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Rochester Chess Center
221 Norris Dr.
Rochester, NY 14610

August 24, 2017

TO: Rochester Area Middle School Principals
FROM: Scott Kroner, Academic Challenge Bowl Director
Ron Lohrman, Interscholastic Chess League Executive Director
RE: Sign-up/registration for the 2017-2018 school year

The latest school year is nearly here and preparations are fully in motion for the 2017-2018 Academic Challenge Bowl and Interscholastic Chess League season. It promises to be another full year of excitement and interest, coming off of record participation numbers in both programs last year.

As you may know, Academic Challenge Bowl is an academic team competition that effectively serves as a modified-level (grades 6, 7 and 8) version of the high school quiz bowl program MasterMinds. ACB effectively functions as a 'feeder' program for MasterMinds in much the same way as modified-level sports feed athletic programs at the high school level. The ACB program runs throughout the school year and gives students with academic strengths the chance to extend those talents against some of the best and brightest from other local schools. The season consists of eight games with playoffs for the top teams.

The participation cost for Academic Challenge Bowl will be \$474. Additionally, if you have a chess club, we can coordinate scheduling to allow schools the option of combining chess and ACB schedules to reduce transportation costs. The chess fee for schools playing in a middle school league scheduled concurrently with ACB will be \$191. If a school wanted to play chess in a high school league, perhaps traveling with a high school counterpart, the fee is \$319. (Like ACB, middle school chess leagues play eight games; the high school chess leagues play 12 games, like the MasterMinds teams.) Busing remains the responsibility of each individual school although coordinated busing saves on transportation costs.

Both programs 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/acb/signup.html

We are also pleased to announce a continuation of last year's initiatives: discounts for early billing and for schools that sign-up for all our activities. Mostly involving schools playing MasterMinds, Chess and ACB, it offers a discount for schools involved in all our gifted programs.

To register and participate in Academic Challenge Bowl or Interscholastic chess this year, the enclosed registration form should be completed and returned to CYPRAS as soon as possible. Forms should be received by **Friday, October 13, 2017** by mail, fax or e-mail. (Schools interested in playing Chess in a high school league should indicate an interest by September 22.) The annual coaches/scheduling meeting, which sets the dates and sites for competitions, will be held shortly thereafter.

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.

Academic Challenge Bowl and Interscholastic Chess are great programs to offer to your students. ACB is an exciting and growing program coming off a record year of participation, as is Chess. With such continued success, the time has never been better to join some of the most worthwhile academic programs around. If you have any questions about ACB, please contact Scott Kroner by phone at 585-473-0864 or by e-mail at acb@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. The ACB web site also offers answers to a host of questions: www.nymasterminds.com/acb, as does the chess web site: www.nychess.org/league

We look forward to receiving your registration!