



# NEXT MOVE

The Broward County Schools and Communities Scholastic Chess Initiative

Report No. 2  
June 2015 to December 2016

Scholastic chess teaches critical thinking skills to improve student academic success; a key component of the new Florida Standards is a focus on in-depth critical-thinking and problem solving skills rather than rote memorization for English language arts and acquiring an ability to understand and apply mathematical concepts.

In the 2014-15 school year, the **National Scholastic Chess Foundation** (NSCF) partnered with the **Broward Education Foundation** to launch the **Next Move Chess Initiative** to bring chess to students of all grades in schools and in community programs. The first goal was to train teachers as well as other youth workers to be able to teach chess. The NSCF created two full-day **Demystifying Chess Workshops** to take someone from having little to no knowledge of chess to being able to deliver approximately 26 weeks of instruction, in class or in aftercare. As of December 2016, 370 teachers, youth workers, police officers, and even some parents and student volunteer mentors, have completed Workshop #1: Teaching the Basics. Of these, 205 have also completed Workshop #2: Moving Beyond the Basics.

Over 150 new or expanded chess programs are now in operation across Broward County led by teachers who have taken the Demystifying Chess workshops. Here are just a few of these programs:

At **New River Middle School**, science teacher Mateo Garcia continues to offer his 6th grade chess elective with 28 to 30 new students participating each quarter. In addition, he has a chess club with 20 committed players who meet every Tuesday after school. And, every Monday morning he offers open chess to around 50 students. Because the students arrive at different times, Mr. Garcia presents a short lesson at the end of the period so they all leave with advice on how to improve their play. His goal for the rest of this year is to find some schools to play against.



Robert Johnson's chess class at Cypress Run. He keeps a list of chess strategies on the wall behind his demonstration chess board.



It's a girl thing at Lauderdale Lakes MS where NSCF Senior Instructor and BCPS math teacher Robert McKenzie offers separate instruction for his girls.

At **Lauderdale Lakes Middle School**, Mr. McKenzie teaches chess every Friday to over 180 students. He also has 25-30 students who participate in after school chess 3 or 4 days each week. Mr. McKenzie previously taught at Castle Hill Elementary where he was able to take a small team to the All-Girls Nationals in Chicago; his team took second place in their first ever national competition! In an effort to keep girls interested in chess in middle school, he will often arrange separate instruction times. Mr. McKenzie makes time to work with NSCF community programs.

"I teach High School Alternative to External Suspension (AES) Program. The program is designed to serve students suspended from their home school from one to ten days. I attended the Demystifying Chess Workshops 1 and 2. Immediately following the workshops, I started teaching beginning chess lessons to AES students daily from 2:00 to 3:00. I also had a student participate in the City of Sunrise Mayors Chess Challenge. He was seen on the local news and pictured in our weekly newsletter.

"I now offer chess lessons every Friday to Cypress Run students allowed to participate in Friday Rewards. Many studies show playing chess results in increased reading and math scores. I believe children who play chess are thinking their way to success. I have witnessed students who cannot sit still for fifteen minutes become immersed in logical thinking. The great thing about chess as a teaching tool is it can help all children stimulate their mind, become better critical thinkers, problem solvers, and decision makers."

– Robert Johnson  
Teacher at **Cypress Run Education Center**

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While the chess club at Atlantic Technical HS only meets for a half-hour at lunch time once a week, the players all travel to Margate Elementary once each month.

“My high school students have been going to Margate Elementary once a month during this past school year to play and help teach the children there. To wrap up the year, we hosted a chess tournament between the elementary and high school students at Atlantic Technical HS. They played 5 rounds of 10 minute games, and if there was no outright winner, we used the point system to determine the winner. As you can see on the picture of the rosters, several of the elementary students won some games over the high schoolers! At the end, we awarded one winner from each school a magnetic chess set. My very supportive principals, Robert Crawford and Vicky Laporte, provided pizza, drinks & cookies for all the competitors. We all look forward to continuing and improving our chess skills next year. Thanks again to all of you for your support and promotion of chess in Broward County.”

– James Costantino

Teacher at **Atlantic Technical High School**



Students from the after school program run by HANDY have participated in a number of Mayors' Chess Challenge community events. Here some pose with Mayor Judy Paul of Davie and Mayor Mike Ryan of Sunrise.

“We held our HANDY holiday party at California Pizza Kitchen and I noticed two boys peeled off in the corner, huddled around a cell phone, away from our carefully developed program. I walked over, prepared to give them a stern lecture, because I was sure they were watching a YouTube video or ESPN highlights. Imagine my surprise when I found them engaged in a serious and sober game of online chess. For me, that was the seminal moment that turned me into an apostle of this great game and why I am ready to do my part advance scholastic chess in our community!”

– Evan Goldman

Executive Director of **HANDY**



**The Sunrise Center for Excellence in Chess** is the new home for the NSCF to communicate about chess programs serving Broward County. Please visit us at [www.SunriseChessCenter.org](http://www.SunriseChessCenter.org)

### 2017 NEXT MOVE CHESS INITIATIVES FOR TEACHERS, YOUTH WORKERS & PARENT VOLUNTEERS

**Demystifying Chess Workshop #1: Teaching the Basics** will be offered over 2 evenings, **Tuesday & Thursday, February 21 & 23** from 5:30 to 8:30 pm. Includes materials and one year of online support.

The next **Demystifying Chess Workshop #2: Moving Beyond the Basics** will be held on **Saturday, February 25** from 9:15 am to 4:45 pm.

#### **NEW: Chess for Early Learners A Workshop for Educators**

A One-Day Workshop especially for Pre-K, Kindergarten, 1st and 2nd grade teachers. Also open to ESE teachers.

**Saturday, March 4** from 9:15 am to 4:45 pm.

FIDE Master Sunil Weeramantry has taught chess to over 500 4-year-olds. This workshop focuses on the unique methods used to present chess to very young learners in a classroom setting. Sunil has used many of these same techniques to teach older ESE students. Pre-requisite: Demystifying Chess Workshop #1: Teaching the Basics.

Details and Registration in the Teacher Training and Events sections at [www.SunriseChessCenter.org](http://www.SunriseChessCenter.org)

### NEXT MOVE CHESS INSTRUCTION FOR STUDENTS

Announcing an 8-week chess class free for Sunrise students in grades 4–12  
Tuesdays from 5:30 to 7:00 pm  
beginning March 7, 2017  
at **Sunrise/Dan Pearl Branch Library**

These training programs are sponsored in part by a grant from



#### **Do you want to bring chess for all grades to your school or community program?**

Contact Coco Burns, Program Director, Broward Public Education Foundation  
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