

Squalicum High School Chess Club

2018-19

Whether you are a beginner or a tournament vet, you are invited to come to our meetings and learn, play, and have fun! Squalicum usually participates in league tournaments; in the last five years, SQHS has qualified for State three times! However, tournament participation is not required, but definitely encouraged.

When does Club meet? Club will meet Thursdays in Room C219 from 3:20–4:30. Start date will be mid to late October, and we will probably stop in March or April.

When are the tournaments? We will focus on Northwest Chess League events, which are all on Monday nights (from about 5:30 to 9:30 or so). Preseason events start in November, and there are four NW League meets in December, January, and February. Team championships start in March.

The Northwest Chess League web site should be updated in the next several weeks. Bookmark it so you can put the events on your calendar: <http://northwestchess.info/nwleague.html>.

What is Club like? That's partially up to YOU! We will brush up on the rules, learn common checkmate patterns, discuss opening principles, practice tactics, and master endgame scenarios. But obviously, we need to PLAY to really improve, so we'll do lots of that!

To get good at chess, you need to play more than a few games each week at Club. You need to play online, both fast games and slow games. You need to follow games played by grandmasters and study books. You need to use software to analyze your own games, practice your opening repertoire, and keep up your tactical skills. Our coach can show you how to do all of these things.

Ultimately, what Chess Club becomes depends on YOU. We're guessing you want to have lots of fun, but if you want to win, you have to work hard at it!

Who is the advisor? Suzanne Laas is our advisor. She is a biology teacher.

Who are the club officers? It's a new year, and our first order of business will be to elect new officers (president, vice-president, secretary, and treasurer). This is a student-led club, and we are looking for strong leadership to carry us forward. If you are willing to put a little extra time into it, there's no limit to what you can accomplish!

Who is the coach? Our coach's name is Vaughn Wine. He works from home as a software engineer, but he has been teaching chess in Bellingham for over 10 years. Both of his kids are experienced scholastic tournament players. His daughter, Tahlia, is a junior this year at Squalicum.

How good is the coach? He's not easy to beat, but most of you will beat him on occasion. A few of you will get good enough to beat him consistently. For those of you that understand ratings, his blitz play is about 1100, his over-the-board play is about 1400, and his correspondence play is about 1700. (Grandmasters are 2500 and above!) He is learning just like you!

Feel free to contact Coach Vaughn Wine with any questions you have about the club. He can be reached on his cell phone: **(360) 201-8087**. He's also quick to respond to emails sent to vwine@yahoo.com.

We also have a private Facebook Messenger Group named Mini Fork Appreciation Club, which we use to communicate with each other. Let us know if you want to join the group!

If you signed up for Chess Club, we will be contacting YOU soon to let you know when we will be meeting!