

North Warren Chess Club-second year

Four students attended a New York State regional chess tournament this past weekend.

I started a chess club open to grades 4-6 (also with two 3rd graders) last year -- we are not an official student activity club. There was initial interest in the club, and I happy to report that the interest exceeded my expectations. We met after school on Tuesdays and averaged 15 to 20 students each week (students were not required to meet every week - just when they wanted). So I think it was a great success.

The regional tournament only allows four players per division, per school, so the students had an in-house tournament to decide who would go. Eight players competed in a double-elimination tournament. Elijah Robinson (grade 4) won the tournament, with Zach Kramar (grade 5) as the runner up. Wyatt Jennings and James Conway completed the team.

The Chester-Horicon Youth commission was very gracious is helping the boys with the admission fee of \$50 per student. The commission not only footed the bill for all registrations, but they made great NW Chess Team shirts for the boys and me.

The tournament is a two day event, with the students playing three matches on Saturday and three on Sunday. They receive 1 point for a win, ½ point for a draw and 0 points for a loss. Each of our players won 2 matches and lost 4. It is a demanding tournament, and the team did well. There were many new rules they learned for play at the tournament level (time keeping, writing down moves using chess notation.)

I am extremely proud of these four boys – they are great representatives of our district and great competitors.