

# Shaker's Trey Modlin wins 10th-grade trophy at state chess championship

## Other Shaker students also excel in Columbus tourney

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**BEACHWOOD** — Although he has been playing chess for over 10 years, Trey Modlin still gets anxious before every tournament.

"When I'm nervous I know I'm ready," he said.

His nervousness is apparently paying off.

Modlin, 15, a member of the Shaker Heights High School chess team, recently won the 10th grade individual championship award at the Ohio Grade Level Chess Championship in Columbus.

He also led the 10th grade team to first place.

"I was very excited because going in there and winning is very tough," Modlin said.

Daniel Andreini, a fifth grader at Shaker's Woodbury Elementary School, also took home first prize in his grade level.

Chess coach Mike Reeves took 35 Shaker students of all grades to the Nov. 15 tournament, in which 428 players from around the state competed.

Each student played five games, and tie-breakers if necessary. The scores of the three best players from each grade were then tabulated to determine the team scores, Reeves said.

"I am happy with the results," he said.

Reeves has been coaching chess in Shaker for four years, and said his students performed better at this tournament than ever before.

"It seems like each year we do a little better," he said.

Reeves, who has been playing chess since 1967, said he enjoys coaching chess not only because he loves the game, but also because it helps him impart words of wisdom.

"A lot of times when I talk to the students it's simply about taking chess and using it to help them understand life lessons," he said.



CHARLES MODLIN/SPECIAL TO SUN NEWS

**Shaker Heights 10th grader Trey Modlin shows off the trophy he earned for winning first place in his grade at the Ohio Grade Level Chess Championship.**

Reeves said rules like "learn from your mistakes" and "plan ahead" apply to life, and Modlin agrees.

"It's proven that chess can help you do better in school," he said.

Sixth-graders Ben Robertson and Benjamin Shafran took second place in their

grade level even though they had only two players, and all other teams had three.