

2025-2026 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 2025-2026!

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

June 1, 2025 to May 31, 2026:

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

Pawn Level (Beginner Kids Classes) (24)

Ambadipudi, Rihaan Benevento, Patia Bitra, Wyom Bresky, Rubi Brown, Taj Gebril, Adham Granby, August Guajala, Agnes Iannuzzi, Felix Kromash, Adrian Landa, Keren Levesque, Elon	Levesque, Vincent Mazzaro, Angelo Morozova, Lev Morrison, Wally Nelson, Nicholas Olson, Steven Pepe, William Ramos, Joseph Rodriguez, Savannah Saerys, Flora Tan, KJ Waks, Zahra
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Knight Level (Intermediate Kids Classes) (46)

Abdulla, Nima Abdulla, Rowan Adelstein, Maxwell Bate, Leon Becker, Leo Becker, Maya Bullock, Cameron Chandler, Wendel Coulttolenc-Gandula, Hayden Dileone, Julian Epstein, Charles Faridi, Arjun Gao, Leo Gold, Elijah Gu, Barron Hanson, Alyosha Hendrickson, Ethan Hong, Jay Yoon Horsford, Bennett Kothandam, Arjun	Meszaros, Isaac Messing, Alex Patel, Aarav Patel, Tej Padro, Mateu Rajeh, Jad Rajeh, Jawa Rajeh, Taj Ranfone, Finn Rothman, Isaac Saddig, Logan Saha, Ruponkar Sarmiento-Garrido Pedro Segarra, Dominick Sharma, Yuvan Smith, Miles Song, Merina Svolick, Martin Wallace, Zachary Xie, Arianna
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Kumar, Arwin Landa, Matan Martin, Oliver	Xie, Theo Zhao, Edward Zhao, William
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Bishop Levels (Intermediate Kids Classes) (8)

Aden, Xiyang Cheng, Madeline Huang, Terence Kostowski, Alex	Lewonka, Liam Liu, Asher West, Mes-Siah Zhang, Hector
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Advanced Class (Advanced Kids Class,

taught by NM Jordan Groff) (11)

Allen, Felix Anatra, Owen Iheka, Kamsi Khandelwal, Yash Kumar, Avyan	Polly, Malcolm Rosenstein, Gabi Stortz, Olivia Svolik, Daniel Torres, Aaron Tuktamyshov, Timur
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Adult Classes (in conjunction with Hamden Adult Education, taught by NM Jordan Groff) (36)

Alok, Khaled Alsgaard, Ian Amatruda, Matt Armour, Qunnian Begin, Anne Brooks, Sabrina Burt, Mary Jane Carbough, Michael Cecunjanin, Binak Chikanian, Igor Chikanian, Irina Clarke, Michael Crisci, Florence Dworman, Lori Firestone, Diana Gilbertoni, Alison Goldstone, Zachary Goutherz, Daniel	Howe, Julio Husman, Jennifer Kaplan, Elliott Krause, Daniel Krause, Denise Magnaldi, Vincent Maloney, Kevin Ortiz, Gabriela Powers, Signe Powers, William Read, Nicholas Rosa, Ricardo Schmitt, Michael Snow, Benjamin Tynan, Allison White, Michelle Williams, Andre Woade, Malcolm
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Individual Lessons (Adults & Kids, taught by NM Jordan Groff) (34)

Agarwal, Rohan Basrai, Diya Bastida, Pablo Begin, Ann Blackstone, Stephen Bogart, Yossi Cassello, Michael Cats, Sven Cope, Haley Dai, Brian Dworman, Lori Fan, Jonathan Frunzio, Roberto Indrakumar, Rish Kaczmarczyk, Truman Kumar, Arwin Ledner, Michael	Lu, Evan Luszcz, Asher Mardis, James Meszaros, Isaac Nabakooza, Kasalina Nadhani, Ujjwal Nam, Kai Newell, Wyelin Otness, Peter Ridley, Marianna Somuk, Ryan Tworkowski, Ed Umashanker, Dr. Renu Vogt, Austin Xu, Arthur Zhang, Rob Zucklinski, Winston
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2. Hamden Chess Team Members

2025-2026 team (13)

Coach: NM Jordan Groff, aka “Coach Jordan”

Allen, Felix Anatra, Owen Frunzio, Roberto Hendrickson, Ethan Kaczmarczyk, Truman Newell, Wyelin	Somuk, Ryan Stortz, Olivia Svolik, Daniel Svolik, Martin Tang, Kristal Torres, Aaron Tuktamyshov, Timur
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Sign up is now open for the [2026-2027 Kids Team](#) and schedule is posted on the website. It is possible to sign up for either a full year or a half year at a time (July 1, 2026 - June 30, 2027). Students

enrolled in a class and those who sign up for a full year receive a discount.

3. Current Hamden Chess Club Membership as of May 31, 2026

Hamden Chess Club currently has 138 members
(82 Adult members; 56 Scholastic members)

Averaging two nights of adult casual play each week, entry fee discounts on OTB USCF tournaments, a lending library of the best 150 or so chess books and other benefits, HCC membership provides a great value to its members making it one of the largest chess clubs (based on paid memberships) in the state.

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: 104

HCC is your destination for rated USCF chess tournaments in central Connecticut. We consistently offer the most tournaments for players of all rating levels.

5. Total Participants in HCC Tournaments during the year: 985 through 5/31/26

Total participants in [HCC's OTB - USCF](#) tournaments: 517
Total participants in [HCC's Online - Lichess](#) tournaments: 468

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

Tournament cash and prizes distributed June 1, 2025 - May 31, 2026:
\$11,330

Tournament cash and prizes cumulative (September 15, 2017 -May 31, 2026):
\$47,530

HCC consistently offers the top prizes for chess in the state among USCF affiliates and returns an average of 70% entry fees in cash and

trophy prizes.

7. PMCA/HCC College Scholarship Program

As of May 31, 2026 the PMCA/HCC College Scholarship fund has a balance of \$3,459.95. 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:

Roberto Frunzio, received \$750 Scholarship Award (2026) and plans to attend College of the Holy Cross, Worcester, MA. His possible major/ field of interest is History and Languages (Spanish & Italian)

John Freeman, received \$500 Scholarship Award (2024) 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 (2024) 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: 8

9. Other/Special Events:

- 2026-05-19 [Congrats 2026 PMCA College Scholarship Winner: **Roberto Frunzio**](#)

- 2026-05-16 **NM Jordan Groff** (aka " Coach Jordan" wins [2025-2026 Coach of the Year honor from the Connecticut State Chess Association](#)
- 2025-11-4 **Mini-documentary (5 min)** about PMCA and Hamden Chess Club
- 2025-09-08 [HCC Family membership](#) option added
- 2025-09-05 Inaugural **First Friday Monthly Chess Social** with average attendance of 30 each month!

Thanks for your support of and participation in so many of our chess activities during the past year. It's been a great year!

NOTES:

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