

2020-2021 Annual Report



Helping kids grow,
one move at a time.

CIS Mission: *Chess in the Schools fosters the intellectual and social development of low-income youth through chess education.*

A Year of
Innovative
Teaching



Transforming the Learning and Teaching Experience

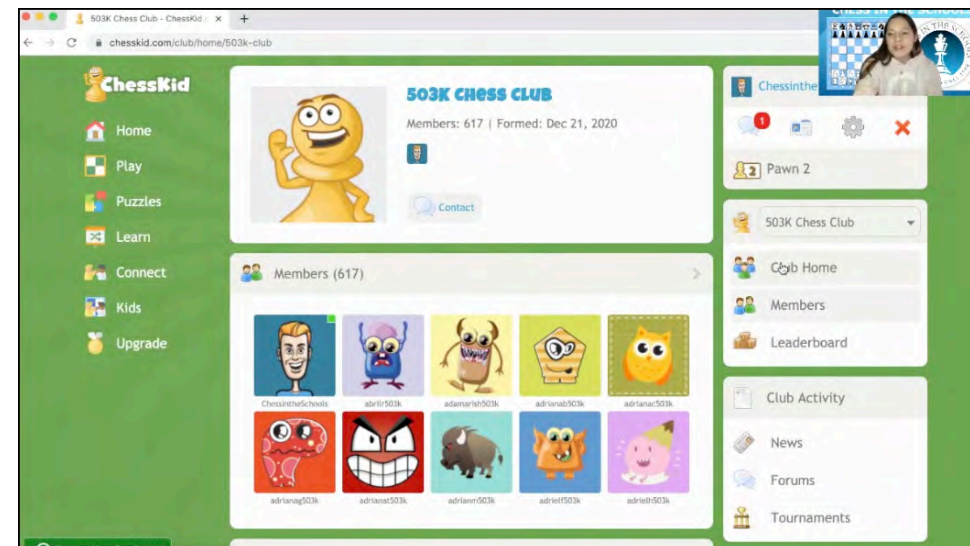
for
4,722
children

- New kid-friendly slides and graphics
- New interactive practice exercises
- New materials and extra practice in Google Classrooms



for
1,488
children

- Meaningful learning in the after-school hours
- Free premium ChessKid accounts
- Safe online space for interactive play with peers



for
112
children

- An opportunity to combat “summer slide” and retain scholastic skills
- Afternoon online tournaments for fun

The King Attacks the Ladder

When you are working towards a Ladder Checkmate, **the King might fight back by attacking your Rooks.**

We call this **The King Attacks the Ladder.**

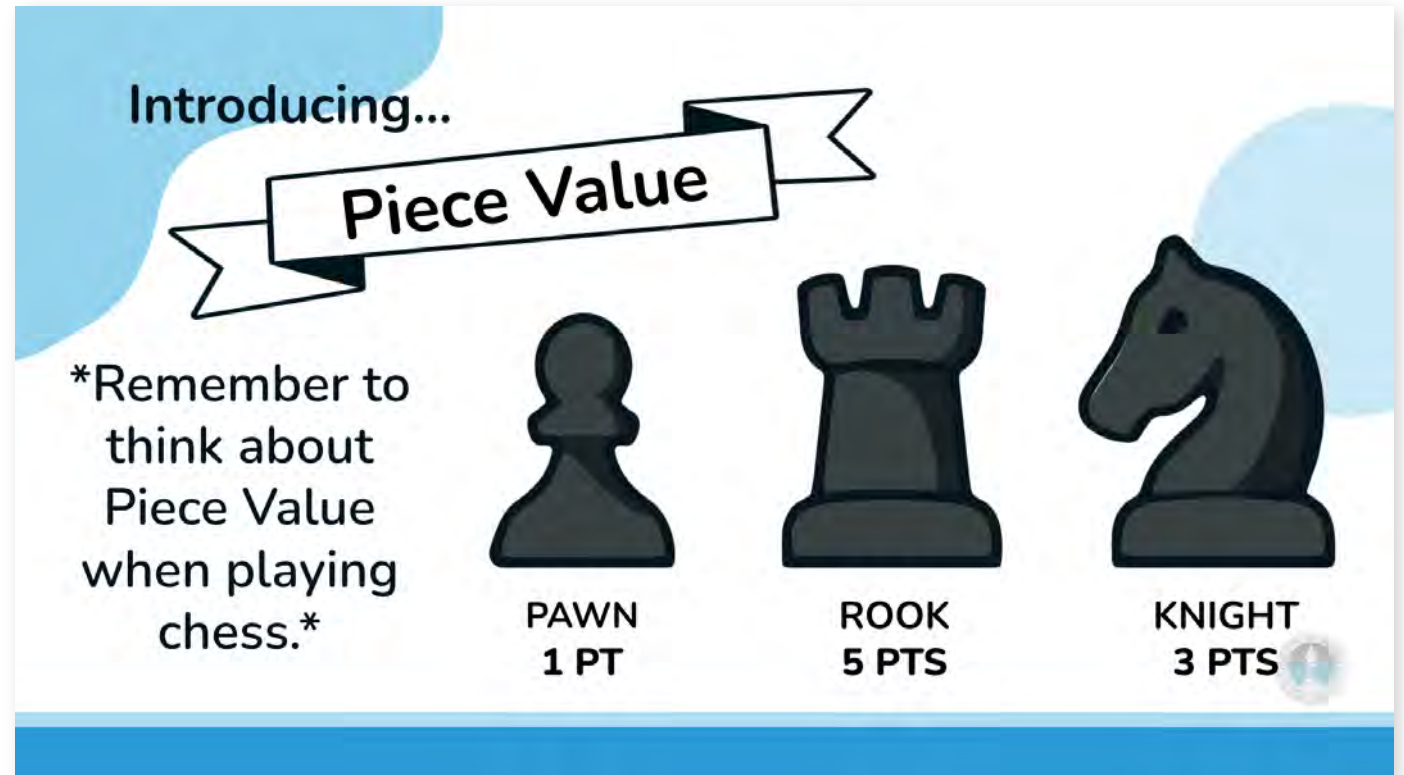


8

group sessions

to learn how to launch a chess program

- Individual consultations
- Free chess curriculum materials



88

**chess
tournaments**

offered online

MLK Jr. Day Chess - Open Arena

		
Prayash318	NM WWJCD	Infinite_EoN
Performance 2377	Performance 2314	Performance 2305
Games played 9	Games played 9	Games played 8
Win rate 89%	Win rate 89%	Win rate 88%

