**Newcomers Group.** This is where we make sure our new members of the club know the rules and the basic strategy of the game. Once they have mastered all of the rules, including the trickier ones like *en passan*t and castling, and learned some of the elementary strategy of the game, then we will speak with them about moving into a different group.

This group meets on **Mondays and Thursdays at 4:25 P.M.**

All players who are new to the Westbriar club will start in this group in the beginning. If it turns out they are ready for one of the more advanced groups, we will move them there quickly. If there is a conflict with your current schedule, please write to Mr. Swain at [lessons@chessctr.org](mailto:lessons@chessctr.org) .

**Pawns Group.** This is a group for kids who know all of the rules and some of the elementary strategy but are still learning the basics of board vision. In this group we learn how to find and set up checkmates, and we practice avoiding basic mistakes like moving our pieces to squares where they can be captured.

The lessons for the Pawns Group happen on:

**Wednesdays and Fridays at 4:25 P.M.**

OR

**Mondays at 1:30 P.M. and Fridays at 5 P.M.**

**Knights Group.** This is a group for children at the lower intermediate level who are starting to learn about planning ahead. In this group we incorporate common tactics like the fork, the pin, and the skewer. We review basic endgames, such as the king and queen versus king checkmate, and practice following the opening principles at the beginning of a game.

**The lessons for the Knights Group happen on:**

**Mondays at 2:30 P.M. and Wednesdays at 8 A.M.**

OR

**Tuesdays and Fridays at 8 A.M.**

Bishops Group. This is a group for children at the upper intermediate level. The lessons for players of this level still involve tactics like forks and pins, but the exercises here usually involve planning two, three or more moves ahead to set them up. At this level, we expect the kids to be carefully considering each move and looking for opportunities to take advantage of the opponent’s mistakes.

**The Bishops Group lessons happen on:**

**Mondays and Thursdays at 4:25 P.M.**

OR

**Tuesdays and Fridays at 4:25 P.M.**

OR

**Wednesdays at 8 A.M. and Thursdays at 5 P.M.**

**Rooks Group.** This is our most experienced group and consists mostly of kids with substantial experience playing in tournaments outside of the school.

The Rooks lessons happen on:

**Mondays and Thursdays at 4:25 P.M.**

OR

**Tuesdays and Thursdays at 4:25 P.M.**

OR

**Tuesdays and Fridays at 4:25 P.M.**