

Letter of Intent

October 16, 2024

To Whom It May Concern:

The Santa Rosa French-American Charter School (SRFACS), an accredited school of the Agence pour l'enseignement français a l'étranger (AEFE) (Agency for Instructing the French Language Abroad), intends to send fifteen students to the annual Chess Tournament for the North American Zone in Cambridge, Massachusetts, from November 10 to November 13, 2024. The tournament brings together chess players from accredited French schools throughout the U.S.A. and Canada to compete in chess.

The AEFE schools participate in a variety of sporting events throughout the zone. SRFACS has found that chess is within the realm of possibility for our students due to the minimal equipment required. Participating in chess has become a part of the school climate at SRFACS. There is a large chess set on the playground for all students to access during recesses, it is a popular after school enrichment activity including for UPC students, and students of all grade levels participate in the whole-school tournament.

Studies have shown that students who play chess tend to perform better academically, have improved concentration skills and visual memory, and develop improved critical thinking capacities.

SRFACS students participated in the AEFE Chess Tournament for the North American Zone in 2023 and did extremely well, achieving championship status as second best among all middle schools and 2nd best among elementary schools.. Our success caught a lot of attention due to the fact that SRFACS was the only public school participating. Even more important than the competitive status, was the opportunity to learn and demonstrate good sportsmanship in high-level competition. The SRFACS teams provided strong examples of diversity, inclusion and equity.

The tournament teams come from all parts of the U.S.A. and Canada. The students had valuable experiences socializing with a wide range of people. The experience was intellectually challenging as well.

The full program is attached. The teams will fly from SFO to Boston on November 10. They will be welcomed at the airport and taken to the Homewood in Cambridge. The complete itinerary of the event is on page four.

The tournament includes a lesson by an International Chess Grand Master. When not

competing, last year's participants spent time socializing and practicing chess. As their principal who happened to have a conference and was departing San Diego on the same flight, I can attest that they even played chess while waiting for the flight departure time.

The closing session with awards presented by the International Chess Grand Master will take place on November 12 between 4 and 5:00 p.m. The students will have a tour of historical sites in Boston on November 13, the day of departure.

The inscription form is on page 14 and a filled in page is attached separately. Lodging and meals are included in the cost of participation of \$450 per person. Incidental expenses for local transportation and visiting local sites are expected to be approximately \$100 per person. Airfare is expected to be approximately \$500 per person. Expenses will be covered through donations to the Parent Association Foundation.

This extraordinary opportunity will give SRFACS students the experience of meeting people from across North America, exercise their intellectual and competitive skills, and build school spirit.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

Evelyn Anderson
Principal, SRFACS

Attachments: Tournoi d'échecs AEFÉ program (AEFE Chess Tournament Program)
Filled in inscription form