



2026 Virginia Scholastic & College Chess Championships



hosted by

Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology

Saturday-Sunday, March 7-8, 2026

6560 Braddock Rd., Alexandria VA

WHAT: The Virginia Chess Federation (VCF) is partnering with Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology for the 2026 Virginia Scholastic & College Chess Championships.

WHEN: Saturday and Sunday, March 7-8, 2026, with a Blitz Tournament on Friday night, March 6th.

REGISTRATION: ONLINE at www.vachess.org. **Please do not contact TJ High School**, they are relying on the VA Chess Federation to answer all questions about the tournament and event logistics. Registration Fees:

- **Friday Night Blitz:** An optional, but very fun event!!
 - Scholastic Sections (Grades K-5 and 6-12): \$35 through Feb 28th, \$45 thereafter
 - Parents & Friends Blitz: \$20 through Feb 28th, \$45 thereafter
- **Main Tournament:**
 - All Scholastic & College Sections: \$70 through Feb 28th, \$90 from March 1-4, \$110 thereafter.
 - Parents & Friends Side Tournament: \$30 through Feb 28th, \$35 thereafter

HOTEL ARRANGEMENTS: TBD. We will seek agreements with hotels close to the High School. Details will be posted on the VCF website, www.vachess.org.

MAIN EVENT FORMAT: These activities are on Sat and Sun, March 7th and 8th.

- **Scholastic Sections:**
 - College: One section, with all games on Saturday.
 - K-12 Championship and K-12 Under 1400
 - K-8 Championship and K-8 Under 1200
 - K-5 Championship and K-5 Under 1000
 - K-3 Championship and K-3 Under 600
- **Side Events:**
 - Parents & Friends Tournament (starts 15 minutes after Round 2 in the Scholastic Sections)
 - "Play the Master" simultaneous Exhibition on Saturday afternoon starting about 2 PM.

TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE:

- **Friday, March 6th:** On-site Registration for the Main Event and Blitz. **Round 1 of BLITZ is at 6:30 PM.** Blitz is an optional event. Blitz is usually finished about 8:30 or 8:45 PM.
- **Saturday, March 7th:** **Round 1 at 9 am.** Rounds 2-3 at 12:30 pm and 4:30 pm. College Section games are at 9, noon, 3 pm, and 6 pm. Parents & Friends tournament starts at 12:45.
- **Sunday, March 8th:** Rounds 4-5 at 9:30 am and 1:30 pm. Awards Ceremonies held by section as soon as possible after the last game finishes in a section.
 - **We remind everyone that Daylight Savings Time begins Sunday, March 8th.**

TEAMS: Scholastic and College Teams must be comprised of players who attend the same school. A school is not required to have a "chess club" or "official school team" to form a team for this tournament. Two or more players who go to the same school and play in the same section of the tournament are automatically considered a team for the purposes of this tournament. More details will be available when we open registration. Detailed team eligibility information can be found on the VA Chess website at [this helpful link](#).

PLAYER ELIGIBILITY: All players in the Scholastic sections (K-12, K-8, K-5, K-3) must be Virginia residents. In the College section, players must be attending college in VA or be a VA resident attending college out of state. All college players must be high school graduates. U.S. Chess Federation membership is required for all players. Players can join US Chess or renew their membership through the VCF at www.vachess.org and select the “Join/Renew US Chess” tab on the left side of our webpage. We offer a small discount on US Chess Federation membership. If you prefer, you also can join/renew your US Chess membership directly with US Chess, go to www.uschess.org and hover your cursor over the “Join” option near the top of your screen.

AWARDS: Tons of trophies! See www.vachess.org

IMPORTANT: The VCF uses the results of this tournament to select representatives to attend the US national tournaments of State Champions. These tournaments (see list below) will be held in early August as part of the U.S. Open in Grand Rapids, Michigan. The VCF provides healthy stipends to assist the 5 Virginia players who earn the right to represent The Commonwealth at these tournaments.

- Denker Tournament of High School State Champions (Top Player in Grades 9-12 from the K-12 Section)
- Barber Tournament of Middle School State Champions (Top Player in Grades 6-8, from the K-8 Section)
- Rockefeller Tournament of Elementary School State Champions (Top Player in Grades 4-5, from K-5)
- **NEW for 2026:** Maurice Ashley Tournament of Primary School State Champions (Top Player in K-3)
- Haring Tournament of Girls State Champions (Top finishing Girl from Virginia’s K-12 Section)

FUN SIDE EVENTS:

- BLITZ on Friday evening March 6th (Round 1 at 6:30 pm). 4 double-rounds (2 games per round for 8 total games). Includes a Parents & Friends section.
- 4-round “Parents & Friends” tournament open to adults. Scholastic or college players are NOT eligible to play in this event.
- “Challenge the Master” Simultaneous Exhibition.

TEAM ROOMS: See www.vachess.org. We are working with the TJ High School administration to obtain about 15 classrooms that can be used by teams with 10 or more players as well as by parents who wish to form a group in order to get a team room. Please do not contact the school for any information about this, the school relies on the VA Chess Federation to collect and consolidate all Team Room requests. The cost for a Team Room is \$100 per room of which \$25 is returned to you after the tournament and \$75 is used to purchase a Gift Card for the teachers whose rooms we use.

PRE-EVENT ZOOM INFO MEETINGS: The VCF will organize several options for players and parents to attend a pre-event Zoom Meeting in mid-to-late February 2026.

QUESTIONS: Contact Mike Hoffpauir, VA Chess Federation, mhoffpauir@aol.com or text to 757-846-4805.

*The Virginia Chess Federation (VCF) is the US Chess Federation’s State Affiliate for Virginia
The VCF is a 501c(3) non-profit organization*