

CYPRAS, Inc.
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Rochester, NY 14614

Rochester Chess Center
221 Norris Dr.
Rochester, NY 14610

August 24, 2016

TO: Buffalo Area High School Principals
FROM: Scott Kroner, MasterMinds Commissioner
Ron Lohrman, Interscholastic Chess League Coordinator
RE: Sign-up/registration for the 2016-2017 school year

The 2016-2017 school year will begin soon and with preparations underway for the latest seasons of MasterMinds and Interscholastic Chess, we hope you would consider joining us for another fun and exciting year of interscholastic competitions. Both MasterMinds and the Interscholastic Chess Leagues (ICLs) have become a valued part of the extra-curricular offerings in nearly three dozen schools around the Greater Buffalo area while across upstate NY, more than 120 schools and more than a thousand students participated last year. MasterMinds is an academic, team quiz-bowl competition similar to the old College Bowl program. Played at both the varsity and JV levels, it provides a competitive structure to recognize the strengths of academically talented students. The Chess Leagues allow students to test their analytical skills in the classic game of logic and strategy against the talents of students from other schools.

The relationship between MasterMinds and Chess has a long and successful history and the coordinated efforts with regards to registration, scheduling and billing are continuing. By all accounts, it has been a popular and effective process. With just one form, a school can sign-up for both MasterMinds and Interscholastic Chess. This streamlining makes everything easier for all involved parties, saving time, money and effort. **We are continuing last year's initiative with regards to discount pricing:** schools can save money by requesting early billing, participating in all programs, and if there is middle school participation in either middle school chess or the middle school version of MasterMinds: Academic Challenge Bowl.

The cost for MasterMinds for the 2016-2017 season will be **\$744** and the cost for the optional JV program is **\$324** (varsity participation is a prerequisite). The cost for a team in the ICL is **\$314**. These prices represent less than a one percent increase across all three programs and are actually smaller increases than those enacted by BOCES. Signing up through CYPRAS also eliminates cross-contract fees. Busing remains the responsibility of each individual school although coordinated scheduling does allow schools to save on transportation.

NOTE: Both MasterMinds and Chess remain available as BOCES services, through the Monroe#2-Orleans BOCES, if desired. Public schools have the option of registering with BOCES by downloading the registration form from www.nymasterminds.com/general/downloads/B2016regform.pdf

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 like. If you are interested, please check the appropriate box on the enclosed form and return it as soon as possible or call 585-473-0864 to schedule a demonstration.

To register and participate in MasterMinds and/or Interscholastic Chess for the 2016-2017 season, the enclosed registration form should be completed and returned as soon as possible, with a requested deadline of **Friday, September 23, 2016**. To assist with planning, a prescheduling form has been enclosed for your coach. If you are considering working with another school to field a joint team -- something that is permitted -- we encourage you to contact us to help with coordination.

We would like to see you to participate in these well-received programs; the time has never been better to join! If you have any questions about MasterMinds, contact Scott Kroner at 585-473-0864 or by e-mail mminds@rochester.rr.com. For the ICLs, contact Ron Lohrman of the Rochester Chess Center at 585-442-2430 or by e-mail at chesscenter@rochester.rr.com. You can also check out www.nymasterminds.com and www.nychess.org for additional information.

We look forward to receiving your registration!