



C&O Family Chess Center

Omar Pancoast III, Director

217 West Diamond Avenue

Gaithersburg, MD 20877-2106

(301) 963-9122 / chesscenter@comcast.net

www.chesscenter.net

Basic Registration Information

(Please read carefully)

C&O Family Chess Center offers unique programs aimed at nurturing a love of the game of chess, and offering students and families the means to develop their skills to the highest levels. Like music and sports activities, chess has the power to expand an individual's mind, creativity, and social interaction. But to achieve such outcomes requires discipline and commitment. **Parents are as essential as we coaches in helping to develop these internal character attributes. We hope parents will help and encourage students to practice regularly and come to class on time and prepared.** Chess.com registration (see below) is the responsibility of parents. More detailed information about the center and our programs may be found on our website.

Requirements for club registration.

All students are expected to know the basic rules and moves before attending class. This basic knowledge is available at no charge on our website and our “playing site” (Chess.com). Students who have not learned these basics should not be registered until they have done so.

Parents may save on tuition by registering in advance for the entire year. Contact the center if you need assistance or have questions.

Program Objectives

Our scholastic chess programs are oriented toward students of beginner and/or intermediate skill level. We require students to practice regularly between class sessions, and encourage practice on Chess.com (see below).

As teachers, we at C&O have several objectives:

- 1. All participants should have fun. Chess at its most basic level is simply a game to be enjoyed.**
- 2. All students should have the opportunity to develop their chess skills as far as they can.**

3. **Students should be made aware of their progress (or lack of) in such a way as to help correct problems or to seek more challenging competition.**
4. **Parents should have access to all our teaching materials and other information that will help them to understand (and assist in) their children's progress.**

Snow Days and Absences

C&O Family Chess Center follows the Montgomery County Public School policy for snow days and other such closings. If MCPS opens late our morning programs are cancelled. If they close early our afternoon programs are cancelled. Under such circumstances students are requested to go online to their Chess.com accounts (see below) and practice with "live-," or "online-," chess. Coaches may be online, as well, for questions and other chess chat. The same opportunities are available on scheduled school closing days and holidays. Absences (due to weather *or* illness) may be made up at the Saturday Morning Chess Club in Lakeforest Mall. Ask your coach for details.

Teaching Materials and Other Downloads

We have linked most of our classroom study materials, and scoresheets for recording games in class, to the "Student Pages" of our website. **We will no longer be making these materials available as in-class handouts. You should encourage your students become familiar with the process of opening and printing these files.**

Student Responsibilities and Chess.com

On our student pages we list things that we expect each student to do and items they should have at home, or bring to class, each week. While we support parent efforts to oversee this aspect of chess club we want to encourage you to help your children meet these responsibilities on their own, as much as possible.

We also request that parents register their children on Chess.com so that they may participate in the required regular practice when not in class. To this end we have included registration instructions (below) for Chess.com in this information packet. It is not enough to practice with family and friends (although that is encouraged). Only by practicing on Chess.com may student games outside of class be observed by coaches and accessed in class for analysis and discussion. The ideal would be for students to practice chess every day (as with music), but we realize that this will be a very rare occurrence. If students can practice even three or four times a week, amazing progress may be made. The Chess.com website makes practice possible, with players of similar skill levels, 24/7 at the student's convenience.

However, Chess.com is an ad-supported website for "free" users. We recommend that parents get the free "Adblock Plus" download for their internet browser as a few of the ads may not be appropriate for children. If you prefer, Chess.com has a low cost "premium" membership which also eliminates the ads. This is a good way to support the Chess.com website when students have become very involved and are ready for some advanced features.



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To: All C&O Scholastic Parents

All our scholastic chess students are required to have additional practice, outside of chess class. They can also benefit from additional instruction. To that end we have developed a C&O group presence on the Chess.com internet web site. This is an on-line playing site where students from all our programs may meet each other, and our instructors, for games, inter-school competition, or just for fun.

