Dear SFA Families,

Welcome back SFA Chess Club!  The club is for students in Kindergarten through 8th grade, from beginners through young grandmasters. We currently have 4 parent volunteers that run the club. Justin/Nicole Williams and Bob/Juli Egeland. If you’re interested in joining our team, please reach out!

***What kind of Chess Club are we?***

Our Club currently falls into the “recreational play” category.

Some days are crazy. Some days are inspiring. At our current stage, we are primarily providing an opportunity for kids to come together and play chess.

Chess is for everyone. There are so many studied benefits to playing chess, both cognitive and social. Our Chess Club is open to all. Students may attend the Club at any time throughout the year to play in a peer-learning environment that is free, fun and supportive.

Most days are open play to move up/down our leaderboard, but throughout the year we'll also have special challenges, theme days and a Christmas tournament…with trophies! Once per month we will have Coach Jim lead an official class, to help all students grow in their game. Jim and his wife Kate are the founders of the Des Moines Chess Academy in Des Moines. They run various chess clubs in local schools, host tournaments and offer camps as well as private lessons. They are a real asset to our team and we are lucky to have the financial support of Home of School to make this possible.

As in previous years, Chess Club will start at 7:15am and meet every Friday the kids have school beginning on 9/15. We'll be in the Serra room again, which is across the hall from the pre-school classrooms.

Kids can be dropped off in the main circle drive on the south side of the church (by the pond) & enter through the doors to the right. Please do NOT drop off earlier than 7:15am. When Chess Club is finished at 8:05, the kids will be guided down the hallway to the school.

No response is needed to officially join Chess Club, but please review the following items:

* All communication is done only through our Facebook page. **“SFA Chess Club”**
* To help out our core group of volunteers, we're hoping to have parents of Chess Club kids volunteer their time during the school year. Also, we ask any willing parents to bring doughnuts the first Friday of every month. You can sign up for either through our Facebook page via SignUpGenius.
* We will have behavior contracts this year that must be signed and returned. With our great turnout comes great responsibility and this year we will focus heavily on respect.

Thanks in advance for your help and we look forward to another fun year of Chess Club!