



COMPETITION CHESS Syllabus

Discovery Middle School
1304 Hughes Road
Madison, AL 35758

Teacher: Mrs. Laura Collins
Email: lecollins@madisoncity.k12.al.us
Class Webpage: <https://www.madisoncity.k12.al.us/Domain/1595>
Phone Number: 256-837-3735

Course Description:	Chess is the classic game that develops spatial thinking and strategies and builds focused concentration. The class is geared for the more advanced level chess players. Intermediate and advanced players learn sophisticated combinations and strategies and advanced opening moves.
Course Objectives:	By the end of the course, students should be well-prepared to compete at a higher level in chess tournaments and confidently engage in challenging matches against formidable opponents.
Classroom Expectations:	Classroom Rules and Procedures: 1. Arrive to class on time with a growth mindset. 2. Food and drink are not allowed in Computer Lab (WATER in spill-proof containers is permitted.) 3. Treat yourself and others with respect. 4. Behave in a manner conducive to learning for all. 5. Keep your hands and your belongings to yourself. 6. Clean your workspace with care for school belongings and facilities. 7. Follow all rules listed in the Madison City Schools Code of Conduct, Acceptable Use Policy, and the DMS Student Handbook.
Textbook:	Students will conduct all work through chesskids.com. The cost of the gold membership is provided for the students while they are enrolled in the course.
Grading:	Tournament Scores will account for 60% of the 9-weeks grade, with the remaining 40% being determined by workouts and puzzles assigned each week.. The grading scale is as follows: A (90-100), B (80-89), C (70-79), D (65-69), and F (below 65). Grades will be a reflection of mastery of the standards. Make sure all absences are excused as work can be made up and graded for excused absences only.

Progressive Discipline <i>(DMS Policy)</i>	Step 1: Verbal warning Step 2: Student/teacher conference Step 3: Parent contact Step 4: Referral to school administration DMS Progressive Discipline Plan
Make-up Work:	<p>Students may work ahead on assigned work for the week if an absence is anticipated; they may also work at home (virtually) if needed. (See “Late Work” below.) It is the responsibility of the student to ensure he or she makes up work following excused absences. Students will not receive credit for and will not be allowed to make up any assignments, tests, work, activities, etc., missed during unexcused absences. (DMS 2024-2025 Student Handbook)</p>
Late Work:	<p>Students are assigned the work for the week on Monday. Each class day will have an assignment. Students may choose to work daily as assigned, or they may choose to work ahead. Work assigned should be easily obtainable (with time to spare) by only completing work in class. All assigned work for the week is due by midnight on Friday for the same week. If students know they will be absent, they are encouraged to work ahead in order to receive credit for the work missed. If students are absent, they are able to work on the assignments at home (virtually). If additional time is needed for an extended absence, please notify the teacher asap and an extension may be granted. Due to the competitive nature of the course, on Fridays, students will compete in a class scrimmage/tournament. Performance in this tournament will determine the student’s test grade for that week. (1st/2nd place=20/20, 3rd/4th place=19/20, 5th/6th place=18/20, etc.) Students will compete within different subsections based on their Chess Kids Ranking (Those new to Chess Kids will be placed in the “Noob” rank and will compete with others who are new; those with moderate ranking will be placed in “Intermediate” rank and will compete with those with similar rankings; those with higher level rankings will compete with “Masters”). As students' skills improve, they will move up in the ranking, and on the final week, all students will compete in a tournament together. **When students miss tournaments due to excused absences, a makeup scrimmage will be assigned to their group (where only the absent student will be graded) for the following week in order to recoup the points missing.</p>
Accommodations:	<p>Requests for accommodations for this course or any school event are welcomed from students and parents.</p>

Technology	<p>Go Guardian will be used during Chess to ensure students are completing work. Students will not be allowed to visit any sites other than ChessKids.com when they have incomplete work for the week. Concerning laptop utilization:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Student laptops should not be hard-wired to the network or have print capabilities. 2. Use of discs, flash drives, jump drives, or other USB devices will not be allowed on Madison City computers. 3. Neither the teacher, nor the school is responsible for broken, stolen, or lost laptops. 4. Laptops will be used at the individual discretion of the teacher and should be brought to school daily. <p>Cell phones and headphones are not permitted. DMS is a phone free zone other than designated areas (such as hallway and cafeteria).</p>
Materials and Supplies:	Students will be required to have their own chromebook to participate fully in daily chesskid.com lessons, puzzles, and tournaments.

9 Week Plan <i>*Subject to Change</i>	
Week	Unit
1	Rankings, Learning Chess Kids and how to complete Agenda Items
2	Beginner Level Workouts, Puzzles, Ranked Tournament
3	Beginner Level Workouts, Puzzles, Ranked Tournament
4	Intermediate Level Workouts, Puzzles, Ranked Tournament
5	Intermediate Level Workouts, Puzzles, Ranked Tournament
6	Intermediate Level Workouts, Puzzles, Ranked Tournament
7	Advanced Level Workouts, Puzzles, Ranked Tournament
8	Advanced Level Workouts, Puzzles, Ranked Tournament
9	Advanced Level Workouts, Puzzles, Whole Class Tournament