

Greetings folks! The Meridian Scholastic Chess tournament is this Saturday. This tournament promises to be a great start to our scholastic chess season. All pertinent tournament information can be found at [www.AustinChessTournaments.com](http://www.AustinChessTournaments.com). Please re-read the tournament description: <https://www.austinchess tournaments.com/events/928>.

### To know ahead of time:

**Your player's name IS on the [pre-registration list](#).** (To find your player's name, log in to your ACT account, click on the pre-registration list, and sort by name.)

**Know your player's section name and bye requests.** If you don't know what a bye is, yet requested one or more, please review our [FAQ list](#)!

**Please review our list of [Parent Responsibilities](#).** By registering your player for a tournament hosted by Rocks & Rocks, you as a parent/guardian/coach/chaperone have agreed to abide by these guidelines.

**If your player's name is highlighted, contact the registrar immediately.** If your name is yellow and you have not responded to my emails, your child probably will not play round 1.

**No bye changes or section changes are available for round 1 after 9am on Friday!** You may request byes for other rounds onsite. You have until the end of round 2 to request or remove half-point byes. Please note: **Your player will be paired every round unless you request otherwise.** If your chess player needs to leave for any reason before the last round, you **must** come by Chess Control (Lobby) before the end of the last round in which your player will compete to let us know (if you have not already requested a bye.) If you leave without withdrawing, you will pay a \$25 penalty before being allowed to play in another event. Officially withdrawing is common courtesy to your prospective opponents. Also, if your plans have changed and your player will not be attending, please email me asap!!! **Refunds for withdrawals are no longer available, but it still helps to know if your player cannot attend.**

### Plan what to bring:

A PENCIL (for taking notation and filling out results slips)

A chess clock (highly recommended)

Chess set (for going over games between rounds)

Activities (for between rounds for chess players)

Activities (to keep the waiting parent occupied)

Folding chair (parents –seating is limited. Bring a chair!)

Picnic blanket & outdoor activities (if you have younger kids who might want to play outside between rounds!)

Snacks/Drinks (keep it healthy, see below)

**The Meridian Class of 2020 will be providing concessions.** Bringing snacks for your chess player is always a good idea, but **please consider supporting Meridian.** Concession offerings include: breakfast tacos, donuts and coffee in the morning and pizza for lunch. Snacks and drinks will be available all day. There will be **absolutely no food allowed in the playing rooms or anywhere else inside the building, except the cafeteria.** Food is permitted outside. PLEASE PICK UP YOUR TRASH! Players are also asked to wash their hands FREQUENTLY.

### The day of the tournament:

**Doors open for chess players at 8am.**

The majority of **parking** is available between the two school buildings. We are playing in the Middle School Building, the furthest school building away from I-35.

When you arrive, **there is NO NEED TO CHECK IN if your child's name is on the pre-registration list and is NOT highlighted.** Chess Control will be open all day and is the place to go for all issues. Fixing the issue at chess control before round 1 will not fix it for round 1. Round 1 is paired on Friday evening.

**Skittles (waiting area for parents and players) and concessions will be in the cafeteria.**

**All scholastic sections will play in one of the two gyms.**

Main (larger) gym: K5 U700, K-5 U400, K-3 U700, K-3 U400, K-3 New, K-1 U400

Auxillary (smaller) gym: K-12 any, 6-12 U1000, 6-12 U600, K-5 U1000

I have posted a [map of the school](#) on the [Meridian Chess Tournament page](#).

Please arrive early, familiarize your child with the location of his/her playing room and restrooms, and make sure your child knows where to find you when the round is finished. Find a place to sit in the cafeteria or outside, and look for where pairings will be posted, and get in the chess mood. Pairings will be available when you arrive. They will also be posted [online](#) Friday evening.

**Players will need to be in their seats no later than 8:30 for announcements.** If your child is not seated at the start of round 1 (9:00am), the game will be re-assigned and s/he may be withdrawn from the tournament. **Please arrive early for announcements!**

I will post pairings each round on the [Meridian Chess Tournament page](#). Remember, **no pairing is final until the round actually begins**. If you are listed as having a 1-point bye, report to your TD (wait at the results desk in your tournament room)! We will still try to find you a game.

Last of all – **Parents and coaches, it is your responsibility to make sure your chess player is seated in time for their next game.** No announcements will be made inside or out. **We will be following the posted [round-schedule](#).**

We have quite a few new players at this tournament. If you don't know the answer, ask a TD or go to Chess Control! Experienced parents, please be willing to help us answer questions.

Lori Balkum  
Registrar, Computer Room  
Gary Gaiffe  
Organizer, Chief TD  
Rocks & Rooks

[www.AustinChessTournaments.com](http://www.AustinChessTournaments.com)