


# House System Questions

**From Students:**

1. How much time will we spend with our houses? Each day? Each week?
    a. On a weekly basis: Houses will get together once a week for 30 minutes for a house meeting. The entire school will get together once a week for Launch Time.**
    b. There may be times throughout the year that your house gets together more frequently to do something fun, but that will be based on your house's needs. **
2. Will we get a shirt or other swag? Do we have to wear our colors?
    a. Yes! We hope to provide all students with a shirt at the beginning of next school year. Until then, everyone will get a house bracelet. **
    b. You will be encouraged to wear your house colors, but you will not be required to do so.
3. Will we have a prize store/shop where we can spend the points we earn?
    a. Yes! We hope to build a store where you can spend your points you earn. **
4. How will students' houses be chosen?
    a. Your house will be chosen randomly.
5. Will we still have all of our same schedules/blocks?
    a. Yes. The only difference is we will include a house meeting and Launch Time once per week, both of which will be like having another special class. Your day to day schedule will not change. You'll still be in classes with your friends!
6. Will the time we spend in our houses take time out of our schedule?
    a. No. Next year, it will be built into the schedule, so it becomes part of what we do as a school. We will be doing stuff with our houses for approximately one hour total each week.
7. Where will we meet with our houses?
    a. Houses will meet in different places: the gym, auditorium, cafeteria, library, etc. Once we determine where your house meets, it will be in the same place each week.
    b. House meetings will not officially start until next school year.
8. How many group leaders will there be? How many teachers will be in each group?
    a. There are approximately 15 staff members in each house, but you can expect around 10 - 12 staff members/teachers to be in your house meetings.
9. Will I be with my friends?
    a. Maybe! Because the choosing of your house is random, you may or may not be in the same house as your friends. Chances are, you'll be with someone your friends with. However, the goal is for you to make friends with people who are in your house that you wouldn't otherwise get to spend time with.

** Keep in mind, we are building this system from the ground up, so it will take time to get everything up and running. We are going to take our time implementing this so we do it right!

**From Parents:**

1. Does this have to do with Harry Potter?
    a. No part of our house system is related nor similar to the houses described in the Harry Potter series. The house system follows an old English tradition where schools divide students into smaller, mixed-age groups for a sense of community, loyalty, and friendly competition through sports, academics, service projects, and more. Additionally, our house system will be the vehicle for which we will develop and implement our Positive Behavior Framework . All schools have a behavior framework, which outlines student behaviors that have consequences (minors or office referrals). However a Positive Behavior Framework outlines expected student behaviors that are rewarded and recognized. Our positive behavior framework will be run through the house system, where students will be able to earn points for exhibiting those behaviors.
2. Is this for inner city schools?
    a. No. While there may be inner city schools that have implemented this program, it is used by schools of every level and status across the country, including several schools in North Carolina - most closely, there are 3 schools in Avery County (Banner Elk, Newland, and Freedom Trail) that have successfully implemented it.
3. Do you have to subscribe or pay dues to be part of the program?
    a. No. While Ron Clark Academy has a store where schools can purchase swag, decorations, etc., there is no monthly or annual membership fee. Schools can purchase as much or as little as they want and still implement the House System.
4. Will fees be added to families for swag? Are parents required to pay extra?
    a. No. Families will not be required to pay additional fees in order for their child to participate in the House System.
5. How is this being funded?
    a. School funds will not be used to fund this program. All of our funds will come from grants and private donations. We will do what we can - provide swag to students and brand our building - as we have the funds to do so.
6. Will students be penalized for not wearing their shirts?
    a. No. This point of the house system is to promote inclusivity, so a student will never be penalized or excluded for not wearing their house shirts. However, this goal is students (staff and parents) will take pride in their house and want to show it off!
7. How will students get shirts?
    a. Hopefully, through grants and private donations, we will have enough funding to provide all students with a house shirt at the start of next school year. While they won't be required to wear it, we want all students to have the opportunity to do so, if they choose.