All C&O students should have learned the basic rules and moves by the second week of class (if not earlier). This may be done on our website (**www.chesscenter.net**) by using the “Learn to Play” link and by printing the “Chess Basics” article (both on our home page). It may also be done through links on the Chess.com website.

Free Chess.com registration provides the basic features for all students and families including the ability to play with classmates and others, both local and from all over the world. Initially students will play “On-Line/Daily” (correspondence) Chess, with time controls up to two weeks between moves (this is where much of our instruction takes place). **Chess.com is an ad-supported website and we recommend that parents get the free “Adblock Plus” download for their internet browser as a few of the ads may not be appropriate for children.** At some point all students will play “Live-Chess” with classmates and other players at their skill level. When students are ready, optional “premium membership” features (paid) allow advanced players to access other features. Feel free to consult with me about these.

After reading this guide completely, follow the step-by-step instructions on the Chess.com website for registering students. Parents, siblings, and others are invited to open their own accounts **but each account must have its own E-mail.**

We recommend that “usernames” be simple and direct. A first name and initial is useful and will allow friends to recognize you without difficulty. **For example, GeorgeW or MaryG. If your requested username is unavailable try adding a number to it (ie. GeorgeW2015, etc.).** Passwords should be lowercase letters and numbers, and be easy for students to remember (7 or 8 characters only).

Chess.com has special requirements for registering children. You must supply an adult’s E-mail address to confirm the membership. Their “Terms of Service” statement says in part:

“Chess.com is concerned about the safety and privacy of all its users, particularly children. For this reason, parents or guardians of children under the age of 13 who wish to allow their children access to the Service must create an account that is maintained by a legal guardian of at least 18 years old and monitor the child's usage. By allowing a child access to your account, you also give your child permission to access all areas of the Service. Please remember that the Service is

designed to appeal to a broad audience. Accordingly, as the legal guardian, it is your responsibility to determine whether any of the Service areas and/or Content are appropriate for your child.”

Therefore, when requested, you may put the date-of-birth as your own, or the most recent available. This information may be removed once the account is created. **When you click on “Create My Account” You must immediately check your E-mail and “activate” your account using the link provided.**

At some point you may be asked how you heard about Chess.com. Fill out “How’d you find us?” by clicking on “Friend” and typing in my name, or **user name, CoachOmar**. This will allow me to find and contact your student on the site and vice-versa. You may also find me through the “SHARE/Members” menu at the top of your “profile” page. Type “coachomar” in the “Search Members” box. Then send me a “friend request.”

When you fill out the “**profile**” make sure you put the *student’s* first name as used at school. If you do not wish to use the student’s last name you should use the initial, and always add “C&O” so that other players can identify the student as one of ours (for example: Mary Grant C&O or Tariq G. C&O). Delete the Date-Of Birth. An image (avatar) is optional, and may be anything appropriate. I will supply one when adjusting a student’s settings if there is not already one supplied by parents.

Once students are registered you need to locate me (CoachOmar) and “friend” me if you did not do so earlier. If you did, you should find me listed as a “friend” on the student’s home page. Click on my “avatar” (picture icon) to send me a message with the student’s username and password. Feel free to explore the site. I recommend avoiding “Live Chess” for now, but we’ll explore that in class. Have fun! We’ll also explore other options in class.

Students should always read the messages from CHESS.com, and others, that appear under “alerts,” but you may delete the Chess.com ads. I also advise against joining groups that are not “C&O” groups until students have gained more experience and/or talked with me. You **will not** need a premium membership at this time. **Parents may later modify the Alert and E-mail settings to remove the alerts from your regular E-mail.** It’s best for students to log-in regularly (three, or more, times a week). Parents should make a note to remind students and set a regular schedule.

Please “message” me on Chess.com with the student’s user name and password so that I may adjust their settings to conform with club norms. User names and passwords should be easy for students to remember. They should also be written down in each student’s back-pack as they are sometimes needed during class.