**CHESS**and**EDUCATION**

**Why Chess?**

**Problem-solving, Critical Thinking, Decision Making, Concentration**and**IQ** are all the elements needed to give a student the  edge he or she needs to be better in all academic areas of education.

***Problem-solving:***

* Chess promotes efficient problem solving because success depends on the student’s ability to fully assess a given game’s problems as the game develops taking into account his own and opponent’s strategy and drawing upon a collection of experience and prior knowledge.
* It has been shown that primary school students given chess education to support their curriculum, on the average display accelerated levels of cognitive development than those following the traditional curriculum.

***Critical Thinking:***

* A student of chess will not only analyze the situation on the chess board, but will draw upon a host of previous experiences and knowledge of the game to determine the best course of action.
* Scientific studies have shown that strong chess players use different techniques for memorizing, than non-chess players.

***Decision Making:***

* A student of chess will learn to make thoughtfully considered, strategic decisions under pressure when he or she feels they are losing or the game is played with strict timing restrictions.
* Then they must resist pressure and make a logical decision to come out victorious.  This same process is needed for effective exam performance.
* Studies show improved exam performance in chess players and advanced chess players in the ability of making tough and abstract decisions.

***Concentration:***

* In the age of computer games, television and Internet technology, educational experts have dreaded the lost of concentration levels in today’s students.
* Although these things are great in some ways they have caused a decrease in classroom learning and exam performance.
* Educational researchers upon testing have shown that chess playing students show increase aptitude for concentration, patience and perseverance.

***IQ:***

* *Chess has been shown to raise overall levels of intelligence among school children.*
* An experiment entitled the Learning to Think Project, conducted in South America, demonstrated an increase of intelligence quotient among both male and female children after less than a year of studying chess.
* As a result of this experiment some countries formally adopted chess into their curriculum, most notably Venezuela in the early eighties with widespread reports of success.