

# 2024 New Jersey Grade School Championships Report

Thanks to everyone who attended last weekend's 2023 New Jersey Grade School Championships. The event was a tremendous success with more than five hundred players across 13 grades competing against each other.

This tournament is unique in New Jersey in that sections are not based on skill, but rather on grade. Players compete only against their same-grade peers, with each section awarding a title of "2023 New Jersey \_\_\_\_ Grade Champion". Players also compete for team trophies to present to their school.

Competition for these team awards was fierce, especially in the lower grades which featured the only schools to win more than one first place team award. In the end, these were the winning teams:

**Hartshorn Elementary School** - Kindergarten and 2nd grade

**Princeton Charter School** - 1st and 3rd grades

**Millstone River Elementary School** - 4th grade

**Washington School (Millburn)** - 5th grade

**Pond Road Middle School** - 6th grade

**Glen Rock Middle School** - 7th grade

**Tenafly Middle School** - 8th grade

**Princeton High School** - 9th grade

**Livingston High School** - 10th grade

**West Orange High School** - 11th grade

**Bergen County Academies** - 12th grade

Of course at its heart this is an individual tournament. Our congratulations go out to the first place winners of each section.

**Sophia Li** - Kindergarten

**Shaurya Mehta** - 1st grade

**Gillian Gao** - 2nd grade

**Albert Li** - 3rd grade

**Santhosh Aryappan** - 4th grade

**Yujeong Yeo** - 5th grade

**Anvith Reddy Marri** - 6th grade

**Advaith Raghuraman** - 7th grade

**Shyla Rana** - 8th grade

**Kyle Cheung** - 9th grade

**Aston Roberts** - 10th grade

**Markian Zabihaylo** - 11th grade

**Justin Lee** - 12th grade

We'd also like to give a special shout-out to the students who didn't quite make first place but scored perfect scores in their sections. Tiebreaks for trophies and titles are based on who won against the strongest opponents, which in turn is defined as the opponents who won the most games. To lose out on a tiebreaker after a perfect tournament can be heartbreaking, as it's often a miniscule amount of difficulty and there's nothing more the player could have done to win first place. The Official Rules of Chess acknowledge there's no perfect way to establish a "first among equals," and so we'd like to give a shout out to these second-place winners whose achievements warrant special accolades.

**Juefei Lu** - 2nd grade

**George Walter** - 4th grade

**Roger Zhang** - 10th grade

The tournament staff also would like to give a special shout-out to the parents and coaches who were patient that the tournament in the main ballroom ran slightly late. We've made a note of several changes to make next year to keep the event on schedule. Your understanding was greatly appreciated.

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.

We look forward to seeing you on **February 25, 2024** for the [NJ Elementary and Junior High Championships](#), on March 4-5 for the NJ High School Championships, and **next fall** for the 2024 edition of the New Jersey Grade School Championships.