

# 2022-2023 ANNUAL REPORT



Empowering  
Youth  
Through  
Chess



## **CIS Mission:**

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



# LEARNING, PLAYING, AND GROWING, WITH CHESS

## Chess Instruction in Public Schools:

Many Options with the One Goal of Providing Free and High-Quality Learning Opportunities



**5,676**  
students

in 44 schools learned chess with a CIS instructor during classroom sessions and in after-school clubs

**3,503**  
students

in 12 schools participated in the Digital Chess Program

**114**  
public school educators

received training in digital learning curriculum and tools

**3,090**  
unique players

competed in 22 day-long citywide tournaments



**56**  
schools

enrolled in in-person and digital learning programs, including 4 that offered chess instruction twice a week



## The Impact of CIS's Programs Through Educators' Eyes

### Teacher Survey Results

In the summer of 2023, we surveyed 164 teachers from CIS's partner schools to evaluate the impact of CIS's chess program on their students. Below are the percentages of teachers who "agreed" or "strongly agreed" with the following statements.

- Most students could play a legal game of chess by the end of the semester: **93%**
- Most students actively participated in the chess class: **97%**
- Chess had a meaningful positive influence on my students: **97%**

- Most students applied the lessons of chess beyond the chessboard: **85%**
- Learning and practicing chess enhanced my students' cooperation skills: **90%**
- Learning and practicing chess enhanced my students' understanding of math concepts: **82%**
- Learning and practicing chess enhanced my students' analytic and logical reasoning skills: **89%**
- Learning and practicing chess helped my students concentrate better: **92%**

- Learning and practicing chess improved my students' behavior: **84%**
- Since my students started learning chess, they are more interested in school: **73%**
- My students became better at socializing: **73%**
- Boys and girls were equally interested in chess: **95%**
- My students are getting better at strategic thinking: **73%**



**97%**  
of educators

confirmed that they would like to have a chess class again next school year

### Teachers Say...

“Students learned to be patient and quiet.”

“The chess program has raised students' abilities to use logic and reason. The instructor's dynamic discussions helped students adopt critical thinking skills, and the students showed their application in chess matches.”

“All of my students request to play ChessKid whenever we have a down moment in class and they are also clamoring for the chess boards.”

“Chess allows our less athletic students to compete with students who may beat them in athletic-based activities.”

“Students built the stamina to sit and think critically and strategically for a whole period. They also learned to communicate their thoughts better.”





## College Bound / College Success: Striving for Success and Ensuring Life-Long Learning

### Program in Numbers

**97**

high-school students

Up to

**400**

hours

of individualized scholastic and academic programming, chess learning and social-emotional support

**80**

college students

### Program Impact

**96%** of students made gains in both College Readiness and Core SEL (HelloInsight survey).

**100%** of seniors graduated high school on time.

**100%** of seniors were accepted to colleges and matriculated to college in the fall.

**100%** of college freshmen stayed in school and continued their studies.

**100%** of College Success participants are on track to graduate college on time.

## College Bound / Friendship Bound



Although in chess each player is responsible for their own decisions, having a supportive network is very important for players' growth and success. Meet Emmanuella and Tayler, two College Bound students who are living proof that friendship is an important factor in any chess player's development. The girls' friendship has helped them stay motivated and inspired, both in chess and in school.

Emmanuella, who started playing chess in the 6th grade, introduced Tayler to the game in high school. The girls attend Medgar Evers, one of the premier high schools in Brooklyn. They are now members of the school's chess team, coached by Kyrel Burnett, a CIS alumnus. Emmanuella,

“Chess is friendship, it's a commitment, it's a disappointment, and it's a triumph... I hope for my future as a chess player and it's a badge of honor that I'll hold close to me for the rest of my life.”

– Tayler

who joined CIS's College Bound Program in the 9th grade, encouraged Tayler to be more competitive and to play in CIS's tournaments, where she became captivated by the CIS chess community. After several significant wins and a strong support of her College Bound peers, Tayler became the Medgar Evers Chess Team President.

Both girls have many aspirations in life. For Tayler, who already received her college acceptance letter from Cornell, it is to become the first African-American female grandmaster. Emmanuella, who is still waiting to make her final college decision, is interested in the role of women in society. Her biggest goal is to make contributions to the medical field.



## Venturing Beyond New York City

### Exploring College Opportunities

CIS's College Bound students traveled to Stony Brook University, Marist College, Vassar College, and Yale University to experience student life and see different learning environments first hand before applying to college.

### Competing in Tournaments

Chess in the Schools brought over 100 students and alumni to regional and national US Chess rated tournaments.

**US Amateur East Team Chess Tournament,** Parsippany NJ (February 2023)

**US Amateur East Individual Chess Tournament,** Parsippany NJ (May 2023)

**National High School Championship,** Washington DC (March-April 2023)





Finalists and the winner (left to right): Vaughn Bennett (Washington, DC), Mark Indermaur (Raleigh, NC), Vincent Bogert (Bronx, New York City), Jose Garza (Chicago, IL), and Carlos Graupera (Brooklyn, New York City)

# The Lerner Award for Excellence in Chess Education

In 2022, Chess in the Schools announced the Andy Lerner Award for Excellence in Chess Education, made possible by Andrew Lerner, esteemed member of the CIS Board of Directors. The goal of the nationwide annual award is to recognize and highlight the exceptional work of educators working in public schools or running non-commercial children's chess clubs.

A panel of judges from across the chess community selected one winner and four finalists. The qualifying factors included the depth and impact of the applicants' chess programs, innovation and dynamism



*“It is my hope that this award will highlight the invaluable work that chess educators are doing in underserved communities across the U.S.”*

– Andy Lerner,  
CIS Board Member

in teaching, and program outcomes for students and communities served.

