



May 25, 2017

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing this letter in support of the Renaissance Knights Chess Foundation's work with Chicago Public Schools (CPS) and their aspiration to provide opportunities for students from diverse communities to engage in fun, rewarding, and safe out of school time chess programs.

Renaissance Knights has developed a long standing partnership with CPS to provide youth chess enrichment programs, competition and tournaments for students. This includes the Cops & Kids Chess Initiative, a year-round after-school program for elementary and high school students, as well as a tournament with police officers and student players. Through these collaborative efforts with Renaissance Knights, thousands of CPS students have developed the fundamental skills necessary to succeed both socially and academically. The program also gives students a safe place where they can learn during the peak hours that juveniles are typically victims of crime or engage in destructive activity themselves.

As the Chief Education Officer for Chicago Public Schools, there is nothing more important to me than the education and safety of our children. I recognize the value of the many outcomes and skills that chess provides our youth including strategy, analytical and critical thinking, team building, math concepts, and life skills. I am also convinced that chess programs help develop critical and creative thinking skills that will benefit our children, schools, and the community at large. That is why I fully support the efforts of the collaboration between Chicago Public Schools and Renaissance Knights as they seek to bring the benefits of chess to more schools and students.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Janice K. Jackson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Janice K. Jackson, Ed.D.
Chief Education Officer
Chicago Public Schools