

Fondy students excel at national chess tournament

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Fond du Lac was well represented at the United States Federation (USCF) Scholastic National Championship in Dallas, Texas. On May 8, students from the FDL STEM Academy and Chegwin began competition in a vigorous four-day tournament that also included the USCF Scholastic chess blitz and bughouse championships.

Koreanna Klausen, a Kindergarten student at Chegwin Elementary School, competed in the K-1 Championship section and garnered four points out of the possible seven. This amazing [performance](#)

allowed her to tie for 78th place (137 w/tie breaker) out of a field of over 300 of the nation's best [Kindergarten and first grade chess players](#).

Jared Ott, Noah Hoffman, Miles Dennis, Oliver Riegert, Gianna Trotter, and Nathan Ott teamed up to capture the fourth place overall trophy (tied for third but lost tie breaker) in the K-6 unrated championship. The STEM Chess team's strong performance had them just out of second place by only a half of a point. In addition, the team also captured the 13th place trophy in the team Blitz Championship.

Individually, Jared Ott won the first place unrated Blitz championship and placed 10th overall in the K-6 unrated section. Nathan Ott won second place in the unrated Blitz championship while placing 46th in the K-3 unrated section. Noah Hoffman also took home a third in the Blitz section and claimed 37th in the K-6 unrated section.

More noteworthy performance included: Oliver Riegert's 22nd overall ranking (4.5 points) in the K-6 unrated section; Miles Dennis earned 2.5 points for a 77th place finish; and Gianna captured two victories while claiming the 85th spot in the section.

These national championship successes highlighted a stupendous season for Fond du Lac scholastic chess. All of the middle [schools](#)

and many elementary schools had chess clubs and teams that competed in a variety of tournaments [throughout the state during the past months](#).

Students interested in learning chess or improving their game are invited to sign up for the summer chess [program](#)

through the Fond du Lac School District entitled, "Searching for Bobby Fischer!" The course is targeted [for students that are currently in third through fifth grades](#).

According to the Wisconsin Scholastic Chess Federation website, "interest in chess as an [educational](#)

tool began in 1779, when Benjamin Franklin wrote: The Game of Chess is not merely an idle [amusement](#); several very valuable qualities of the mind, useful in the course of human life, are to be acquired and strengthened by it, so as to become habits ready on all occasions, for life is a kind of Chess, in which we have often points to gain, and competitors or adversaries to contend with, and in which there is a vast variety of good and ill events that are, in some degree, the effect of prudence, or the want of it. By playing Chess, then, we may learn foresight, circumspection and caution."