Chess: More than a Game—
A Power Teaching Tool

- **Chess is fun and motivational.** It develops self-esteem, builds team spirit and increases concentration.
- **Chess has intellectual branding.** People think kids who play are smart. Kids who play think of themselves as smart. What kids believe can often be self-fulfilling.
- **Chess improves test scores.** Students involved in chess raise scores on math and reading standardized tests and make better grades in school overall.
- **Chess is a thinking game.** It encourages students to use patterns and logical deductive reasoning to solve problems.
- **Chess levels the playing field.** Age, gender, ethnic background, socioeconomic status and native language are all irrelevant factors when playing chess.

**Chess has a positive impact when taught systematically.**
Here are a few reasons why, compiled by chess master and scholastic coach Jerry Meyers (http://www.youthchess.net/)

- Chess study accommodates learning in all modalities and across multiple intelligences.
- Chess provides a tremendous number of problems to solve and the immediate reward or punishment for problem-solving.
- Chess creates a pattern or thinking system that breeds success.
- Chess-playing students are used to looking for more and different alternatives, resulting in higher scores in fluency and originality.
- Competition fosters interest, promotes mental alertness, challenges all students, and elicits the highest levels of achievement (Stephan, 1988).
- A learning environment organized around games has a positive effect on students’ attitudes toward learning (Allen & Main, 1976).
- Chess motivates students to become willing problem solvers and spend hours quietly immersed in logical thinking. These same young people often cannot sit still for fifteen minutes in the traditional classroom.

**What do studies show?**
Over the last 30 years, studies in the U.S. and around the world have proven the positive impact of chess on IQ, standardized tests, problem-solving abilities, concentration, creativity and self-esteem.

- Chess improves academic skills for students at risk of failure.
  
  A study by Hong and Bart (2006) on the cognitive effects of chess instruction on students at risk for academic failure correlates improved chess skills with improved cognitive performance.
  
  Gobet & Simon (1996) show that higher level thinking skills gained in chess are transferable for academic success across the curriculum.
- Chess influences family life positively.  
  *In Aberdeen, Scotland (2005), researchers found that the introduction of chess in the school environment influenced family life, involving parents and grandparents in bonding activities.*

- Chess benefits an entire community.  
  *Ronald Cope, NJ After 3 Program Director, saw his Paterson, NJ, community come together—supporting the chess program by transporting students to tournaments, acting as ushers, supplying refreshments, and extolling the benefits of the program for their children and the community at large.*

- Chess improves classroom behavior.  
  *Quantitative analysis shows a significant difference in classroom behavior, particularly in students who exhibited poor behavior prior to adding chess into the school day.*

- Chess improves math and reading scores.  
  *Studies in New Brunswick, Canada (1989-1992) show that chess results in increased scores on standardized tests for both reading and math, proportionate to the amount of chess in the curriculum.*

  *In New York City (1980s), a study showed higher classroom grades in both English and Math for children involved in chess.*

  *In a Texas study (1994-1997), elementary students who participated in a school chess club showed twice the improvement of non-chess players on the Texas Assessment of Academic Skills.*

- Chess improves scores on creative and critical thinking tests.  
  *Studies in Houston, Texas, and Bradford, Pennsylvania, showed that chess leads to higher scores on the Watson Glaser Critical Thinking Appraisal and the Torrance Tests of Creative Thinking.*

You can do it with the Championship Chess Curriculum!  
*The Scholastic Chess Series* curriculum is ready to go. Teachers, mentors and counselors find it easy to introduce chess to children utilizing our methods, materials and optional training. Whether used after school or integrated into special programs, students reap all the educational and intellectual benefits of chess while you reinforce required standards and objectives.  
*Championship Chess* video, hands-on activities, step-by-step planning tools and classroom equipment make it easy for anyone to implement a successful chess program.

- *Color My Chess World with Music CD*  
  *Chess Basics with DVD and Game CD*  
  *Chess Openings with DVD and Game CD*  
  *Endgame Strategies with DVD*  
  *Chess Tactics with DVD*

**Math Logic on the Chessboard** Chess-related logic problems and puzzles challenge all learners. Fun and challenging activities include complex spatial tasks and relationships and collaborative or competitive challenges, and allow students to discern and explain reasoning.

**Check these Websites to find out more about chess and success.**

- Championship Chess: More Than Just a Game  
  [http://www.championshipchess.net](http://www.championshipchess.net)

- Why Study Chess?  
  [http://www.vivacityinc.com/chess/WhyStudyChess_home.htm](http://www.vivacityinc.com/chess/WhyStudyChess_home.htm)

- Chess Development in Aberdeen Public Schools: A Study of Literacy and Social Capital  

- Cognitive Effects of Chess Instruction on Students At Risk for Academic Failure  

Contact Championship Chess

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