

2023-2024 Year-in-Review



**Play More Chess Academy
Home of the Hamden Chess Club
1227 Whitney Avenue
Hamden, CT 06517**

www.PlayMoreChess.com



Congratulations to all Play More Chess Academy Students, and Hamden Chess Club Members on their achievements and dedication to chess improvement during 2023-2024!

This Annual Report highlights nine main activity areas during the year June 1, 2023 to May 31, 2024.

1. Students enrolled in PMCA classes or lessons during the year
2. Members of the inaugural HCC Chess Team and some highlights
3. Current Hamden Chess Club Membership as of May 31, 2024
4. Number of Tournaments during the year
5. Total Participants in HCC Tournaments during the year
6. Total Tournament Cash and Prizes Distributed (Annual and Cumulative)
7. Hamden Chess Club Casual Play
8. 2024 College Scholarship Winners
9. Other/Special Events

1. Students enrolled in PMCA classes or lessons during the year

A total of 145 students enrolled in classes and individual lessons during the year. Congratulations to each student for their progress working through the curriculum.

Pawn Level (Beginner Kids Classes) (45)

Abbasi, Shayan Aden, Xiyan Ahmad, Ahmad Ahmad, Zayneb Alderman, Izzy Badawi, Mohamed Babajanyan, Simon Baggett, Jackson Baggett, Lincoln Baum, Yael Bejenaru, Christopher Bejenaru, Nicole Bottiglio, Josefina Bullock, Cameron Chacon, Jencarlo Chen, Mo Cronin, Ben Cronin, Sawyer Edelkopf, Eli Epstein, Charles Gatto, Salvatore Hallas, Ian Hammer, Julian	Katz Berger, Adam Khan, Sarina Kyle, Nolen Leivas, Iaromir Leivas, Miroslav Levy-Eichel, Gersh Ma, Chloe Ramadan, Adam Ranfone, Finn Rawling, Misha Roosien, Danny Roosien, Isaac Sanga, Lucius Schaeffer, Zachary Schaper, Jac Shymko, Yana Silverman, Maya Svolik, Martin Volynskiy, Cora Walsh, Alden Yamasca, Abe White, Silo
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Knight Level (Intermediate Kids Classes) (37)

Agarwal, Rohan Bayden, Anthony Bayden, Daniel Bogle, Jayden Cangalaya, Alex Cangalaya, Alexia Capece, Henry Chen, Jack Crawford, Theo De La Cruz, Ricardo Deener, Echo Ellis, Emerson	Jegade, Ope Jegade, Tobi Jenkins, Kai Kean, MJ Kim, Isabella Kosko, Dominic Kromash, Kieran Lettieri, Dominic Lai, Jason Liu, Daniel Loskova, Daniil Mangi, Basel
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Ellis, Ethan Famutimi, Kamsi Giannopoulos, Angelo Gonsalves, Jayden Gupta, Aakash Harris-Sturges, Abe Horsford, Bennett	Mangi, Ayedin Pepe, Nathan Pitkin, Ozzie Schoenmann, Gabby Skiba, Roman Yang, Riston
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Bishop / Rook Levels (Intermediate Kids Classes) (22)

Bishop: Aloi, Bennett Anthis, Vasilis Carney, Logan Caruk, Soren Famutimi, Kamsi Feher, Mark Huge, Aleks Cassius Khandelwal, Yash Kim, David Kim, Igeun Lerman, Benny	Lyon, Lucas Marshak, Simon Neitzke, Alice Polly, Malcolm Schaeffer, Will Schmidt, Peter Tang, Kristal Wang, Jonathan Rook: Akshantala, Gautham Tang, Derrick Watrous, Chase
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Adult Students / Individual Lessons (Adults & Kids) (41)

Aloi, Bennett Agarwal, Rohan Bello, Liliana Brooks, James Carney, Logan Chainani, Dan Chainani, Pranik Davis, Fallon Diaz, Jason Festa, Caleb Festa, Luca Flannagan, Aedan Freeman, John Frunzio, Roberto Gaudioso, Christopher Greb, Samuel Ikekpeazu, Kachi Kaczmarczyk, Truman Lemar, Sahil Singh Luszcz, Asher Marciano, Tommy	Martin, Haley Moffie, Cal Morgan, Anthony Nagarsheth, Alina Newell, Wyelin Nguyen, Al Palumbo, Laura Raza-Baril, Nico Sabol, Brayden Schoenmann, Gabby Sidhartha, Nathan Smith, Lisa Sriram, Akshay Umashanker, Renu Van Wees, Ellen Vogt, Austin Wang, Junwen Wang, Lacey Warren, Julian Xu, Arthur
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2. Hamden Chess Team Members 18 members on 2022-2023 team

