



Chess

2025–2026

Instructor: Donnelly Cameron

Phone: 817–789–9435

Email: servantofjc.cameron1@gmail.com

Age Range: 8–19

Class Time & Location: 10:00 AM, Multi-Purpose Room

Course Description:

Chess is a timeless game that challenges the mind, encouraging critical thinking, strategic planning, and problem-solving. This course provides students ages 8-19 with an opportunity to learn and master one of the oldest board games in the world. Originating over 1,500 years ago in ancient India, students will start by learning the basics, setting up the chessboard, understanding how the pieces move, and eventually developing strategies to win in various scenarios.

In this course, we will also explore how chess can reflect God's guidance in our lives. Regardless of the position we're in, we can trust that God will show us the right path toward victory. To participate, students will need a textbook, a folder or binder, and a Bible. Additionally, they should come prepared with an open mind to learn some of the best strategies used by world chess champions such as Bobby Fischer, Magnus Carlsen, and Garry Kasparov. We will focus on opening strategies, mid-game tactics, and endgame positions that will help students achieve success on the chessboard. I look forward to an exciting, God-centered year of chess here at LTL.



Course Objectives:

By completing this course, students can expect to:

1. Expand Critical Thinking

Students will develop the ability to approach both chess and life with a new perspective, understanding how the lessons learned in class can be applied to daily challenges.

2. Develop Hands-On Skills

Each student will be assigned a chessboard to practice alongside the course lessons, helping them establish strong muscle memory through repeated, active participation.

3. Enhance Memory and Study Techniques

Memorizing complex chess openings and strategies will help students strengthen their memory and studying skills. With tailored guidance, even beginners will be able to grasp and retain key concepts.

4. Focus on Faith and Learning

At LTL, we strive to keep God at the center of everything we do, including chess. Each class will integrate biblical lessons to help students connect the principles of the game to God's plan for their lives.

Expectations and Accommodations:

To get the most out of this course, students are expected to:

- **Attend class regularly and arrive on time.**
- **Engage actively in class activities.**

Accommodations: We are committed to supporting each student's learning needs. Please notify the instructor in advance if any accommodation or adjustments are needed.



Required Materials:

Students should come prepared with the following items for each class:

- A notebook for taking notes.
- A folder or binder for organizing materials.
- A labeled water bottle.
- A physical Bible (highly recommended, although Bible verses will be displayed on the screen).

Tentative Course Timeline:

Fall Semester

- **Week 1 (9/5):** Introduction to Chess – Setting up the board and learning basic checkmates.
- **Week 2 (9/12):** Opening Basics – Understanding the initial moves of a chess game.
- **Week 3 (9/19):** Openings for White – Exploring common opening strategies with the white pieces.
- **Week 4 (9/26):** Openings for Black – Learning defensive strategies using the black pieces.
- **Week 5 (10/3):** Mid-Game Tactics – Key strategies for controlling the middle phase of the game.
- **Week 6 (10/17):** Endgames – How to finish a game and secure victory.
- **Week 7 (10/24):** Properly utilizing your pieces – Mastering the strengths of each piece.
- **Week 8 (10/31):** Breaking Bad Habits – Overcoming common mistakes in chess.
- **Week 9 (11/7):** Strategies – Exploiting weaknesses in your opponent's position.
- **Week 10 (11/14):** Using What You've Learned – Practical application in friendly games.
- **Week 11 (11/21):** Beginner Chess Tournament – Week 1.
- **Week 12 (12/5):** Beginner Chess Tournament – Week 2.



Spring Semester

- **Week 1 (1/16):** Recap of First Semester – Review and practice.
- **Week 2 (1/23):** Intermediate Openings for White.
- **Week 3 (1/30):** Intermediate Openings for Black.
- **Week 4 (2/6):** Intermediate Tactics – Part 1.
- **Week 5 (2/13):** Intermediate Tactics – Part 2.
- **Week 6 (2/20):** Evaluating Positions – How to assess the board and plan ahead.
- **Week 7 (2/27):** Castling and Attacking – Using castling for a strategic advantage.
- **Week 8 (3/13):** Intermediate Pawn Structures – Building strong defenses early in the game.
- **Week 9 (3/20):** Intermediate Endgames – Handling complex endgame situations.
- **Week 10 (3/27):** Intermediate Puzzles – Solving chess puzzles to reinforce learned tactics.
- **Week 11 (4/10):** Chess Tournament – Week 1.
- **Week 12 (4/24):** Chess Tournament – Week 2.

We are excited for the upcoming year and look forward to working with your child as they develop their chess skills while incorporating valuable lessons of faith. If you have any questions or need further details, please don't hesitate to reach out.

Best regards,
Donnelly Cameron