



SCHOLÉ ACADEMY
CLASSICAL ACADEMIC PRESS

Fundamental Chess & Chess Notation *Summer 2023*

Instructor: Mgr. Tyrone Benson

Class Dates: Begins June 12, 2023; Ends July 19, 2023

Class Times: Mondays and Wednesdays, 2:00pm–3:00pm ET

ELIGIBLE STUDENTS

Grades 5–8; 9th graders welcome.

This course introduces the classic game and corresponding language of chess to students who have never formally learned them. It is designed for students having no or little foundation in chess knowledge and skill, but are eager to be taught. While anyone could learn its content, perhaps its ideal audience consists of current students in Logic, Latin, Music, or Math; all of which—like Chess—are precisely-yet-complexly structured languages based upon definite rules. Granted, games of chess are suitably seen as sequential stories as per the Humanities, but they bear mechanical functions. In truth, Chess could likely pair well with a present or subsequent course in any of these wonder-filled disciplines. Its students wish to hone critical thinking skills.

REQUIRED TEXTS

No textbook is required. Optional Resource: *The Scholastic Chess Player's Scorebook*

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Fundamental Chess & Chess Notation offers well-ordered instruction to the novice seeking to understand the game. The lessons are concise and content-rich yet very accessible, conducted in an interactive fashion. From the first week forward, the game's language is initially learned and continually used in class discussion. Students will learn much more than how to move the pieces; they will learn as well when, where, and why to move the pieces—along the way beginning to gain a genuine grasp of the game. Key concepts will prepare the students to play with purpose, and key vocabulary terms will enable them to reflect on and discuss games intelligibly.

Note: Pending interest, the instructor may launch a Scholé Academy Chess Club during the fall.

STUDENT EXPECTATIONS

While summer courses are less formal and more relaxed than school year courses, student virtues are still very much in view. Students are expected to listen attentively and participate actively in class discussions and practices, asking and answering questions constructively. Above all (in chess games, in class conduct, and in life), wisdom is an overarching guide of conduct, as reflected in these principles and passages:

- 1. Direction (Posture toward God):** “Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in Your sight, O LORD, my rock and my Redeemer” (Ps. 19:14). “For the LORD gives wisdom; From His mouth come knowledge and understanding. He stores up sound wisdom for the upright; He is a shield to those who walk in integrity” (Prov. 2:6-7). “But if any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives generously and without reproach, and it will be given to him...” (Jas. 1:5-8).
- 2. Desire (Longing to Learn):** “The beginning of wisdom is: Acquire wisdom; and with all your acquiring, get understanding” (Prov. 4:7). “For if you cry for discernment, lift your voice for understanding; If you seek her as silver and search for her as for hidden treasures;” (Prov. 2:3-4).
- 3. Delight (Joy of Discovery):** “Then you will discern righteousness and justice and equity and every good course. For wisdom will enter your heart and knowledge will be pleasant to your soul;” (Prov. 4:9-10). “I will instruct you and teach you in the way which you should go; I will counsel you with My eye upon you” (Ps. 32:8). “...Reprove a wise man and he will love you” (Prov. 9:8).

HOMework AND GRADING

No homework will be required for this course though some voluntary suggestions are possible. No grades are assigned for summer courses inasmuch as such courses are not taken for credit, but for cultivation alone.

THE VIRTUAL CLASSROOM

We will be using the free online “virtual classroom” software provided by Zoom, one of the leading companies that provide such software. The virtual classroom will provide students with interactive audio and an interactive whiteboard in which texts, diagrams, video and other media can be displayed and analyzed. We will provide students with a link (via email) that will enable students to join the virtual classroom.

Specific information regarding the technology used by Scholé Academy (including required technology) can be found by visiting the [Technology in the Classroom](#) section of the Student Parent Handbook.

Please note: While this syllabus addresses details specific to this course, it is not extensive. Parents should also read the Student-Parent Handbook located on scholeacademy.com and be familiar with the ideas, policies, and procedures outlined.

ABOUT THE INSTRUCTOR

Mgr. Benson loves the game of chess and has for many years, calling it perhaps the most classic game created. Having first learned to play the game as a middle school student, he began to see in it a deeper brilliance. Over the course of months and years, he exchanged the pride of besting peers for a wisdom gained through being beat by betters. As he came to understand more and more the game's dynamic principles, he enjoyed explaining them to others. Off and on, for over a dozen years, he has headed clubs and classes of teens, adults, and children respectively—impressing on his students the value and love of wisdom.

During the school year, Mgr. Benson (as the title 'Mgr.' [the archaic form of Mr.] suggests inasmuch as *magister* means "teacher" in Latin) teaches Latin for Scholé Academy as both a corporate course instructor in the Great Hall and a private course instructor and tutor in the Tutoring Center.