



'With chess, he is able to employ his concentration, his understanding of the game and his desire to outperform the player across the table.'

For Jonathan Botek, playing chess seems to come second nature.

Botek, a seventh grader at Gilmour Academy, has been named one of the 100 best chess players in the nation by the United States Chess Federation.

What began as an after-school project learning chess from the Vivacity School of Chess has blossomed into local and regional championships. Botek competed in his second national tournament—the National Junior High Chess Tournament—last April, just before going home for summer vacation. This school year he remains listed among

the top 50 chess players in Ohio.

Playing against his brother, Matthew, a sophomore at Gilmour Academy, helped Jonathan hone his skills. He also believes in giving back—assisting with Gilmour's lower school chess club, which includes his younger brother, Daniel, a third grader this year.

Playing chess has benefits for other aspects of Jonathan's life. Playing the game has helped enhance Jonathan's concentration, confidence and patience, his parents said. His mother, Georgeanne Botek is medical director of the Cleveland Clinic's Diabetic Foot Program and his father, Fred Botek, is an attorney.

The family resides in Willoughby Hills and both parents are Gilmour alumni. They said chess also has helped their son excel in mathematics and in taking standardized multiple choice tests where he can apply analytical thinking.

When he's not playing chess, the active seventh grader also enjoys playing piano, baseball, basketball and football.

"Jonny loves competition in all of his endeavors, especially chess," said Goergeanne. "With chess, he is able to employ his concentration, his understanding of the game and his desire to outperform the player across the table."