

CYPRAS, Inc. and Rochester Chess Center
221 Norris Dr.
Rochester, NY 14610

August 22, 2018

TO: Rochester Area High School Principals
FROM: Scott Kroner, MasterMinds Commissioner
Ron Lohrman, Interscholastic Chess League Executive Director
RE: Sign-up/registration for the 2018-2019 school year

Preparations are now underway for another season of MasterMinds and Interscholastic Chess, and with classes soon to begin we hope to see your school join us for another fun and exciting year of interscholastic competitions. Both MasterMinds and the Interscholastic Chess Leagues (ICLs) have become an important part of the extra-curricular offerings in several dozen schools around the Greater Rochester area; just a portion of the more than 150 schools across upstate NY — featuring more than a thousand students — that participated last year. MasterMinds is a team-based, academic quiz bowl-style 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 Interscholastic 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 long and successful relationship between MasterMinds and Chess continues with regards to scheduling, registration, and billing. By all accounts, it has been a popular and effective arrangement. 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 labor. **We are continuing the recent initiatives with regards to discount pricing:** schools can save money by requesting early billing, participating in all programs, and participating at the middle school level in chess or the middle school version of MasterMinds: Academic Challenge Bowl.

The cost for MasterMinds for the 2018-2019 season will be **\$761** and the cost for the optional JV program is **\$337** (varsity participation is a prerequisite). The cost for a team in the ICL is **\$326**. These prices reflect cost increases below the rate of inflation and smaller — in total dollars and as a percentage increase — 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 busing.

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/R2018regform.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. A presentation to faculty/staff can also be arranged.

To register and participate in MasterMinds and/or Interscholastic Chess for the 2018-2019 season, the enclosed registration form should be completed and returned as soon as possible, with a requested deadline of **Friday, September 28, 2018**. 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.

With so many schools participating and more interested in joining, the time has never been better to become involved! If you have any questions about MasterMinds, contact Scott Kroner at 585-473-0864 or by e-mail at 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 hope to see you to join these well-received programs, and look forward to receiving your registration!