



Your principal puts you on a team.  
Your teachers put you in a class.  
FATE puts you in a house.



## Information/Background

### WHAT

**Houses** are groups of students in each class that are forever connected by the qualities that represent their house. They compete together. They encourage each other. Their level of success is only limited by the degree to which they dedicate themselves to being truly excellent.

### WHY

I am so excited to be able to share the joy of HOUSES with the staff. The connections that you will be a part of and the ability to see the students making these connections makes it all worth it. Like with anything that we do in our classrooms and in our lives, if we are not 100% involved and positive, the concept of HOUSES will fall apart. It is up to us to keep it positive, consistent, and demand respect for not only ourselves but between the students. I am asking all of you to really dig deep and be willing to put 100% into this.

We have a HOUSE committee (listed below) that will meet once a month to ensure that all are represented and any suggestions, feedback, and reflections are appreciated. I have included a cheat sheet and each teacher will have score cards to keep in their rooms (made for you). We also have 21 HOUSE ambassadors that will be in charge of tracking points, updating score boards, and helping you with anything you need.

I know that we will see the kids excited and engaged and most importantly see how much they will grow in their character, and watch as they build amazing relationships through team work through competitions and positive social interactions.

### BACKGROUND

About six years ago our whole 6th grade group of teachers were sent to the Ron Clark Academy in Atlanta, GA (if you can ever make it there YOU NEED TO GO). WE came back refreshed and inspired and wanted to change the dynamics of our school around and make it more of a welcoming, inspiring place. So we created the Inspire Academy. In the Inspire Academy each 6th grade teacher created a HOUSE and its qualities and we voted on 5. Those 5 are the 5 that I am using. Each 6th grade student picked a house in a huge House Ceremony and became a part of a house. Each teacher also allowed "fate" to pick their house. Every Friday we had house Friday that consisted of very detailed and well-orchestrated house competitions that were based on all MI and allowed students to build those bonds with kids outside of their classes and with teachers that they may or may not have.

# Houses Organization

## WHO

EVERY staff member, admin, faculty member, and student involved in our school

## HOW

### HOW WILL HOUSES BE CHOSEN?

1- All staff and faculty will have "fate" choose for them at a staff meeting when we get back that first week of school. We will ensure that it is as even as possible so that there will be at least 2 teachers per grade level including your attached essential teachers for each HOUSE.

2- 6<sup>th</sup> grade Students will have their "fate" chosen at our first HOUSE Rally (see calendar) the first full week we are back with students.

3- Each SS teacher in 6<sup>th</sup> grade will have their "fate" chosen by popping a balloon for each of their classes in their grade level, what ever color confetti it is that is the house that class is. This will ensure that the students are together with at least half their grade level HOUSE in at least one class in the day to help build those strong bonds.

WHAT WILL IT LOOK LIKE IN OTHER ROOMS THAT ARE NOT SS? All other teachers will have a mix of all HOUSES.

HOW DO I DEAL WITH THE MIX? All you have to do is ask them what HOUSE they are in when giving points or grouping them in competitions and so on. Completely up to you. I again suggest assigning a member from each HOUSE to keep track of points so you don't have to and tally up at end of class on your score card. AGAIN up to you!

HOW DO WE KNOW WHO IS IN WHAT HOUSE? Once "fate" has picked the SS class HOUSES and all rosters are turned in, I will have a master sheet that will be uploaded on ONEDRIVE for all to access.

## Your role and responsibility

### WHAT

ALL I ASK OF YOU as a classroom teacher, admin, EA, or staff is to advocate for the HOUSES and participate in giving points. Be that positive role model that you are in showing the students what this is all about. NOTHING LIKE A HEALTHY COMPETITION.

WHAT'S IN IT FOR ME? Building relationships with students that are not in your classroom, promoting healthy social interactions and competitions. Being a part of something bigger than you and your classes!