Q ⏮ ⏪ 1-10 / 150 ⏩ ⏭

1	NM WWJCD 2516	02244444	28
2	Prayash318 1987	22402244	24
3	Infinite_EoN 2217	22444440	24
4	ryanchenchess 1815	22440224	20
5	myrevenge 1906	22440224	20
6	Eric_2012 1873	2240020224	20
7	orangepuppy 2162	2122444	19

3X more events
than in previous years

Zoom rooms
for coaching

Added

**“Friends and
Family” section**

College Prep on Zoom

- Individualized services for 90 high school students
- Video tours of colleges and meetings with advisors
- Live and recorded seminars for later review
- Added Discord platform for peer engagement

Special online tournaments
to challenge grandmasters and professionals



A Year of Strong Impact Despite the Pandemic

Percentages of teachers who “agreed” or “strongly agreed” with the following statements*:

96%

of teachers

reported that chess had a meaningful positive influence on their students

89%

of teachers

noted that students applied the lessons of chess beyond the chessboard

89%

of teachers

confirmed that learning and practicing chess enhanced their students’ understanding of math concepts

92%

of teachers

confirmed that learning and practicing chess enhanced their students’ analytic and logical reasoning skills

90%

of teachers

noted that chess helped their students concentrate better

* 114 public school teachers, surveyed in May 2021.

“

My class looks forward to playing chess every week. It is one of their favorite things to do. This year has been a difficult one. Chess was a highlight for my students.”

“

Students were able to apply mathematical concepts and make connections between what they were learning during chess instruction and what we were learning in class.”



The College Bound Program: Paving the Way to the Future Success

90

high-school students

from families with median
annual income of \$25,500
received individualized support
on their way to college



100% of 2021 seniors

enrolled in colleges including SUNY,
Baruch, Carnegie Mellon, Brandeis,
and Sarah Lawrence

The College Success Initiative

launched to support CIS alums to stay
in college and graduate on time

Alumni Spotlight: Miguel Mino



Miguel Mino is a Senior at Binghamton University. He studies economics with a minor in Spanish. He first learned about chess through CIS's School Program as a third grader at P.S.153 in Hamilton Heights. The game became Miguel's passion, and he joined the school's chess club. With time, Miguel started playing in tournaments, and even enrolled in CIS's summer camp.

After drifting away from chess in middle school, Miguel was brought back by a close friend who told him about CIS's College Bound Program. "I knew I made the right decision as I was receiving amazing guidance and mentorship, while at the same time I was able to fall in love with the game of chess again," Miguel reminisces.

In 2021, Miguel became a CIS Peer Leader as part of the new College Success Initiative. He is helping younger alums become successful in college and in life. His career goal is to become a real estate investor and to open his own brokerage firm.

Alumni Spotlight: Miguel Mino



“

I went from an underachieving student to a student that was accepted to the top state university in New York. Playing chess and being surrounded by other chess players inspired and empowered me to take my education seriously.”

Looking Ahead: Teaching Tools to Enrich Learning Post-COVID

- Kid-friendly electronic materials that expand modes of learning
- Google Classrooms for handy reference and review
- Premium ChessKid accounts to enable more practice in out-of-school time
- Online tournaments for those who cannot travel to in-person events



- Discord platform to connect College Bound Program high school students
- College Bound Zoom chess lessons for access to more guest experts
- Teacher training on Zoom for improved flexibility in professional development

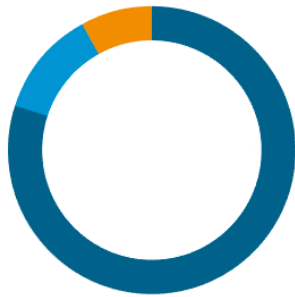
New Five-Year Strategic Plan: Aiming for “The Head of the Class”

Goal 1: Align Programs to Impact. CIS will implement a series of achievable enhancements that will strengthen comprehensive program offerings to further students’ chess, cognitive, and social-emotional skills – and increase opportunities for enhanced parent and school partner engagement to reinforce and grow student learning and success. With these program enhancements, including new virtual opportunities, CIS will reach even more students throughout the city, across the country and around the world.

Goal 2: Scale up Evaluation. CIS will refine approaches to measuring its School and College Bound programs and begin to collect baseline and participation data on other core programs. CIS will invest in its evaluation infrastructure via added systems and staffing and use this new data to enhance outcomes and better communicate its impact to a broader audience of constituents, including funders.

Goal 3: Optimize Fundraising and Communications. CIS will scale up brand-building communications efforts and focus fund-development strategies to grow individual and institutional giving. CIS will also invest in its fundraising staff capacity, systems and technology.

Expenses



- 80%** Program
- 12%** Administration & Management
- 8%** Fundraising

Revenue Sources



- 25%** Individual Donors
- 19%** Foundations & Corporations
- 15%** Government
- 10%** School Fees
- 31%** Investments

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To find out how you can help, contact:
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