

Wise Beyond Their Years in Chess

The “2008 Ohio K-12 Grade Chess Championship” was held late in November and first grader **Richard Han** from Bryden Elementary and Hilltop third grader, **Tinglin Shi**, were among the 450 participants in the tournament.

Just this past summer, Richard learned how to move pieces and was competing against opponents who had two years of training. In April 2008, Tinglin was listed among the top 100 scholastic players in the U.S. in his age group and was also noted as the youngest player in an earlier tournament competing with middle and high school students.



The 2008 Chess Championship was a long but rewarding day for these young students. Close to 10 hours of mental competition resulted in both boys winning four out of five of their matches. Richard was awarded 3rd place in the first grade division and Tinglin was awarded 4th place in his class division.

Both boys study and practice with Vivacity, a Mayfield chess learning program taught by National Chess master and professional instructor **Aleksandr Kitsis**. The next local tournament will be on January 18 at the Mayfield Village Civic Center.



Pictured from top:

Richard Han
Tinglin Shi