

New Chess Club at Whittier draws a crowd

HAVERHILL – There's a new club at Whittier Regional Vocational Technical High School for students who enjoy a quiet challenge. The Chess Club began meeting on



Tuesdays after school in November and already, more than 30 students from all four grades have stopped by to play.

Some students have little or no knowledge of the game, and others have played for years. “Everyone who goes there enjoys it, and the instructors help us out with any questions,” said Jose Cedenó, a sophomore in metal fabrication. “We get to play chess with a variety of people who have different styles.”

The club meets in the library with Advisors Patrick Allen, an English teacher, and Paul Fitzmeyer, a math teacher, and plenty of chess boards.

“Students pair up according to their playing strength,” said Mr. Fitzmeyer. “Some act as teachers for those who don't know how to play.”

“By listening and learning everyone's strategies, I learned a lot more,” said Fernando Nunez, a senior in plumbing and heating. “Also, being able to play over and over again with people at my level has helped me to put those strategies into play.”

“Going against different people gives you better experience than going against a computer,” Cedenó said. “And the best part is the environment because it is nice and quiet.”

The club “provides students with the opportunity for healthy, mental exercise,” said Mr. Allen. “There are many students who play chess, but just don't have the opportunity to play on a regular basis.”

Mr. Fitzmeyer, a former tournament player, hopes to have students compete against other schools in the future. “We are going to take volunteers who would like to expand their skills to a more rigorous tournament-style,” he said.