During a special ceremony on May 17, 2023 in New York City Mark Indermaur, the President of the Indermaur Chess Foundation from Raleigh, NC was named the winner of the inaugural award. Four finalists, from Chicago, New York City, and Washington DC, were also recognized. Vincent Bogert, a public-school chess coordinator in the Bronx, was honored with a Lifetime Achievement Award.

The next round of nominations and applications will be announced in September 2024.

# Meet Jenny Ingber, Ph.D., CIS's New President & CEO

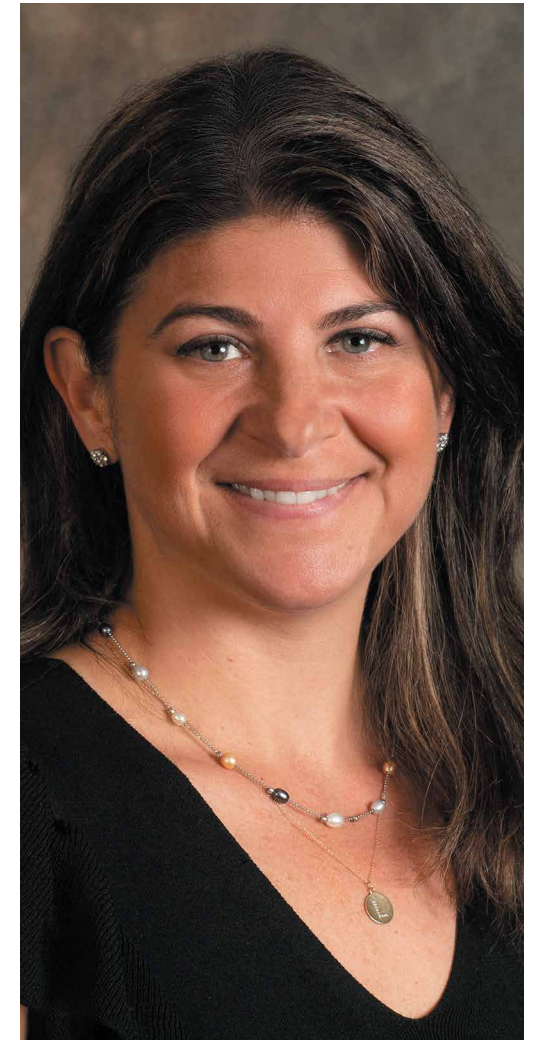
Chess in the Schools is looking to the future with a new President and Chief Executive Officer, Jenny Ingber, Ph.D. Dr. Ingber took the leadership over from Ms. Debbie Eastburn who retired in June 2023 after having served in this role for seven years.

Dr. Ingber has spent over two decades in the field of education and has extensive experience in schools, in out-of-school programs and in teacher education. Most recently, Dr. Ingber was the Director of Children and Family Learning at the American Museum of Natural History where she led the team responsible for the early childhood and elementary programs including the Adventures in Science summer camp, the Early Adventures Program and the Science and Nature Program. While starting her career as a New York City public school teacher, Dr. Ingber has also worked for the University of California, Los Angeles and Bank Street Graduate School of Education. Jenny has a Ph.D. in Science Education from Teachers College at Columbia University and an MS in Teaching Chemistry from NYU.

As she begins her time at Chess in the Schools, Jenny is focused on ensuring that we continue using high-quality chess teaching and learning that is data-driven and aligned with best practices. She will use her experience in teacher education, curriculum development and research to bring her expertise from Science Education to contribute to the field of Chess Education and CIS's NYC school partners.

*“I am thrilled to join Chess in the Schools!*

*It is an honor to join an organization that has paved the way for so many children to find success through their experiences learning and playing chess. CIS has accomplished so much over the past thirty plus years and it is amazing to see past generations of CIS participants still involved in chess and chess education. I am eager to leverage my experience in education and research to amplify the reach and depth of Chess in the Schools programming long into the future.”*



*“On behalf of the Board of Directors, we warmly welcome Jenny to the remarkable Chess in the Schools family! With her wealth of experience and unwavering dedication as an educator, we are privileged to have her on our team. In this moment, we also pause to express our profound gratitude to Debbie for her many years of devoted service. Her unyielding commitment and invaluable contributions have shaped the very essence of our organization. As we embark on this new chapter with Jenny, we eagerly anticipate the infusion of fresh perspectives and the transformative impact that will further fortify Chess in the Schools. Together, let us continue to empower and nurture the future leaders of tomorrow. Welcome, Jenny, and thank you, Debbie, for your extraordinary dedication.”*

– Mark Maher, Chairman of the Board





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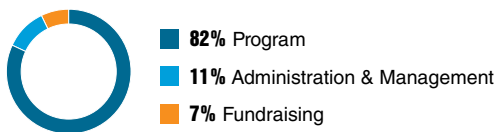
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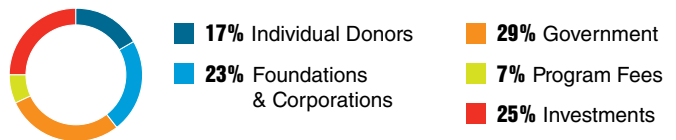
Richard B. Wagner



### 2022-2023 Expenses



### 2022-2023 Revenue Sources



Chess in the Schools is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.

All Chess in the Schools programs are always free of charge to all students. We can only do this with the support of CIS's donor community.

**Thank You to Our Supporters!**



To find out how you can help, contact [development@chessintheschools.org](mailto:development@chessintheschools.org)

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