### WHO

WHO CAN GIVE POINTS? Any adult in the building

WHO DO WE GIVE POINTS TO? Any student or group of students doing the right things

*Examples:*

- Helping the teacher
- Helping other students (picking stuff up that dropped, tutoring, guiding them to make right decisions)
- Showing good character
- Good Grades
- Improvement
- Following directions the first time
- answering questions

-games/competitions

-homework

**WHO WILL KEEP TRACK OF THE POINTS AND UPDATE SCORE BOARD?** The HOUSE AMBASSADORS will come around each Monday or Tuesday and collect points from each teacher. I ask that you have your score board visual so they can walk in and out quickly and quietly without interrupting you. They will update HALLWAY SCORE BOARDS AND FRONT OFFICE!

### WHEN

**WHEN DO WE GIVE POINTS?** You can give points to anyone who deserves them at any time at any place (hallway, bathroom, cafeteria, office, etc).

### HOW

**HOW DO YOU GIVE POINTS?** As the class room teacher, how you choose to do points in your room is up to you.

*Example: I have class reps for each HOUSE in each class keep track of points given during class on their desks or paper and then at the end of class they add it to the score board in my room. You can do it any way that works for you.*

**WHAT IF I DON'T HAVE A CLASSROOM?** You can let the HOUSE LEADER of that grade level know to add points for a HOUSE or tell that student to go add them in a room (**after you let that teacher know**).

## Competitions

### WHAT

The competitions will mostly be done with your grade levels with exception of the early release days. Logistically how you will meet is up to your grade level. The committee will give you suggestions on how it was done in the past, but you fit it to your grade level (one size does not fit all).

*Example: When the 7<sup>th</sup> grade met for competitions we met in one of the GRADE LEVEL LEADERS room for each HOUSE and then from there, depending on the competition, we divided into two HOUSE ROOMS. (The committee will help grade levels with this the first few competitions until you feel comfortable)*

**WHAT TYPE OF COMPETITIONS?** We put a strong sense of academics and FUN in developing competitions!! We try to incorporate all MI into each as to try to reach ALL of your students and their strengths.

*Example: a PEP RALLY contest that consists of BANNERS, POSTERS, CHEERS, DANCES, RAPS Etc. AND YES TEACHERS PLEASE GET INTO IT AND INVOLVED!!!!!!*

### WHO

**WHO WILL BE CREATING AND IMPLEMENTING THE HOUSE COMPETITIONS?** The HOUSE committee will be creating and distributing the activities to the grade level chairs to share with their grade level and depts. for the first few months (calendar attached). After that it is up to the grade levels to create and implement their own HOUSE competitions (I would suggest dividing by depts, but that is up to you)!

### WHERE

**WHERE WILL WE KEEP POINTS AND HAVE OUR COMPETITIONS?**

\*Each teacher will be given score cards to put up where ever in their rooms.

\*Grade level competitions will be held where ever your grade level decides, it will depend on activities. (ex. Auditorium, gym, classrooms, outside, etc.)

\* Each grade level will have a grade level score board in the hall

\*School Score board will be out front by office

## WHEN

WHEN ARE THE HOUSE COMPETITIONS? Competitions will be twice a month for the first semester (see calendar) and they go to once a month after Christmas. This is to help build that enthusiasm and excitement for their HOUSES and to really build that connection with those in their HOUSE.

\*\*\*\*Every early release day we will be in the gym for a school wide competition created by the HOUSE COMMITTEE

## HOW

HOW DO YOU WIN and WHAT? Each Quarter all the grade level HOUSE scores will be tallied up and the HOUSE that has the most points will receive recognition and some type of prize such as a pizza party, ice cream party, free lunch or gym, etc.

