

Department for
Exceptional
Children

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TO: Rochester and Buffalo Regions High School Principals

FROM: Shannon Alvarado – Supervisor, Gifted & Talented Education
Damon Piletz – Resource Teacher, Gifted & Talented Education

RE: **2016-2017 MasterMinds and Interscholastic Chess League**

Planning is well underway for another exciting year of academic competitions, both for MasterMinds and Interscholastic Chess. These programs are offered as services through the Gifted & Talented CoSer at Monroe 2-Orleans BOCES; and in partnership with CYPRAS and the Rochester Chess Center. MasterMinds offers academically talented students a competitive structure, as it is an academic team competition for high school students at both the varsity and junior varsity levels. Match questions cover a broad spectrum of topics including, history and political science, language and literature, math and the sciences, sports, the arts, religion, pop culture, and current events. Interscholastic Chess provides an opportunity for students to test their skills in this game of logic and strategy against the skills of students from other schools.

As the beginning of another school year approaches, it is time to officially register for the **2016-2017** season. The cost of MasterMinds is **\$760/varsity team** and **\$330/junior varsity team**. The cost for Interscholastic Chess is **\$321/team**. Schools are responsible for their own transportation to and from matches. Schools can opt to field both MasterMinds and Chess teams and have them travel separately, but choosing the concurrent scheduling option allows a school to field teams in two ‘sports’ without having to add extra busing.

In order for your school to participate in MasterMinds and/or Interscholastic Chess, please do the following:

1. Complete the enclosed **MasterMinds/Interscholastic Chess Registration Form** and mail, scan/email, or fax it to **Damon Piletz at Monroe 2-Orleans BOCES no later than Friday, September 23, 2016**.

Please Note: Schools also have the option to sign up for these programs directly through CYPRAS. If choosing this option, schools will work directly with CYPRAS rather than Monroe 2-Orleans BOCES for registration and payment. These registration materials can be downloaded at www.nymasterminds.com/general/downloads/.

2. Give the enclosed **Coach’s Pre-Scheduling Form** to your MasterMinds and/or Chess Coach as soon as you know who it is. This information assists greatly in the formation and scheduling of the leagues. The prescheduling form has a link allowing schools to submit their information electronically. **Please note that this form needs to be returned to Scott Kroner (CYPRAS). It can be mailed, faxed, or scanned and emailed to the appropriate number on the form.**

The Registration Form, the Coach's Pre-Scheduling Form, and this letter are posted on the following websites: www.monroe2boces.org/gte.cfm?subpage=2310, www.nycheess.org, and www.nymasterminds.com/.

3. If your school will be participating in MasterMinds and/or Chess, **and** registering through Monroe 2–Orleans BOCES, please check with your central office and follow the appropriate procedure for requesting a service from Monroe 2–Orleans BOCES.

Please note: A cross contract, purchase order, or request for additional service must be submitted with the completed registration form (signed by the school principal). In addition, all charges are subject to a 5.2% administrative fee for non-component districts of Monroe 2–Orleans BOCES.

- * Public schools outside of Monroe 2–Orleans BOCES must complete a cross contract service request and submit it to your BOCES. Your BOCES will then send the service request to Monroe 2–Orleans BOCES.
- * Rochester and Buffalo City Schools must submit a purchase order to Monroe 2–Orleans BOCES that requests the service(s).
- * Component districts of Monroe 2–Orleans BOCES need to submit a "Request for Additional Service" form **only if MasterMinds and/or Chess were not on your April Service Request.**

Your district will be billed after the request for service is received with the registration.

After the registration deadline, your coach/advisor will be contacted about a coaches' meeting. If your school is new to either MasterMinds or Chess, you will be contacted to schedule an orientation prior to the start of the season.

We encourage you to join these outstanding programs. If you have questions or need further information, please call Damon Piletz at (585) 617-2458 for Monroe 2–Orleans BOCES registration and payment questions, Scott Kroner from CYPRAS at (585) 473-0864 (www.nymasterminds.com) for MasterMinds questions, and Ron Lohrman from the Rochester Chess Center at (585) 442-2430 (www.nycheess.org) for Chess questions. If you are considering MasterMinds or Chess for the first time, and would like to inquire about starting a club, or schedule a demonstration at your school to gauge student interest, please contact Scott Kroner at (585) 473-0864.

Best wishes for a successful school year!

Enclosures