



C&O Chess Club at Spark Matsunaga E.S. ***Winter 2024 Schedule and Registration***

The Spark Matsunaga E.S. Chess Club will resume on **Thursday, January 11th, 2024**, with Coaches Ross & Omar Pancoast. All students K-5 are welcome but **class size is limited**.

For easy online registration & payments go to: [Chesscenter.net](https://chesscenter.net)

The C&O Program Director (for registration / other questions) is Ross Pancoast, at redross26chess@gmail.com

It's great to be back at Spark Matsunaga E.S. This class is for all levels of students in grades K-5 from new players (just learning the pieces) to advanced students who have previous experience and may have even played in organized competition. Class time will be divided between a lesson and a game play portion. Instruction for new students will include the basics of how the pieces move, board set up, simple opening strategy and checkmate skills. Advanced students will cover tactics and strategy, more detailed openings and game analysis. We will provide information and a location for practice outside of class including access to weekly tournaments. We focus on sportsmanship and healthy competition and a sense of teamwork while we work towards self-improvement.

Chess Club meets on Thursday mornings from 8:10 a.m. to 9:15 a.m. in the Media Center

Winter Dates (11 weeks): Jan. 11, 18, 25, Feb. 01, 08, 15, 22, 29 Mar. 07, 14, 21.

We are also offering online classes as an alternative to in-person. Details can be found online at [Chesscenter.net](https://chesscenter.net)

Snow Days and Absences

C&O Family Chess Center follows the MCPS policy for snow days and other such closings. If MCPS opens late our morning programs will be held virtually at the regular class time. If schools close early or absences due to illness our students can join one of our Online afternoon classes held from 4:30 – 5:30. The same opportunities are available on scheduled school closing days except holidays. Zoom links will be provided for such instances.

C&O Family Chess Center is a United States Chess Federation (USCF) Affiliate. These materials are neither sponsored nor endorsed by the Board of Education of Montgomery County, the superintendent, or this school.