

2024-2025 Year-in-Review



**Play More Chess Academy
Home of the Hamden Chess Club
1227 Whitney Avenue
Hamden, CT 06517**

www.PlayMoreChess.com



Congratulations to all Play More Chess Academy Students, and Hamden Chess Club Members on their achievements and dedication to chess improvement during 2024-2025!

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1. Students enrolled in PMCA classes or lessons during the year

June 1, 2024 to May 31, 2025: 195

Congratulations to each student for their progress working through the curriculum.

Pawn Level (Beginner Kids Classes) (48)

Abenhamon, Yazan	Lianilk, Ayden
Abdulla, Nima	Libgober, Julian
Abdulla, Rowan	Liu, Coco
Alderman, Izzy	Liu, Domi
Baggett, Jackson	Martin, Oliver
Baggett, Lincoln	Myers, Minor
Becker, Leo	Nelson, Natalie
Becker, Maya	Nelson, Nicholas
Bresky, Rubi	Ramadan, Adam
Cronin, Ben	Ranfone, Finn
Cronin, Sawyer	Rawling, Misha
Elligers, Remy	Reitz, Eve
Ellis, Meeri	Roosien, Danny
Felix, Amara	Saha, Ruponkar
Gatto, Salvatore	Sarzosa, Walther
Gold, Elijah	Sasamota, Ray
Hendrickson, Ethan	Schaffer, Miles
Hollander, Caleb	Schaffer, Zachary
Iannuzzi, Felix	Scirocco, Michele
Kong, Nathan	Segarra, Dominick
Kromash, Adrian	Smith, Miles
Landa, Keren	Svolick, Martin
Leivas, Iaromir	White, Silo
Lianilk, Adelinia	Xiao, Harry

Knight Level (Intermediate Kids Classes) (51)

Abbasi, Shayan	Kean, M J
Aden, Xiyan	Korem, Eitan
Aman, Jaden	Kostowski, Alex
Babajanyan, Simon	Kromash, Kieran
Bate, Leon	Lai, Jason
Bayden, Anthony	Landa, Matan
Bayden, Daniel	Liu, Andy
Bullock, Cameron	Liu, Asher
Chakaborty, Adri	Liu, Daniel
Cheng, Bruce	Mangi, Ayedin
Cheng, Madeline	Mangi, Basil

Deener, Echo Dileone, Julian Drake, Tristan Emmanuel, Daniel Epstein, Charles Fan, Jonathan Gaul, Bobby Guerrier, Deborah Guerrier, Isaac Guerrier, Noah Harris-Sturges, Abe Hernandez, Gabriel Horsford, Bennett Iaroi, Alma Katz Berger Adam	Meehan, Keegan Minneman, Ward Mirza, Ammar Ren, Alex Rothman, Isaac Saddig, Logan Sarmiento, Pedro Jose Smith, Ivan Thaker, Arjun West, Mes-Siah Xu, Max Yang, Riston Zhang, Hector Zhong, Weiyong
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Bishop/Rook Levels (Intermediate Kids Classes) (15)

Bishop: Famutimi, Kamsi Feher, Mark Fostieris, Fotis Huang, Terence Huge, Aleks Rodensky Lewonka, Liam Lyon, Lucas Mardis, James Svolik, Daniel Tuktamyshov, Timur Venkatesh, Ravi Xiao, Billy	Rook: Khandewal, Yash Kim, Igeun Polly, Malcolm
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Advanced Class (Rook level and beyond) (7)

Carney, Logan Giacomarro, Caden Giannopoulos, Angelo McCaffrey, Patrick Puklin, Dylan Torres, Aaron Watrous, Chase	
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Individual Lessons (Adults & Kids) and Adult Students (46)

