



## GW: KIDS

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### Lighthouse Christian wins chess tournament

Multitude of local students qualify for state competition

**JEANINE STEWART**

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Chess isn't child's play, but sometimes that's exactly what kids want.

At Lighthouse Christian School, students are craving the game that makes them think, and the school is beginning to make a name for itself in chess.

At a tournament the school hosted on Oct. 23, Lighthouse Christian took first place for elementary schools.

Since its inception three years ago, LHC chess coach Paul Bogataj has seen the club grow from 25 to 50 students.

The best part about the game is that it teaches kids how to plan ahead — skills that can be difficult to master — while having fun, Bogataj said. It's kind of like the difference between running and soccer, he said.

"If you go run, your knees hurt, and you get a side ache ... soccer is a lot more fun, but you get the same exercise," he said.

#### State Qualifiers

Students are listed in order of their final place in their tournament division.

#### Elementary schools

##### Grades 1-3, Open

1. Arjun Thomas, STKD
2. Kayden Samanmit, Charles Wright Academy
3. Liam Reis, Rock Creek Elementary
4. Brandon King, Voyager Elementary

##### Grades 1-3, previous score under 800

1. Ethan Baker, Harbor Heights Elementary
2. Zachary Standifer, Harbor Heights Elementary
3. Nathan Barnhart, Charles Wright Academy
4. Michael Bodge, Harbor Heights Elementary
5. Katelynn Diaz, Lighthouse Christian School
6. Jacob Easley, Lighthouse Christian School
7. Drew Huston, Harbor Heights Elementary
8. Jacob McDowell, Kitsap Homeschool
9. Isabella Amaya, Charles Wright Academy
10. Will Andersen, Chambers Primary School
11. Eric Guillot, Lighthouse Christian School

12. Asa Alstead, Lighthouse Christian School

Grades 4-6, Open

1. Konstantin Velichko, Margaret Mead Elementary

2. Logan Howell, Charles Wright Academy

3. M.J. Anderson, Charles Wright Academy

4. Nathan Samanmit, Charles Wright Academy

5. Sarah Chow, St. Charles Borromeo

6. Emily Saletan, Charles Wright Academy

7. Joshua Forsythe, Kitsap Homeschool

8. Colin McDowell, Kitsap Homeschool

Grades 4-6, previous score under 800

1. P.J. Hopkins, Lighthouse Christian School

2. Aidan Williams, Gidden School

3. John Pratt, Lighthouse Christian School

4. Peter Allegro, Washington-Hoyt Elementary School

5. Simon Struthers, Nautilus Navigators

6. Will Pratt, Lighthouse Christian School

7. Zarrar Iqbal, Lighthouse Christian School

8. Joshua Nicholas, Lighthouse Christian School

9. Casey Wagner, Lighthouse Christian School

10. Sarah Gerken, Kitsap Homeschool

11. Jonathan Dudley, Annie Wright School

12. Jake Settle, Lighthouse Christian School

13. Jesse Marks, Washington-Hoyt Elementary School

14. Jonathan Laughlin, Lighthouse Christian School

15. Alicia Wagner, Lighthouse Christian School

16. Alexa Hornback, Lighthouse Christian School

17. Jeffrey Hallstrom, Lighthouse Christian School

18. Seth Nicholas, Lighthouse Christian School

19. Jacob Carter, Lighthouse Christian School

Grades 7 through 12

1. Emmanuel Hurtado, Todd Beamer High School

2. Trey Ascheman, Key Peninsula Middle School
3. Brian Julian, Charles Wright Academy
4. Sravan Konda, Kopachuck Middle School
5. Adam Gerken, Kitsap Homeschool
6. Nicholas Bodge, Harbor Heights Elementary
7. Tom Hansen, Harbor Ridge Middle School

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Jeanine Stewart

of the Gateway

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