

Summer Chess Opportunities for Students at St. Charles Borromeo

I am happy to announce that I will be restarting the chess program at your school next school year. I am now the chess coach at St. Catherine of Siena, St. Matthew the Apostle, and St. Philip Neri. Some of my other qualifications are noted below:

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| U.S.C. F. Tournament Director | Lifetime U.S.C.F.Member |
| LA Certified Elementary Teacher | Adjunct Faculty Member at Nunez Community College |
| L.S.C.L. Tournament Director | Member of the Uptown and Metairie Chess Clubs |

Unfortunately, due to our late start, we were not able to restart the program this school year. However, I would like to acquaint potential chess players at St. Charles Borromeo with some chess activities open to them over the summer. First, I will be conducting a chess tournament for the players that I coach (and will coach) on Saturday, May 16th at St. Philip Neri from 9 AM to 1 PM. Students from your school are welcome to attend. There will be many students from these other school who do not have much more experience than the students at your school (some of whom may have participated in chess previously). Participation is free. Please register with me through email if you want to participate (rookington@bellsouth.net). Second, I conduct a once-a-week chess program at the Arby's at 3847 Veterans Blvd. (near Cleary) on Saturdays from 3 PM – 5PM during the summer (starting on May 23rd this year). The charge is \$10 per student per session. It is not necessary to attend all of the meetings as I understand that many students leave the area for part of the summer. Students can be dropped-off and picked-up, or the parent/guardian can choose to remain. Third, there are weekly tournaments (for students) at *Gelato's* (on Oak St. near S. Carrollton) every Friday evening at 7 PM. The entry fee is \$5, and the money is returned to the participants as prize money. Fourth, the Metairie Chess Club meets at *Lee's Hamburgers* on Metairie Rd. (near Bonnabel) every Tuesday evening at 7 PM. People can come and play chess for free (they do need to support the restaurant). A number of students attend, especially during summer months. Fifth, I am available for private lessons.

In order for our students to improve the level of their play, they need to have the opportunity to both play and receive instruction. Several of the teams that we will compete against play more than the once-a-week that is the maximum we offer our students during after school hours. Some of the individuals playing on these other teams also receive individual instruction from coaches, and travel to out-of-town and out-of-state tournaments. For example, in the last two years, Metairie Academy has sent teams to Pittsburg, Nashville, Baldwin (LA), and Houston (twice).

I will point out that successful participation in chess can bring important benefits to our students. Some universities (e.g. University of Texas at Dallas, U.M.B.C.) offer chess scholarships. Success in chess can also serve to demonstrate a student's competency and leadership skills to the admissions departments of universities with highly selective admissions.

I can be contacted through email (rookington@bellsouth.net). Classes will be very limited in size. I will create a list of individuals who have expressed interest in these opportunities in order to send them information/updates.

Gregory Agamy