houses for dummies

The House System made easy!

More Information?
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THE RON CLARK ACADEMY
Assign Houses

How to

Ask yourself: How can I make this initial experience with the house initiative magical?

If you want an equal number of students and teachers in each house, divide your school roster up into the number of houses that will be used in your school.

Random Selection:

Wheels are extremely easy to create. Then you can allow each student to spin their way into their house. Some call it luck...others call it destiny!

Let Fate Decide:

The Wheel:

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Balloon Bust:

Hold a school wide assembly. Give each student a black balloon (which was previously stuffed with a random house name). Have a countdown with music. 3...2...1....the students pop their balloons to reveal their house of fate.

Ask yourself: How can I make this initial experience with the house initiative magical?
How to Track Points

How Can Students Earn Points?

Students can earn points for anything that you deem worthy. Examples: academics, athletics, behavior, attendance, honor roll, field day, manners, and behavior. We recommend putting a cap on how many points can be given for a certain behavior. This helps keep scoring consistent between faculty and staff.

Who Can Award Points?

The best part about the house system is that the incentive program involves everyone in your school. Teachers, custodial staff, cafeteria staff, office staff, and/or anyone on staff at the school can award points. Students quickly recognize that eyes are always watching and maintaining a consistent expectation in your school.
**How do Teachers Keep Track of Points?**

Teachers can track points using their own system or method. We have seen everything from tickets, to straws, to a simple score sheet on the board. An easy way for teachers to track points is by providing them a basic score sheet that they can carry around on a clipboard. Then they can immediately record points as they are given.

**How to tally totals?**

Teachers tally the total number of points and submit their totals to the head scorekeeper(s).

**Idea:**

Divide your school up into groups of several grade levels. Each group will submit their points on a different day. For example, K/1 will submit their points on Monday, 2/3 on Tuesdays, 3/4 on Wednesdays, and 5/6/other staff on Fridays. The head scorekeeper updates the board each day by adding new points.
Making a Scoreboard

Keeping students engaged and excited about the progress and success of their house is one of the biggest keys to implementing a successful house system. A Scoreboard might be the very thing that pushes a student that one extra step to earn additional house points. How will you develop your house scoreboard?

Tip: Make your scoreboard the focal point of your school. It motivates students to see which house is in the lead each day.
Design a house crest

What will make your houses unique? Use elements to design a crest that will have strong meaning for your students. Your house crests should tell a story and resemble all of the strengths that represent your school and learning community.
Make House Meetings work for you!

At RCA, our students meet weekly to create house cheers, catch up on weekly events, and form a stronger bond. However, not every schedule lends itself to a weekly meeting time. In order to build a strong house bond, students need to reach beyond their usual group of friends and get to know the members of their house. Here are some suggestions for alternative house meetings.

**HOUSE COMMUNITY LUNCH:**

Once a week, students eat lunch with members from their house. Encourage your students to sit by someone they may not know or have not spent time with before.

**HOUSE BREAKFAST MEETINGS:**

Once a month or quarter, allow the houses to meet for a special house breakfast and spend time bonding with the members of their house.
Student Council = House Council

Transform your student council into a house council. Select a “Head of House” from your upperclassmen to lead each house. These students collaborate together to plan house events. You may also select a representative from other grade levels to work alongside each head of house. The house council holds a weekly meeting to plan cheers, community events, school dances, and more.

You will also have a teacher representative from each house. This encourages teachers from various grade levels to work and collaborate together to build stronger house leaders.

HOUSE COUNCIL ACTIVITIES:

Houses worked together to collect over 5,000 cans to support a local food pantry.

Organize a mentor program to work with younger students and shape them into future leaders of the school.
House Pep Rallies:

It is important for students to see the fruit of their labor. At the end of each nine weeks, meet to celebrate the success of your students. During this time, you can recognize honor roll, perfect attendance, and name the house champion for the quarter. The students come to each house rally in their house shirts. You can also hold house competitions where students play games to earn additional house points.

House Idea:

At the end of each nine week period, the house champion is treated to a special trip off campus for a few hours. This gives the students a purpose and something to strive for each nine weeks.
If you want for your house system to be successful, you have to go ALL in! If you are “sold out” to your house, students will follow your lead!

**HOUSE SHIRTS**

**HOUSE FLAGS**

**MAGNETS & MORE**