



Academy Prep Center of Tampa
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Academy Prep Center of Tampa Wins State Chess Title

Tampa, FL – A group of middle school students from Ybor City are the new Florida state K-8 Under 900 chess champions. The chess team from Academy Prep Center of Tampa, led by instructor Michael Young, took home the state championship over the weekend at the Florida Scholastic Chess League (FSCL) Super Championship, held March 20-22 in Miami.

“We are extremely proud of our chess team and the students who have committed numerous hours of diligent preparation to achieve their goal,” said Kristy Anderson, Assistant Head of School at Academy Prep. “We look forward to the next challenge – competing in the national tournament.”

The FSCL Super Championship, held at the Miami Airport Convention Center, brought together top teams from throughout the state. The team from Academy Prep Center of Tampa won first place in the K-8 Under 900 Division, edging out 14 other teams.

Additionally, of the eight Academy Prep students who traveled to Miami to compete, four left the tournament ranked among the top ten individual players in the K-8 Under 900 Division. Academy Prep student Jonathan Munoz, a seventh grader, was the highest ranked individual in his division. Academy Prep sixth grade student David Estrada earned the second place prize. Rounding out the top 10 individual scores were Academy Prep seventh grade students Anthony Acosta, in seventh place, and Fa’Zion Jacobs, in ninth place. Additionally, Academy Prep entered three students in the K-8 Open Division (rankings of 900 and above), where as a team those students placed eighth out of 17.

Academy Prep Center of Tampa, in its 12th year of operation, requires that all students take at least one chess class per week during their fifth through eighth grade years. Students who are interested may then join the school’s chess team, which meets once per week under the instruction and guidance of Michael Young, the school’s chess instructor. Chess team members participate in local tournaments on the weekends and progress through regional, state and national competitions.

“At Academy Prep, it is our expectation that every student learn chess and take part in weekly chess classes,” said Anderson. “The chess requirement is one of the ways in which we set high



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standards for our students, and through chess teach them the strategy and critical thinking skills that will lead them on to future success.”

Academy Prep is an urban middle school serving fifth through eighth grades, and all of its students qualify for need-based scholarships and attend the school tuition-free. In an area where within a two-mile radius about 45 percent of adults have a high school diploma, 96 percent of Academy Prep graduates have graduated from high school. Of that number, 84 percent are in college and 10 percent have joined a branch of the Armed Forces.

For for more information on Academy Prep Center of Tampa, please contact Maggie McClelland, Director of Development, at 813.248.5600 (ext 1138) or 813.486.8107 (cell) or mmcclelland@academyprep.org. Media are invited to attend the chess team’s next class together, on Wednesday, March 25th from 3:40 p.m. until 5:00 p.m. School officials and students will be available for interviews.

The Academy Prep Center of Tampa is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. It is an urban college preparatory middle school whose mission is to inspire and empower students qualifying for need-based scholarships to be future community leaders through a rigorous middle school program coupled with ongoing graduate support. To learn more information, please visit: www.academyprep.org/tampa

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