



**Welcome to the afterschool chess club at P.S. 5, an elementary school in Inwood!  
Let's introduce you to several of the club members:**



3rd-graders **Ashanty** (left) and **Kaelise** (right) are best friends. They both are happy to be back in “real” school because “it is hard to learn on an iPad,” according to Kaelise who likes to spend time with her classmates. Several weeks ago, the girls started learning chess with Ms. Marissa, CIS’s instructor. “She is so cool,” says Ashanty. Ashanty especially appreciates Ms. Marissa because they are both big fans of BTS, the world-famous K-pop group.

Kaelise likes chess because “it is so quiet, and it is so fun to play.” The students already know some pieces like the including pawn and the rook. Today they learned about the bishop. “Chess is cool,” says Ashanty. “When I play this game, I am happy and I am laughing.” Although she often plays with Kaelise, Ashanty is eager to play against someone she doesn’t know, to meet new people through chess. Her favorite piece is “the one that we learned today,” because she really likes learning new pieces. Kaelise wants to play chess with her family. She is planning to teach them because she is sure they will like the game.



During our visit, we met several other students who have shared with us their thoughts and feelings about chess and school life.



### **Wilmer, 3<sup>rd</sup> grade**

I started playing chess two years ago, when I was five. I learned it at home. I play with my dad. I like chess. You can go forward and down [with pieces] and do diagonals. My favorite pieces are the little ones that go up. The pawns. I go to the chess club because I can battle my friends. I like winning but I lose sometimes. I went to tournaments, and I also won.



### **Jalvin, 5<sup>th</sup> grade**

I like chess but I think it is kind of boring. You have to think of all types of steps all the way to win and all the way to not lose. Yes, it makes your brain work but you have to think about all of this and you have to be calm! And you have to wait [for the next move]. I like winning! I started learning chess when I was seven. I even have my own chess board at home. I sometimes play with my dad. Nobody else really knows how to play chess [in my family]. I have not been to tournaments. It would be scary travelling. And it would be scary to lose.



### **Liam, 5<sup>th</sup> grade**

I like chess a little bit. I like winning but it is a little tough to win. I started learning chess when I was seven, in third grade with Mr. Ron [CIS's instructor]. My mom signed me up to the afterschool club and I like it here. My favorite piece is the bishop because it can capture diagonally. I now know how all pieces move. But I don't want to go to tournaments. It is scary to play with other people. Here is class I am with my friends. I like being back in school. It is way easier to learn now. Online you have troubles doing your work.



### **Lia, 5<sup>th</sup> grade**

I don't even know when I started playing chess. Maybe two years ago. I enjoy it because it is a new way of playing games. There is a difference between the pieces and there are different ways how pieces are played. And there is a bunch of ways to play chess! My favorite piece is the queen because it can move everywhere. I can't really play chess at home because my dad doesn't have the chess board, but we have the pieces. I tried to play online but sometimes it doesn't work.



### **Mayeli, 5<sup>th</sup> grade**

I started learning chess when I was nine or eight. I like chess because you can challenge people. I like winning, but sometimes I don't get to win because I am not that good at it. I don't play other board games. I only play chess. My family also plays chess. My brother is in the classroom and he really likes chess.