

June 2, 2009

Dear Mr. Joleson,

My name is Deborah Callahan. I am a teacher of the deaf and hard of hearing at A.G.Bell Academy.

This past school year was the first time that our students were included in the chess challenge classes and tournament. We were included because The Cleveland Hearing and Speech Center wrote a grant for a sports program. They had left over funding and we benefited from that grant. The grant was only for one year and they are unable to secure funding for us to continue for next year.

Our students enjoyed learning about chess. Students that don't have much success with academic skills due to their hearing loss, were very successful at learning how to play chess. The student that had one of the lowest reading and math scores actually won a trophy!

We are hoping and praying that we can continue to have Mr. Taylor come to our school and teach chess. We can supply the interpreters. We would like to expand it to include younger deaf students as well. Please consider our request. Thank you very much for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Deborah Callahan
Middle School
Deaf and Hard of Hearing
A.G.Bell Academy