



## Chess Academy February Update

This month in chess, the 4s programs will be learning more about the pawns and meeting the knights and the rooks.

Per the curriculum, we break up the pawns into two different parts because the pawns are the most complex chess pieces.

Our Junior Kindergarteners will finish up the Spell of the Blue Bell series this month. This story mostly focused on being a good sport. King Richard wanted to be the best but he wasn't. So he casted a spell to make everyone forget.

After the spell was broken, our Chesslandia friends end up forgiving him only if he promised to shake hands and say good game even if he loses. After this series, we will start the Tug of War series which teaches the point system in chess. Each piece has a set amount of points which helps determine if that piece is worth capturing if you have to sacrifice your own piece. We also use the points to determine a winner if we don't have time to checkmate the king.

### Skills Learned & Practiced:

- Perseverance
- Forgiveness
- Creative problem solving
- Mathematical thinking
- Arithmetic
- Pattern Recognition
- Following directions
- Manipulation
- Multi-Functionality
- Physicalizing
- Predicting
- Sequencing

### Chess Exercises

The 4s programs will have more practice with the pawns by learning how to "unlock" them when they ultimately get stuck. That teaches how the pawns capture diagonally. We will also practice moving the knights and rooks.

Our Junior Kindergarten students will continue learning a variety of strategies and practice making plans but will mostly focus on each piece's point value. As we learn the points, I challenge the students into figuring out who's worth capturing. Is it worth it to lose their 9 point queen to capture a 5 point rook?

Questions? Please don't hesitate to email me!

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