Alkin, Ido Alok, Khaled Agarwal, Rohan Bayram, Tuba Bello, Liliana Bilello, Michael Billings, Justin Carney, Logan Chainani, Dan Chainani, Pranik Cope, Haley Dai, Brian Fan, Jonathan Festa, Caleb Festa, Luca Freeman, John Frunzio, Roberto Fusco, David Hart, Theo Kaczmarczyk, Truman Kirkpatrick, Donovan Lazovich, Tomo Luszcz, Asher	McCormick, Richard Morgan, Anthony Moffie, Cal Nabakooza, Kasalina Nair, Arjun Nathan, Sid Newell, Wyelin Nguyen, Al Otness, Peter Palumbo, Laura Sciafani, Henry Somuk, Ryan Thangadurai, Bragadeesh Umashanker, Dr. Renu Varada, Prahmarsh Volkov, Mark Vogl, Austin Wang, Junwen Warren, Julian Xu, Arthur Zhang, Rob Zucklinski, Winston Zweygardt, Tyera
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Adult Students (in conjunction with Hamden Adult Education) (28)

Alok, Khaled Armour, Quinnlan Blackwell, Russell Boucher, Keith Duff, Patricia Drucker, Gary Fitzpatrick, Edward Futty, Alley Gilbertoni, Alison Huff, Jay Husman, Jennifer Krause, Daniel Krause, Denise Mathis, Michael	Morneault, Alec O'Malley, Michael Papazahariou, Nia Peterson, Chelsea Piekos, Barry Segarra, Julio Shaw, Dan Snow, Benjamin Staltaro, Aric Staltaro, Frank Twain, Larry Walsh, Andrew Wijndal, Ricardo Williams, Glenn
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2. Hamden Chess Team Members

17 members on 2024-2025 team

Anatra, Owen Carney, Logan Dai, Brian Fan, Jonathan Festa, Caleb Festa, Luca Frunzio, Roberto Giannopoulos, Angelo Huang, Terence	Kaczmarczyk, Truman Mbewe, Liam Mbewe, Luke Miguel, Maicon Newell, Wyelin Regan, Maceo Torres, Aaron Watrous, Chase
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Sign up is now open for the 2025-2026 Team and schedule is posted on the website.

3. Current Hamden Chess Club Membership as of May 31, 2025

Hamden Chess Club currently has 156 members
(91 Adult members; 65 Scholastic members)

4. Number of Tournaments during the year

Monthly Action Quads (3rd Monday Evenings of the Month): 12
USCF Scholastic (K-12) Monthly Tournaments: 12
USCF Game-in-45 Challenge Monthly Tournaments: 12
HCC Online Weekly Tournaments on Lichess.org: 108

5. Total Participants in HCC Tournaments during the year: 1029

through 5/31/25

Total participants in [HCC's OTB - USCF](#) tournaments: 527

Total participants in [HCC's Online - Lichess](#) tournaments: 502

6. Total Tournament Cash and Prizes Distributed (Annual and Cumulative)

Tournament Cash and Prizes Distributed June 1, 2024 - May 31, 2025:

\$8,455

Tournament Cash and Prizes Cumulative (September 15, 2017 -May 31, 2025):

\$36,200

7. PMCA/HCC College Scholarship Program

As of May 31, 2025 the PMCA/HCC College Scholarship fund has a balance of \$3,424.03. The PMCA/HCC scholarship program, for graduating high school seniors attending college in the Fall, initially was made possible through the generosity of friends and family who made contributions to honor the memory of David Allan Ringold (1956-2022). The scholarship program is sustained with both individual gifts and purchase of refreshments at Play More Chess Academy, Home of the Hamden Chess Club.

Recipients to date:

John Freeman, received \$500 Scholarship Award and is attending Cal Poly San Luis Obispo. He is studying Computer Science, with concentration in Game Design and Development.

Brayden Sabol, received \$500 Scholarship Award and is attending University of New Haven. He is studying Cybersecurity and Networks.

8. HCC Club Casual Play (Mondays and Thursdays, 6:30-8:30PM)

Average Attendance Monday & Thursday Casual Play: 10

9. Other/Special Events:

- 2025-05-12 HCC Club Member Alex Emmons earned National Master title at the HCC May Action Quads tournament.
- 2024-11-16 Perpetual Chess podcast founder/host NM Ben Johnson presented book talk on his new book *Perpetual Chess Improvement*, and offered book signing, followed by a simul for 20 players at PMCA
- 2024-11-10 HCC Member Benefit can now borrow books from the [HCC Library](#) for up to 30 days

Thanks for your support of and participation in so many of our chess activities during the past year!

NOTES:

*If you see a name misspelling or other correction needed please email info@playmorechess.com. Thanks!