

Whitefield Academy 6th grader wins National Chess Championship

- Staff reports
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Whitefield Academy 6th grader Drew Justice recently represented his school in the National Elementary Chess Championship in Nashville, Tennessee.

SMYRNA – Whitefield Academy 6th grader Drew Justice recently represented his school in the National Elementary Chess Championship in Nashville, Tennessee. The tournament is sponsored by the U.S. Chess Federation, drawing over 2,000 players

from around the country in a four-day event that begins with a 6-round blitz (fast chess) tournament and concluding with a 7-round standard tournament. Drew had an outstanding performance in the K-6 blitz tournament, claiming first place.

Overall, Drew holds four national titles in chess: 2013 K-1 Co-Champion, 2015 K-3 Blitz Co-Champion, 2017 K-6 Bughouse Champion, 2018 K-6 Blitz Co-Champion (1st place on tiebreaks). In the 2018 regular tournament, Drew came close to securing another national title. After winning his first five matches, he earned a draw in round 6. Then, still tied for first place going into the final round, Drew was outplayed by a strong opponent from California and ended the regular tournament in 8th place. There are three types of chess championships: regular (90 minutes per player), blitz (5 minutes per player), and bughouse (partner chess).

Drew is a chess “Expert” (2000 U.S. rating), and hopes to get to “National Master” (2200 rating) by the end of middle school. He has been an avid chess player since he was three years old. In addition to chess, Drew enjoys playing basketball, football, and looks forward to being in the marching band next school year. He also enjoys teaching chess to younger children at Whitefield through after-school programs and summer camps.

For more information about Whitefield Academy, visit whitefieldacademy.com.