

Games For Life

“Where games are the vehicle”

Mission:

To advance individual understanding and use of games for personal growth and knowledge
To teach individuals the usefulness of games to support healthy, fully-functioning, and financially responsible lives

Goals:

Games For Life is committed to seeing children reach their highest potential. We believe that games can play a large role in



having that happen. Not only are children engaged and able to focus while playing games, but some games, like chess, have been proven to help children with math skills, verbal skills, social skills and more. Our programs are designed to be used in schools to help reach educational goals as well as maintain progress that has already been made.

Basic academic skills improve through the Games For Life curriculum as well as the bigger life lessons that children need. Principles like thinking ahead, showing respect, and perseverance are vital during a child's time in school as well as his or her development into adulthood.

Who we Serve:

Our primary focus is children who have come from under-resourced backgrounds, but we do not limit ourselves to that group. We believe that all children need to learn these basic skills and principles and that all can benefit from our programs.

We currently have chess programs running in a handful of Atlanta and Decatur Public Elementary Schools and local churches, and hope your school would like a chess program also.

Why we use Chess:



While we are building programs for other games, our chess program is the cornerstone of the organization. Not only do we have significant experience teaching chess, we enjoy teaching it, which ultimately helps our students get more out of every single class. Not to mention that research abounds to show the positive effects of chess in students' lives.

Contrary to what most people think, chess can be for students of any age. We have taught students as young as 5 the basics of chess and have seen chess benefit students from elementary to high school.

It is not surprising that in over 30 other countries, chess is officially included as part of the educational system. We hope that will be true in the US in the future as the benefits of the game become more widely recognized.

Rates:

As a nonprofit our mission is paramount and therefore we make sure that our programs are reasonably priced and can be utilized in a wide variety of locations and situations. We want to be affordable to everyone. We have all the materials (chess sets, chess clocks, etc.) so your school will not need to purchase anything for the program.

School Rates

Fees are hourly

(Note: A class or session typically lasts 1 hour)

- **\$30 per hour for one hour** (16 students or less)
[with 16 students that is less than \$2 a student!]

Rates can be negotiated for large (16+ students) classes. Contact us for more information about special rates for two or three hours of chess instruction.

Structure:

There are several options for how we would be able to fit in your school.

Possible organizational options:

- We could bring in a program that is its own entity
- We can become a part of a current after-school program
- We can be under a PTA (or its equivalent)
- Or some other option that works better with your school

☀ Ask us about inter-school tournaments that we may be able to arrange for your school.

Typical class schedule (1 hour):

- Transition of students, settling down, board set up
- Review of previous material, First half of chess lesson for the day
- Application of lesson/game time
- Second half of chess lesson
- Lesson on principle for the day
- Application of lessons/game time
- Clean up



Example Schedule – Beginner’s Level (10 weeks)

	Life Principle	Chess Lesson
Week 1	Respect	Piece names, movement and starting locations
Week 2	Pay Attention	Check, checkmate, piece values, king safety
Week 3	Give Your Best Effort	Castling, pawn promotion, important squares
Week 4	Have A Plan	Basic Opening Strategy
Week 5	Think Ahead	Mid game ideas and tactics
Week 6	Think Critically	Mid game continued
Week 7	Never Give Up	End game ideas and strategy
Week 8	Hard Work Pays Off	Checkmating Themes
Week 9	Have A Positive Attitude	Combinations
Week 10	Adjust to Change	Fitting it all together

History:

Games For Life began in January, 2007, incorporated in July, and is pursuing 501(c)3 nonprofit status. We operate in the Atlanta area and are based in DeKalb county. We are looking to expand our programs to have a greater positive impact in local schools.

Leadership:

The organization is led by Ron Chapman Jr. In addition to years of experience teaching games to children, he has an undergraduate degree from Harvard University and a Masters focusing on Nonprofit Management from Georgia State. Through Games For Life, he has created programs that communicate to children the skills and principles that will help them succeed in school and life.

If a chess program would work in your school, please contact us to set up a program for your school that meets your needs.

Games For Life

www.games-for-life.org

Contact Susan, Program Director

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