

About Mr. Acholonu, Our Chess Master



Mr. Greg Acholonu has been leading our Wolfrap ES Chess Club since September 2001...before some of our Chess Club members were out of diapers! His hopes for this year are to share his chess experiences, giving more students the opportunity to learn and enjoy more about chess. And, he has lots of experiences to share!

Mr. Acholonu began playing chess at the age of 7 years old when a college friend of his mother's taught him how to play. He wasn't as lucky as all of you, in that he didn't have a Chess Club at his school. So, he had to learn how to play from reading books, playing stronger players as often as he could, and participating in tournaments as often as possible. He played in his first United States Chess Federation (USCF) rated tournament in 1973.

Mr. Acholonu earned the title of National Master in 1982 and the title of Senior Master (America's highest national ranking) ten years later. You become a "National Master" once your USCF rating goes above 2,200 points. You become a "Senior Master" by earning a rating of 2,400 and above. His current rating is 2,253 points. Ratings change constantly based on wins and losses in USCF rated tournaments and events. Maybe, one day, some of you can be a National Master as well! Keep playing!

In 1989, he became Maryland Action Champion and in 1992 was the Maryland Closed Champion. Mr. Acholonu plays in the DC Chess League, and won the Chess Center Championship the last two years in a row. When asked what his favorite chess piece is and why, Mr. Acholonu replied, "The one that delivers checkmate!"

We are very lucky that Mr. Acholonu dedicates his Wednesday afternoons to traveling from DC to Vienna to support our Chess Club. He also loves sports, music, traveling, cooking and reading...so, he is indeed a very busy man! Thank you, Mr. Acholonu for your time and dedication to our program!!!