Aloi, Bennett Anatra, Owen Carney, Logan Chang, Andrew DAndrea, Nathan Festa, Caleb Festa, Luca Frunzio, Roberto Greb, Samuel	Kaczmarczyk, Truman Mejnartowicz, Vilas Newell, Wyelin Qian, Jack Sabol, Brayden Skiba, Roman Tan, Keda Tang, Kristal Wang, Lacey
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3. Current Hamden Chess Club Membership as of May 31, 2023

Hamden Chess Club currently has 151 members
(77 Adult members; 74 Scholastic members)

4. Number of Tournaments during the year

Monthly Action Quads (3rd Monday Evenings of the Month): 12
USCF Scholastic (K-12) Monthly Tournaments: 12
USCF Game-in-45 Challenge Monthly Tournaments: 12
HCC Online Weekly Tournaments on Lichess.org: 120

5. Total Participants in HCC Tournaments during the year: 1,488

Total participants in HCC's OTB - USCF tournaments: 671

Total participants in [HCC's Online - Lichess](#) tournaments: 817

6. Total Tournament Cash and Prizes Distributed (Annual and Cumulative)

Tournament Cash and Prizes Distributed June 1, 2023 - May 31, 2024: \$10,340

Tournament Cash and Prizes Cumulative (September 15, 2017 -May 31, 2024): \$27,745

7. [College Scholarship Winners 2024, announced May 21, 2024](#)

John Freeman, received \$500 Scholarship Award and will be attending Cal Poly San Luis Obispo. He plans to study Computer Science, with concentration in Game Design and Development.

Brayden Sabol, received \$500 Scholarship Award and will be attending University of New Haven. He plans to study Cybersecurity and Networks.

As of May 31, 2024 the College Scholarship fund has a balance of \$2,876.61. The PMCA/HCC scholarship program, for graduating high school seniors attending college in the Fall, initially was made possible through the generosity of friends and family who made contributions to honor the memory of David Allan Ringold (1956-2022). The scholarship program is sustained with both individual gifts and purchase of refreshments at Play More Chess Academy, Home of the Hamden Chess Club.

8. HCC Club Casual Play (Mondays and Thursdays, 6:30-8:30PM)

Average Attendance Monday & Thursday Casual Play: 16

9. Other/Special Events:

- 2024-05-21 2024 [PMCA/HCC College Scholarship Winners](#). Each received a \$500 a scholarship: John Freeman, attending Cal Poly in San Luis Obispo, planning to study Computer Science with a concentration in Game Design and Development; and Brayden Sabol, attending University of New Haven, planning to study Cybersecurity and Networks.
- 2024-05-14 Hamden Chess Club named [Connecticut Chess Club of the Year for 2023](#) by Connecticut State Chess Association
- 2024-04-02 Perpetual Chess Interview with Coach Jordan: Ep 376- Adult Improver Jordan Groff on [What it Takes to Make Master in 2024](#) and [\(Interview video-Youtube\)](#)

- 2024-01-08 PMCA and HCC Team Coach Jordan Groff ties for Top U2300 in Premier section, and \$187.50, at [12th Annual Boston Chess Congress](#)
- 2024-01-08 HCC Team member and current PMCA student Jack Letitian Qian wins first place tied, and \$500, in U1500 section at [12th Annual Boston Chess Congress](#)
- 2024-01-07 HCC Team member and HCC Club member Lacey Wang wins [2024 CT State Scholastic Elementary Championship](#). Former PMCA student Kushagra Bhargava places 2nd in Middle School (6-8) Section. Current PMCA student Logan Carney wins Top U1300 prize in Middle School (6-8) Section); event photos
- 2023-06-13 [Hamden Chess Team](#) sign up begins for ages 8-18 interested in playing in tournaments, improving at chess, and making new friends through chess. (2023-2024 team had 18 members).

Thanks for your support of and participation in so many of our chess activities during the past year!

NOTES:

*If you see a name misspelling or other correction needed please email info@playmorechess.com. Thanks!