

# 38 compete in school-wide Nandua chess tourney

## SUBMITTED ARTICLE

Thirty-eight Nandua Middle School chess players recently competed in the first-ever school-wide chess tournament.

Players were divided into three sections by ability level. The partial round-robin format allowed seven games for advanced and intermediate players and five rounds for beginners. Trophies went to the first three places in each group.

Winners in the Advanced Group were: First place, Logan Sterling; second place, Killian Gouldin; and third place, Austin Shriveves.

Intermediate Group: First place, Russell Parks; second place, Nathan Click; and third place, Tyquan Giddens.

Beginners group: First place, Lucas Connon; second place, Keron Williams; and third place, Carlos Lopez.

Mary Margaret Browning, school sponsor and host of the chess club in her library for all nine years of its existence, said, "We're excited that a large, capable set of 8<sup>th</sup> grade players will move up to join the Nandua High School Chess Club."

Jennifer Kidwell, who has introduced chess this year to all her family and consumer sciences students, said the tournament was the brainchild of her former

student, Austin Shriveves.

"He helped take the sports model of school-wide competition to the chess boards. This is the type of initiative and confidence chess gives our students. It's a game of war, which most kids can relate to, and inspires lifelong learning," said Kidwell.

Nandua Middle coach, Alan Silverman, who is working with coaches and other scholastic-chess entities to develop the program for Accomack schools and beyond, said, "We know that any kid who joins the chess program will become a player, achieving skills mastery at his/her own pace. Not only will a player learn the game of chess, but dis-

ciplined approaches to problem-solving and decision-making which will benefit them in school, in careers, and across their entire lives.

"This school-wide event, in which club members as well as chess-playing non-members were involved, is an example of what we expect to be many more local, interscholastic tournaments as the district program expands."

Kegotank Elementary has been operating a chess club for three years, and the Nandua High School club was launched in February.

Accomack County Public School District will expand chess clubs in each school at a managed pace.



LEFT: Participants in the Nandua Middle School chess tournament line up for a group photo after the event. RIGHT: The winners in the Nandua Middle School chess tournament show off their trophies. SUBMITTED IMAGES