



Chess players from Wayne Thomas and Oak Terrace schools in District 112 celebrate their first place victory Feb. 6 in a district-wide competition at Elm Place Middle School. The achievement marks the second consecutive win for the Wayne Thomas-Oak Terrace team.

## **District WIDE CHESS TOURNEY: King chasers win 2nd year in a row**

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<http://www.pioneerlocal.com/highlandpark/lifestyles/currents/2048935.highland-park-ypchess-021810-s1.article>

(same article appeared as “Highland Park Youth Captured by Chess” in Triblocal:  
[http://www.triblocal.com/Highland\\_Park\\_-\\_Highwood/List\\_View/view.html?type=stories&action=detail&sub\\_id=143159](http://www.triblocal.com/Highland_Park_-_Highwood/List_View/view.html?type=stories&action=detail&sub_id=143159))

On Feb. 6, 82 members of Highland Park Scholastic Chess program participated in a district-wide competition held at Elm Place Middle School. The Highland Park program is made up of kindergarten through eighth grade students in District 112.

Students competed individually for trophies as well as a combined team trophy.

The team composed students from Wayne Thomas, Northwood and Oak Terrace schools finished in first place, while the Indian Trail/Elm Place team and Lincoln/Ravinia/Braeside finished in second and third place, respectively.

This marks the second consecutive win for the Wayne Thomas/Northwood/Oak Terrace team.

Individual trophy winners were **Nathan Weisskopf** of Wayne Thomas School (K-1 division), **Eddie Esgar** of Sherwood School (second grade), **Josiah Davis** of Indian Trail School (third grade) and **Benjamin Hartman** of Lincoln School (grades 4-8).

Gary Goldstein, who runs the Wayne Thomas program, attributes his team's success to a strong instructional program, headed by Philip Yontez, and the support the program receives from the entire community.

"The success of our school program is only possible because of the direct financial support from the Wayne Thomas PTA, the tremendous hospitality provided by the Wayne Thomas principal, Maureen Deely, and all of the parent volunteers that make it happen," Goldstein said in a release. "In addition, many of our advanced players enjoy helping teach our beginner players. Our student teaching model brings students together from all different grade levels and they really love to help each other learn."

The team is composed of: Sarah Aronson, Ezra Boldizsar, Elliana Faletsky, Sammy Furlas, Thano Furlas, Pablo Gilbert, Stavros Gorgees, Joseph Harrigan, Jacob Hersh, Caitlin Hong, Johnny Simone, Ryan Kriozere, Emmanuel Guzman-Vega, Kevin Ocampo, Leonel Ocampo, Aidan Rosenbloom, Alex Rosenbloom, David Sommer, Matthew Strehler, Mitchell Strehler, Mitchell Svetov, Clark Taylor, Lydia Taylor, Natalie Taylor, Matthew Warshell, Nathan Weisskopf, Morgan Yontez and Sydney Yontez.

The Highland Park chess program, now in its second year, has grown to include more than 350 youngsters. Jerry Neugarten, who heads the district's Scholastic Chess Committee, believes the program's success is a result of the large number of dedicated volunteers and strong coaches. Jerry was recently named chairman of the Youth Committee of the Illinois Chess Association, which is working on program development statewide and plans to make the Highland Park program a model for the state.

The Highland Park April Scholastic Chess Tournament will be held April 10 at Northwood Middle School.

Chess is unique among extracurricular activities in its capacity to improve academic achievement, concentration, strategic thinking, consideration of alternatives and social skills.

The program serves all 11 District 112 schools and is open to all kindergarten through eighth-grade students in the district. More information is available online at [www.hpchess.org](http://www.hpchess.org).