\*\*\**HOUSES will also be able to earn HOUSE BLING for achieving certain guidelines such as a point challenge for reading or service. There will be a challenge every quarter.*

\*\*\**BLING- HOUSE t-shirts, pins, lanyards, sweatshirts, drawstring bags, armbands, etc*

## TIPS FOR SUCCESS:

1. BE SUPER POSITIVE AND POSITIVE COMPETITIVE
2. HAVE A VISUAL OF POINT STANDINGS AND REFER TO THEM OFTEN
3. CONSTANTLY PRAISE THOSE STUDENTS THAT ARE EARNING THE HOUSE POINTS OUT LOUD AND BY NAME SO STUDENTS CAN HEAR (YOU WILL FIND ITS THOSE THAT NEED THAT ENCOURAGEMENT). GIVE LOTS OF POINTS ESPECIALLY AT FIRST FOR ANY LITTLE THING THAT IS POSITIVE. STUDENTS WILL CATCH ON TO THIS AND START HOLDING EACH OTHER ACCOUNTABLE.
4. BE CONSISTENT WITH POINTS, WHAT YOU DO WITH ONE HOUSE DO THE SAME FOR THE OTHER
5. BE PATIENT YOU WILL NOT SEE THE BUY IN RIGHT AWAY, IT WILL TAKE TIME. THE MORE EXCITED YOU ARE THE MORE EXCITED THE KIDS WILL BE
6. REALLY STRESS WHAT HOUSES ARE ALL ABOUT
7. NEVER TAKE POINTS AWAY (STRESSED ABOVE)
8. NEVER ALLOW BAD TALK TO ANY HOUSE AT ANY TIME
9. I DO A HOUSE FRIDAY WHERE IF THEY WEAR THEIR HOUSE COLORS THEY GET A POINT
10. THEY CAN CREATE CHEERS, SONGS, RAPS AND STEP ROUTINE
11. HAVE FUNNNN!!!

Houses Cheat Sheet cont..

## Key Terms You Will Hear:

<p><b><u>HOUSE Ambassador:</u></b>          There are 21 HOUSE Ambassadors. These students are the ambassadors for the school. They will help lead and conduct HOUSE activities, help with Parent nights, assist teachers/admin and guidance. They will also be the score board keepers and point gatherers</p>	<p><b><u>HOUSE Leader:</u></b>          Once your HOUSE is ready to choose leaders these will be the students that will be the MAIN cheerleaders for their HOUSE they will meet with HOUSE teachers to help create and implement HOUSE activities and help <b>PUMP up their HOUSES AND BE POSITIVE ROLE MODELS!</b> (guidelines will be sent out)</p>	<p><b><u>Class Leader:</u></b>          These may or may not be HOUSE leaders. These will be the students that teachers will put in charge of keeping track of points for their house during class and updating the CLASS scoreboards</p>	<p><b><u>HOUSE Teacher:</u></b>  <b>THIS IS YOU!!!</b> You are in charge of keeping the energy up, giving points, encouraging positive behavior, creating and implementing HOUSE events</p>
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### Point Ranges: \*\*\*ANYTHING POSITIVE GIVE POINTS\*\*\*

Academic- (test grades, quizzes, highest averages, etc.)

1<sup>st</sup> Quarter- 50 cap

2<sup>nd</sup>- 100 cap

3<sup>rd</sup>- 150 cap

4<sup>th</sup>- 200 cap

Social- (behavior, team work, participation, positive social skills, manners, etc.)

1<sup>st</sup> Quarter- 100 cap

2<sup>nd</sup>- 200 cap

3<sup>rd</sup>- 300 cap

4<sup>th</sup>- 400 cap

<p><b><u>Academic Examples</u></b></p> <p>Highest average in class          Highest Test Grade          Most improved          Tutoring          Answering questions (right or wrong)</p>	<p><b><u>Social Examples</u></b></p> <p>Helping a student pick something up they dropped          Holding a door          Sharing          Positive role model- doing the right thing          Using manners- please, thank-you, excuse me</p>
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**\*\*\*\* YOU CAN NEVER TAKE POINTS AWAY**

**\*\*\*\* NO STUDENTS WILL BE HELD OUT OF HOUSE EVENTS** (exception is if they act out during the event they can be sent to ISS)

