

Chess as an Integral Part of School Culture

Broad Acres Elementary School
Silver Spring, MD

Fernando Moreno, Counselor
Eric Henderson, Media Specialist



Chess as an Integral Part of School Culture

Our school population is socioeconomically **marginalized**.

- Poverty rate: 91%
- ESOL rate: 67%
- Mobility rate: 28%

[Data for school year 2010-11](#)



Chess as an Integral Part of School Culture

Our school population is socioeconomically **marginalized**.

- Opportunity: Chess is not just one activity among many as in middle class households
- Tangible rewards:
 - Tournament awards: PlayStation Portable, trophies, T-shirts, computer programs
 - Giveaways: Chess sets and books



Chess as an Integral Part of School Culture

Our program is **big** and **varied**.

- After-school clubs
- Interscholastic competition
- Intramural tournament
- Counseling instruction
- Other opportunities, as available

Key funding: three-year grant from
Maryland State Department of Education



Chess as an Integral Part of School Culture

Chess insinuates itself **naturally** into certain aspects of student life. Students:

- Socialize over chess
- Receive recognition through chess
- Expand their background knowledge through chess
- Take chess home with them
- Bolster their self-esteem through chess

Chess as an Integral Part of School Culture

Results

- Chess is now as **integral** part of our school culture
- Chess **benefits** more students than just those who play on a regular basis
 - Those who know all the rules but don't play regularly
 - Those who know only some of the rules

Chess as an Integral Part of School Culture

Sources:

School Characteristics, 2010/11:

- <http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/regulatoryaccountability/glance/currentyear/schools/02304.pdf>

Washington Post Coverage, January 18, 2009:

- <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/story/2009/01/08/ST2009010800077.html>

Kimberly Oliver, National Teacher of the Year, 2006:

- <http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/info/kimoliver/>

School Restructuring, 2001/02-2003/04:

- <http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/broadacreses/restructuring/>