Proposal for Marion Academy Chess Club

By Greyson Brewer

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“The Game of Chess is not merely an idle amusement; several very valuable qualities of the mind, useful in the course of human life, are to be acquired and strengthened by it, so as to become habits ready on all occasions; for life is a kind of Chess…”

*The Morals of Chess,* Benjamin Franklin

**Proposer:** Greyson Brewer

**Pre-existing Clubs:** This club has never existed to my knowledge. It is not found in any of the Year Books or Recorder’s histories in the Library.

**Motto Proposal:** To Think. To be Challenged. To be Determined.

**Proposed Mission:**

The Marion Academy Chess Club would be a student organization whose purpose would be:

* To bring together chess players who would like to share their hobby and interest in chess with each other.
* To provide organized chess tournaments for the competitive club members at the beginning, intermediate and advanced levels.
* To promote increased knowledge and understanding of the game of chess and to encourage students to challenge other students, read books and utilitize other resources to further their abilities.
* Membership in the Marion Academy Chess Club is open to any and all students with an interest in chess regardless of his/her abilities.

**Why a Chess Club?**

* Make Friends
* Have Fun
* Play to Win
* Sportsmanship
* To build self-esteem for young male and female teenagers
* Increase test scores in school (see below)
* Travel

Chess has a unique ability to rivet kids’ attention and simultaneously teach important life skills. Forty years of research have shown that chess improves test scores, academic performance, concentration, decision-making, creativity, problem solving, and social skills.1 A 2009 study in Philadelphia focusing on some of the poorest and most dangerous areas of Philadelphia found that chess not only improved students’ test scores by as much as 25% in math and 38% in reading, but also improved attendance and behavior.2 A 1999 New York study found that chess had significant effects on self-confidence, empathy, mood management, and frustration tolerance. Chess players outscored non-chess players in respect for others by 42%.3

**Proposed Membership:**

Greyson Brewer, John David Goode, Patrick Ivey, Carlton Averette

**Proposed Club Officers**

President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasure

**Suggested School Sponsor/Coach**:

Mr. McConnell or Mr. Watford

Successful programs often utilize a mix of teachers, parents, experienced chess players and volunteers. The best programs offer training on how the game is played, in classroom management, and in the nuts and bolts of running a club. Chess Club would also include instruction in technology, including the use of interactive “smart boards” as a training tool.

**The Challenge.**

-Finances

-Sponsors

-Fundraisers

COST:

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Item | | Price | Quantity | Total |
|  | [Basic Slotted Chess Demo Board with Red & Black Pieces & Bag](https://www.wholesalechess.com/shop/chess-supplies/demo-chess-sets/basic-slotted-chess-demo-board-with-red-black-pieces-bag)  QTY: 1  $24.99 EA | $24.99 | Decrease Quantity:  Increase Quantity: | $24.99 |
|  | Basic Wood Analog Chess Clocks:  Light Wood  QTY: 4  $29.99 EA | $29.99 | Decrease Quantity:  Increase Quantity: | $119.96 |
|  | [Large 22" Vinyl Chess Board](https://www.wholesalechess.com/shop/chess-boards/vinyl-rollup-chess-boards/large-22-vinyl-chess-board)  Color:Navy  QTY: 4  $7:49 EA | $7.49 | Decrease Quantity:  Increase Quantity: | $29.96 |
|  | [Basic Club Chess Pieces - Color Half Set](https://www.wholesalechess.com/shop/chess-pieces/club-chess-pieces/basic-club-chess-pieces-color-half-set)  Piece Color:Yellow  QTY: 4  $3.79 EA | $3.79 | Decrease Quantity:  Increase Quantity: | $15.16 |
|  | [Basic Club Chess Pieces - Color Half Set](https://www.wholesalechess.com/shop/chess-pieces/club-chess-pieces/basic-club-chess-pieces-color-half-set)  Piece Color:Navy Blue  QTY: 4  $3.79 EA | $3.79 | Decrease Quantity:  Increase Quantity: | $15.16 |
|  | [Perfect-Fit Chess Pieces Bag](https://www.wholesalechess.com/shop/chess-supplies/chess-bags/perfect-fit-chess-pieces-bag)  Bag Color:Navy Blue  QTY: 4  $3.79 EA | $3.79 | Decrease Quantity:  Increase Quantity: | $15.16 |

* Subtotal:  $220.39
  1. Grand total:  $220.39

**Summary**

Starting a scholastic chess club would be enormously rewarding for both the school and the student body. This chess club will be the first chess club at Marion Academy and we would be the building blocks for future generations of chess players. I think personally having the chess club on campus will have a major impact and/or inspire the student body in their academic endeavors. In conclusion, having a chess club will be fun for the student body, parents, faculty and staff alike.

NOTES

1. <http://www.il-chess.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=234:the-value-of-chess&catid=81:y1-value&Itemid=127>
2. “An Evaluation of the Chess Challenge Program of ASAP/After School Activities Partnership” by Dr. Joseph

DuCette, Temple University (2009) at pp. 1, 2, 8-9, 12-13.

1. Stuart Margulies and Kathleen Speeth, “The Effect of Chess Instruction on Emotional Intelligence.” New

York: Chess-in-the-Schools, 1999.