

## **St. Francis Xavier Chess Teams Compete at State Tournament**

Both the Elementary and Middle School Chess Teams of St. Francis Xavier Catholic School were invited to compete in the annual Georgia K-8 School Team Chess Championship held at Duluth High School on March 19. All invited teams had to qualify through a regional competition.

After a successful season in the 2010-2011 Golden Isles regional competition, the SFX Middle School Team was among only 12 public and private middle school teams statewide to receive an invitation to the State Championship. Coached by Tom Carden, the SFX Middle School team tied for 9<sup>th</sup> place out of the field of 12 schools that included the top teams from the highly competitive Atlanta Metro region. The SFX Middle School state team members are Brent Cameron, Jonathan Carden, Christopher Carden, Brandon Blake, Daniel Staab, and Adam Kim.

The SFX Elementary Team consistently placed as one of the top two teams in regional play and was one of only 28 elementary school teams statewide invited to this year's Championship. Coached by Dr. Jim Hartnett and Ron Rector, the team was one of only 2 schools to qualify from outside the Atlanta Metro area. The SFX Elementary Team ended the day in a tie for 15<sup>th</sup> overall. SFX Elementary state team members are Nico Bulatao, Matthew Hartnett, Graham Hummel, Ladd Rector, Matthew Stevens, Al Burns, and Richard Ebri.

In the six years that St. Francis Xavier has had a Chess Club, the school has sent two primary, three elementary, and two middle school teams to the Georgia School Team Chess Championship.