

History of Chess and LINC

LINC Chess is an example of how an involved community can change an entire school.

In 1999 at **Blenheim Caring Communities** a group known as Men on the Move started teaching children how to play chess. Early results were encouraging: better focus, fewer discipline issues and improved academic performance. One of those involved was **Lee Bohannon**, then a LINC volunteer, who had a passion for chess.

Since then, LINC has partnered with schools and libraries to host **tournaments** throughout the city and has established a **Chess University** to teach volunteers about the game in order to step into an instructional role at local LINC Caring Communities Sites.

LINC Chess University

The **LINC Chess University** was established to teach adults to play using the same methods taught in LINC Chess. Classes were originally developed to help LINC staff operate chess programs at sites, but are now open to adults who want to volunteer for LINC chess and parents who want to play chess with their student.

University sessions teach the effective use of each individual piece in a game of chess.

University gives individuals a step by step process to teach the LINC Chess approach.

Graduates of the University are able to **volunteer** as coaches at LINC Chess sites throughout the school year.



Instructors

The LINC Chess initiative is extremely important to LINC. We have hired well-qualified instructors to implement the Chess program for all students in the LINC program.

Questions

If you have questions about LINC Chess program. Call Ken Lingelbach at (816) 650-7525



www.kclinc.org/chess



www.facebook.com/LINCchess



How the Chess program works

- The program runs September through May.
- Each school holds at least **two chess classes** per week. The first class is with a LINC Chess Instructor, coach or volunteers, and the second is run by the school coach to reinforce the weekly lesson.
- School coaches receive **training** on how to implement the program, **support** from a LINC Chess Instructor, and copies of the **student workbook**.
- LINC Chess programs provides three **K-12 tournaments** during the school year as well as an all-girls tournament. Each tournament participant is awarded a medal, and top school teams and individuals may receive additional awards.



Why chess?

Chess encourages:

Focus - Children are taught the benefits of carefully observing and concentrating.

Visualization - Children are prompted to predict and imagine a sequence of actions before it happens.

Thinking Ahead - Children are taught to think first, then act. We teach them to ask, "If I do this, what might happen, and how can I respond?"

These attributes help students to perform better in school and control their actions in moments of stress or anxiety.

Since 2001, the LINC Chess program has helped over **2,500 students in more than 25 Kansas City area schools** learn confidence, discipline, and higher-order thinking skills.



Year	Students
2001-02	125
2005-06	243
2009-10	415
2011-2012	569

Frequently Asked Questions

How much does the chess program cost?

The LINC Chess Program is **FREE**. However, students must be enrolled in the LINC Caring communities program at their school.

Equipment, training, and tournaments are provided by the program.

Do children need to know how to play before they start?

No. The program assumes students have **no prior knowledge** of chess.

How can parents get involved with LINC Chess?

- Make sure your child attends every chess class possible.
- Take your child to the LINC Chess tournaments.
- Volunteer to help with the chess classes.
- Talk to your school's instructor or coach about attending the Chess University (see back for details).



What is expected of the school coach?

A desire to learn and enthusiasm. Believe in the benefits of chess for kids and communicate that belief by example.

Commitment. Be consistent and reliable in conducting and supporting the weekly classes at the school.

Benefits of Chess

- Improve self-esteem, concentration, and discipline
- Improve academic achievement and logical thinking skills
- Build and develop important life skills for excellence at school and adult life
- Parents are involved, supportive, and proud of their children's efforts and achievements

