



Dr. Weikle and Unit 5 Board of Education,

I am excited to share with you good news from Northpoint Elementary School. We would like to recognize our Northpoint chess club parent director Brian Shoemaker, coaches, and team.

The Northpoint Chess Club has had a successful year of growth and tournament wins, but more importantly, the kids had fun and competed. We grew to a club of almost 60 kids this year and were able to recruit new coaches to help the kids develop their chess skills. About 20 members of the club participated in 8 chess tournaments in Bloomington-Normal over the course of the season. The kids won many individual and team trophies, but we're most proud of them for competing and challenging themselves.

We want to thank our coaches, some of whom are graduating this spring and headed to college.

- Logan Jaynes has coached at Northpoint for three years and is a Northpoint graduate as well as a former chess club member. He will be majoring in Computer Science at Southern Illinois University - Edwardsville in the fall.
- Gavin Borne coached the Northpoint Chess Club for three years as well. Gavin will likely be attending the ISU School of Engineering in the fall majoring in mechanical engineering. (He's on Normal Community's Varsity baseball team and is playing in Champaign tonight so couldn't make it).
- Aarush Pathuri has been a Northpoint Chess Club coach for the past year and is also a former Northpoint Elementary School graduate as

well as a former chess club member. He will likely be majoring in Computer Science at ISU or Ohio State in the fall.

- John Shoemaker has been coaching at Northpoint for three years after graduating as a chess club member. He's been coaching our K-1 kids and they adore him. He's been a member of the Kingsley Junior High chess club, the Kingsley Junior High baseball team, track team, and jazz band member. He will attend Normal Community High School in the fall.
- Elliot Smith is a Freshman at Normal Community and this was his first year coaching our second graders. They loved him! When Elliot isn't enjoying chess, he's also a great archer and fisherman.
- Vik Chatrathi has been coaching at Northpoint the past year and was a former Northpoint graduate and chess club member. Vik is Kingsley's top chess club player and placed in the top ten in multiple state tournaments this year. He will attend Normal Community High School in the fall.

Congratulations to the team on their great year and thank you coaches for providing this amazing opportunity for our Knights!

Matt Harr, Principal

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Northpoint Elementary School: students, teachers, staff, and families working together to inspire individuality through social, personal, and academic excellence.