

Local Student Will Represent U.S. in World Chess Tournament

An 8th-grade student from Lincoln Middle School is one of 71 young people who will be representing the United States in the 2014 World Youth Chess Championship, sponsored by the World Chess Federation.

Tianhui 'Cindy' Jie will be traveling to Durban, South Africa next week for the competition, which will include participants from 89 nations. It's the second time she's received an invitation to the World Youth Chess Championship. She was out of the country for the summer when her family received notification that she'd qualified for the 2011 competition.



Although this will be her first international competition, Jie is an experienced hand at chess tournaments. She has been a member of both the Williams Elementary and Lincoln Middle School chess teams, both of which earned honors at state and national competitions. She's also had success at other chess tournaments. According to the invitation letter from the U.S. Chess Federation, Jie is one of the top-rated players in her age group in the nation.

Jie says she's excited about the prospect of traveling overseas to play

"I get to see people from different places," she said. "Whenever I go to a chess tournament, it's a great experience because I can make new friends."

Jie has been playing chess since she was five years old. She says the game helped boost her focus, problem-solving, teamwork, communication, the ability to think ahead and other skills.

"That's stuff that applies to life," she said. "In chess, you really have to think ahead before you make a move, otherwise you're going to regret it later. And if you're not focused, you can't really get anything done."

Jie's talents are not limited to chess. She's enrolled in the rigorous Lyceum program at Lincoln and takes advanced courses at Buchholz High School. She's also an accomplished pianist, cellist and dancer. But she says she'll be a chess player for life.

"It's really exciting and fun," she said. "I can't imagine my life without it."

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