

New Jersey Grade School Championship November 2022 Report



I am very pleased with the turnout we had for this edition of the NJ Grade School Championships! In all, we had around 475 competitors travel to Brookdale Community College to play five rounds of chess against peers from their own grade.



The beauty of playing an individual sport on a team is that the support is palpable, especially before and after matches. Every club and school showed unity and passion throughout this tournament: celebrating whenever their players won, and being supportive whenever they lost. Especially for the young grade levels, one school stood head and shoulders above the rest: congratulations to **Princeton Charter School** for winning four first places and three second places and, as a result, bringing home a trophy for every grade level between Kindergarten and the Sixth Grade! A very honorable mention goes to **Deerfield Elementary**, who won first place in the First Grade Section and third place in the Fourth Grade Section! In addition, congratulations to **Mt. Olive Middle School** for winning first place in both the Sixth and Eighth Grade Sections! Finally, no

school was able to dominate the high school sections like several schools were able to for the lower grades. However, congratulations are still deserved for **Livingston High School**, **Montgomery High School**, **Bergen County Academies**, and **Millburn High School** for each claiming first place!



However, it does not take a genius to realize that chess is an individual sport. At the board, it is a contest over which player can outwit the other. At the New Jersey Grade School Championships, there is an added pressure in trying to be the champion of an individual grade! When playing against people exactly one's age, it is easy to remember that these players can think similarly, have similar interests, and are taking similar classes. Despite the fact that our players try to focus solely on the chess, it is difficult for the stated reasons to keep a focused head for five games straight. This is why congratulations are in order for first grader **Liam Jesunas**, second grader **Jayden Li**, third grader **Rithvik Chauhan**, fourth grader **Colin Hu**, seventh grader **Maahir Patel**, sophomore **Eddy Tian**, junior **Justin Lee**, and senior **Aarush Sharma** for getting a perfect five points out of five!



A very honorable mention goes to first grader **Lenna Xiao**, third graders **George Walter** and **Vihaan Rajalbandi**, fourth grader **Yujeong Yeo**, fifth graders **Mark Kogan**, **Geoffrey Chen** (who are

both from the same chess club, International Chess Academy, and played each other in the final round!) and [Leonhard Chang](#), sixth grader [Leon Shevelenko](#), eighth grader [Angelo Valentino](#), and freshman [Aston Roberts](#) for remaining undefeated with four wins and one draw each to finish with 4.5 points out of five!



Thank you again to everyone who participated, and to every parent and coach who came to support their kids, your support and participation makes New Jersey a competitive and fun environment to be a chess player! Join us on **February 26, 2023** for the [NJ State Scholastic Championship](#), and **next fall** for the next edition of the New Jersey Grade School Championship!