

Polk Scholastic Chess Senior Award Application Season 2014 - 2015

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The Benefits of Scholastic Chess

Chess is a beneficial sport to play for three main reasons: it teaches acceptance, patience, and most of all it teaches one to not make impulsive decisions. Because those decisions could lose you the game and in life could lead to actions in life that have major consequences.

This game teaches acceptance by showing players that there will be times that no matter how prepared you are for a situation that sometimes you will face a obstacle that you will need more practice for and understanding of to beat it in the long run. For example, in my second tournament of my 8th grade year ii faced an opponent that at the time was better prepared then I was and beat me. Not being distraught I accepted my lost and used it to learn from my mistakes and better prepare for the future and the next time we faced each other I would be prepared and ready. In the academic world this same skill of acceptance can be used for studying for exams and class work by showing you that even though you may have made, mistakes you can learn from them and better yourself in the long run.

The second benefit of competing in this type of sport is patience. This sport forces its participants to be patient with there opponents because this is a game of thinking and strategy and can takes hours to finish. For example, in the chess world there are tournaments known as game 120, which means each player has two hours to make there moves which makes the game last a total of four hours. The patience acquired from these types of games transfers over to school because you learn how to deal with large-timed test like the ACT or other extremely long type test.

The last skill that I believe chess helps the most with is knowing the consequences of making impulsive moves or decisions without first thinking them through. The contestants of chess know how making impulsive decisions can lead to outcomes that are not in your favor and can cause your life to be harder, then it should. In chess and impulsive move can cost one player the game. For example, one of my previous games was one due to my opponent making a rash decision without though. This is one of the most noticeable traits that well trained chess players have in common with one in other. Because in life making a quick or rash decision in school could lead to a student being kicked out of class which would cause them to lose out on important class tome to further their education or worse result in that student being kicked out of school for a long period of time.