

Charlotte Chinese Academy  
2020-21  
Chess

Instructor: Shawn Pealer, National Master of Chess  
Room Parent: Diane Zheng

Overview:

Chess presents a convenient environment and opportunity for the development of “life skills” broadly labelled as “critical thinking”. Students of the game must be able to analyze minute detail while yet keeping an eye on the larger picture. Sometimes the best course of action can be definitively calculated and sometimes there are many reasonable choices. Sometimes we are close to victory and sometimes we are confronted with danger on all sides. We will endeavor to learn to make good decisions in all scenarios through the study of master games, the solving of thematic puzzles, frequent in class sparring, and occasional out of class research.

Objectives:

To move quickly beyond the basic rules  
To cultivate logical thinking  
To teach calculation  
To teach strategic concepts  
To inspire independent research  
To introduce chess tournaments & culture  
To produce USCF tournament players (please register your child for a minimum 1 year membership at [www.uschess.org](http://www.uschess.org))

Topics:

Tournament procedure & etiquette  
Chess history  
Current chess happenings (eg the World Championship match this November)  
Calculation techniques  
Strategic themes (such as centralization, piece activity and prophylactic thinking)  
Research (tournament preparation, opening research, etc)

Special Notes:

Students should have a current USCF membership. The membership can be purchased at [www.uschess.org](http://www.uschess.org) and will facilitate classroom activities. The price varies based on the age of the participant.

There may be a few spring Sundays where I will need to travel to national chess events. On these dates, I will either find a substitute or our room parent, Diane Zheng will supervise chess play.