list to pick up their child may do so before 4:30 PM without advance notice. Varsity players are done at 5:30. They cannot leave until 5:30 whether they have finished their games or not. Mr. Shorman provides a lesson/lecture for those who have completed their games and analysis early.
- 3) All players must leave through the doors leading to the upper/staff parking lot. No student can exit back into the school or be on school property after chess unless they are in an afterschool program that meets on the campus.

E-MAILS TO CONTACT TEACHERS:

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<http://wwwCalNorthYouthChess/WeibelChess/Instructors.html>

This link has not yet been updated for 2015-2016 yet

I will be trying to coordinate a Team Parent Meeting sometime within the next couple of weeks.

