Course Description

Chess Club (3-8) is a community for new and experienced students to learn and play together. In Spring 2022, we learn 28+ of the most popular and/or effective chess openings for white and black pieces to win quickly or gain significant material/positional advantages. Lessons will include many gambits, where players intentionally sacrifice a pawn for advantages. Students are also invited to participate in our optional yearly spring chess club tournament!

The Robinson Center provides ChessKid.com to students so they have 24/7 access to supplementary chess lessons, puzzles, and chess games online. ChessKid.com is an award-winning chess instructional program designed specifically for elementary-aged students, but useful for all ages.

Learning Outcomes

By the end of this course, students will know how to:
- Play beginner, intermediate, and advanced chess openings for white pieces, including gambits.
- Play beginner, intermediate, and advanced chess defenses for black pieces, including gambits.
- Analyze their online chess games using a chess engine.

Instructional Strategies

The typical Chess Club class for Winter 2022 will consist of:
- 20 minutes of the Chess Coach demonstrating a lesson.
- 30 minutes of students playing each other with Chess Coach supervision.

Resources and Materials

- Students may access Google Drive for supplementary lesson files and website links.
- Gold membership to ChessKid.com for supplementary puzzles, lessons, and games.
- Free membership to Lichess.org for chess club activities.
- Free membership to Chess.com for chess club activities.
# Tentative Course Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topics and Activities</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Week 1 – April 2</td>
<td>Introduction to Chess, ChessKid.com, Lichess.org, and Chess.com. How to analyze your chess games using online engines.</td>
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</tbody>
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| Week 2 – April 9 | - Opening Principles  
- Traditional vs. Modern Openings  
- e4 vs. d4 vs. other Openings  
- Castle Kingside vs. Queenside  
- Solid Opening for White (**King’s Indian Attack/White Fortress**)  
- Solid Defense for Black (**King’s Indian Defense/Black Fortress**) |
| Week 3 – April 16 | - Solid d4 Opening for White (**London System**)  
- All-purpose Defense for Black (**Pirc**)  
- d4 Trap for Black (**Englund Gambit**) |
| Week 4 – April 23 | - Two common e4 Openings for White (**Italian Game, Ruy Lopez**)  
- Two common e4 Defenses for Black (**Two Knights, Sicilian Dragon**)  
- Quick Checkmate Traps (**Scholar’s Mate, Fool’s Mate**) |
| Week 5 – April 30 | Effective Gambits and Traps in e4 Openings for White and Black (**Fried Liver Attack, Traxler Gambit, Blackburne Schilling Trap, Fishing Pole Trap**) |
| Week 6 – May 7 | - Surprise e4 Opening for White (**Bishops Opening**)  
- Surprise e4 Defense for Black (**Petroff/Petrov/Russian Game**)  
- Effective Gambit and Traps in e4 Openings for White and Black (**Stafford Gambit**) |
| Week 7 – May 14 | Fun Gambits and Traps in e4 Openings for White and Black (**Danish Gambit, King’s Gambit, Vienna Gambit, Rosseau Gambit**) |
| Week 8 – May 21 | - Other Important e4 Defenses for Black (**French Defense, Caro-Kann Defense**)  
- Other Important d4 Openings for White (**Queen’s Gambit, Trumpowsky Attack**)  
- Other Important d4 Defenses for Black (**Queen’s Gambit Declined, Dutch Defense**) |