

CHESSE FUNDAMENTALS
Academy for Math, Engineering & Science
Course Disclosure 2005-2006

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

Chess Fundamentals is an elective course for beginning chess players. No experience with chess is necessary. Students will learn the rules of play, basic chess strategy, and algebraic notation, as well as good sporting behavior.

Additionally, chess develops skills in concentration, visualization, and memory, and rewards careful decision making. There is much research to support chess in schools as a means to develop intellect and academic skills.

FOCUS AND EXPECTATIONS

1. Arrive on time for class each day; be seated and ready to learn.
2. Be prepared, with all necessary class supplies, every day.
3. Be an active learner. Speak up when you need help, borrow supplies if you forget to bring them, take responsibility for yourself. Be present in the learning moment. Take every opportunity to increase your learning.
4. Show respect for yourself and for others. Listen when others are speaking. Take turns. Use appropriate language. Accept compliments gracefully, and give compliments generously. Take care of equipment and of our classroom, and clean up after yourself.
5. Be honest—honesty is more important than “right” answers. Your character and integrity are your most important assets. Nurture and protect them.

General school-wide discipline policies (regarding dress code, violence or harassment, student telephones, pagers, etc.) are outlined in Cottonwood High School’s school policy manual. AMES will follow these general guidelines, a copy of which is available in the main office.

CLASS SUPPLIES

- **1” binder** to keep handouts, instructions, and extra loose-leaf paper
- **Dark ink pens or pencils**
- **Chess scoring book** (school will provide)

GRADING STANDARDS

Students are graded on participation, class assignments, and homework, as follows:

- Participation – 50 percent
- Class assignments – 25%
- Homework – 25%

FOOD AND DRINK IN THE CLASSROOM

In recognition that lunch occurs at a time more suited to “brunch” (10:35 a.m.), students are invited to bring and eat **healthy snacks** during class time. It is expected that students understand that this privilege comes with the responsibility to not allow their eating to interrupt class, and to **BE ABSOLUTELY SURE** that they clean up after themselves. Students who cannot be responsible in this regard will cause this opportunity to be revoked for the entire class.

Food and drink are confined to table areas only, and are not allowed at computer stations. Students must take care to not damage books or other property. Food wrappers may not distract from the classroom environment, and all drinks must have lids.

CHESS EQUIPMENT

Chess boards and clocks are available in the classroom for students’ use. It is also necessary for students to have access to a chess board at home. Inexpensive chess sets are available at local stores that carry games (Shopko, Target, etc.). Tournament quality sets are available for purchase through the school for \$12.00. In special cases, students may check out a set from the classroom for home use.

TOURNAMENTS

Students will have the opportunity to participate in chess tournaments, from classroom contests to intra- and inter-school tournaments. Information will be available as the year progresses. There is usually a cost associated with larger school tournaments or out-of-school tournaments.

WEB SITES

There are many web sites devoted to chess that are helpful to students and parents. One of my favorites is <http://www.academicchess.com>. This website offers extensive information about chess, from history to current play. Highly recommended.

PLEASE REVIEW THE ATTACHED DISCLOSURE STATEMENT FOR CHESS FUNDAMENTALS, AND THEN SIGN AND RETURN THIS PAGE.

WE HAVE READ AND UNDERSTAND THE DISCLOSURE STATEMENT FOR CHESS FUNDAMENTALS:

Print student name _____

Student signature _____

Print parent/guardian name _____

Parent/guardian signature _____

FAMILY CONTACT INFORMATION:

Mailing address:

Number and street city zip code

Telephone: _____ home
_____ mobile (if available)
_____ work

Which is the preferred number to call? _____

Parent/guardian email: _____

Parent/guardian email: _____

If a parent is interested in being involved with AMES as a volunteer, please describe how you would like to be involved: _____

PARENT COMMENTS:

If there is information that the parent would like to share with the teacher, to help insure the student's success in class, please add that information below:

Does the student have access to a chess board at home? _____